

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: DR MUHAMMAD MAASUM
ASGHAR

Name

Rank

AGE OF WITNESS (If over 18 enter "over 18"):

*To be completed
when the statement
has been written*

I declare that this statement consisting of 3 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 8 day of NOVEMBER 2004

R Hall

Muhammad Asghar

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

PRINT NAME IN CAPS

I was employed as a Paediatrician, equivalent to a Registrar, by Sperrin Lakeland Trust. I was based at the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen from 1 June 1995. Prior to that I had worked in Paediatrics in the Middle East. Since 1987 I have been continually working in Paediatrics. I remember the events after the death of Lucy Crawford in April 2000. One morning when I came on to the Ward I heard the nurses talking about a child who had died on the ward the previous night. I ascertained she had been admitted with gastroenteritis and IV fluids were commenced. The child was later transferred to Belfast. I clearly remember a nurse saying she was dead anyway but they transferred her to Belfast. I looked at the hospital notes for the child Lucy Crawford, at the fluids that were given and the rate they were given. I suspected she may have been given too much fluid. I remember hearing one of the nurses saying Lucy went into convulsions. I wish to clarify that the title of my appointment in the Erne Hospital was Staff Grade in Paediatrics. After reading Lucy's hospital notes, and the post mortem results came back, noting cerebral oedema, that in my opinion was too much fluid given too rapidly and I suspected that Lucy might have been given too much fluid. One day in my office in the Erne I saw Dr Malik coming out of Dr O'Donohoe's room and he looked upset. I spoke to Dr Malik for about 15-20 minutes. He said Dr O'Donohoe talked to

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him about Lucy Crawford and asked him was he covered by Medical Indemnity Insurance and that he could add to Lucy's notes if he wants to. I advised him not to do this, if he had missed anything not to worry about it, but not to add to the notes, or alter anything. I think Dr Malik felt he was going to be sued himself over Lucy Crawford. I remember he said that Dr O'Donohoe said he told Dr Malik that he could blame him for this death, but he wouldn't do it. In the many years I have been in Paediatrics I have personally never come across this, any Senior Doctor, or Consultant saying this before. This conversation with Dr Malik was a few days after Lucy Crawford died. Although the nurse said to me she was dead anyway, it take a lot of tests to confirm it, it is very complex. After sometime I put my concerns in writing in a letter to Dr Mills. I also voiced my concerns about 2 other children in the same letter. I sent copies of this letter to Dr Anderson, and to Dr Jim Kelly, the Medical Director, and to other senior managers in the hospital. I also sent a copy to Mr Fee. I felt that whatever I did was in accordance with the guidelines with the GMC. I have given a copy of these to D/Constable Hall. I went personally to Hugh Mills and gave him the letter. I went to Strathdene House at the Tyrone & Fermanagh Hospital and gave the letter to Hugh Mills in his office. He told me he had already started an internal investigation into Lucy's death. This was sometime in June 2000, early June. As with all investigations I expected they were confidential and didn't expect to know the outcome of any investigation or to be told of it. I also had a few meetings with Dr Jim Kelly regarding Lucy and other children. I also discussed it with Mairead Duffy who was a Staff Grade Community Paediatrician. Mr Kelly told me he would investigate my concerns. During one of these meetings Dr Kelly stated he had passed the information on to the Royal College of Paediatricians. Dr Moira Stewart from the Royal and another Consultant from London came down to the Erne and spent all day speaking to me and other staff. Mr Kelly discussed their report with me verbally, but would not give me a copy of it. I feel that I have suffered in my employment at the Erne as a result of raising my concerns. I was the whistle blower. Because of raising these concerns I suffered great psychological stress. I found it difficult to

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convince my senior colleagues that there was truth in what I was reporting. I felt my senior colleagues turned against me, that I was being sidelined, for example I was responsible for organising the teaching rota and Dr O'Donohoe took that away from me saying he would do it himself. Then he took away the teaching from me. He took away the responsibility of on call rota from me. I heard that Dr O'Donohoe said my post was a waste of space. It was a locum consultant who told me this. I was cold-shouldered. This put me under a lot of stress. I lost sleep. Every night I used to go to bed thinking about what happened. Every morning I woke up thinking about the whole events surrounding Lucy Crawford and other children's cases. Finally I resigned my post in the Erne Hospital, my last working day was 31 July 2003. The difficulties I have described were a big reason for me resigning but not the only reason. When I said about the nurses talking about Lucy and her death, I do not remember who the nurses were. Also I do not remember who the locum consultant was who told me of Dr O'Donohoe's comments.

Muhammad Maasum

8.11.04

Certified a true copy of the original

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11/03

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS Muhammad Asghar

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: DR. MUHAMMAD MAASUM ASGHAR
Name

AGE OF WITNESS (if over 18 enter "over 18"): [REDACTED]

TO BE COMPLETED
WHEN THE
STATEMENT HAS
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of _____ pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this

8

day of

Nov

2004

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I was employed as a paediatrician, equivalent to a senior registrar, by Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I was based at the Queen Hospital, Enniscorthy from 1.6.95. I had worked in paediatrics in the middle 80s. Since 1987 I have been constantly working in paediatrics. I remember the events after the death of Lucy Crawford in April 2000. One morning when I came on to the ward I heard the nurses talking about a child who had died on the ward the previous night. I ascertained she had been admitted with gastroenteritis and IV fluids were commenced. The child was later transferred to Belfast. I clearly remember a nurse saying she was dead anyway but they transferred her to Belfast. I worked at the hospital notes for the child Lucy Crawford, at the funeral not being given and the role

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may have given. I suspected she may have been given too much fluid.

I remember hearing one of the nurses saying Lucy had ~~had~~ convulsions.

I don't ~~don't~~ clarify that the title of my affidavit in the true hospital was staff grade in pediatrics.

After reading Lucy's hospital notes, and the post mortem results came back, with cerebral edema, that in my opinion was too much fluid

given too rapidly and I suspected that Lucy might have been given too much fluid. One day in my

office in the true I saw Dr. Malik coming out of Dr. O'Donohue's room and he looked upset. I spoke

to Dr. Malik for about 15-20 mins. He said Dr. O'Donohue

talked to him about Lucy Crawford and asked him was he covered by medical

~~reference~~ indemnity insurance, and ~~if he had to~~ he could add to Lucy's notes. I

advised him not to do this, if he had missed anything not to worry about it, but not to add to

the notes, or alter anything. I think Dr. Malik felt he was going to be

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sued himself over Lucy Crawford. I remember he said that Dr O'Donohue said he told Dr Malik that he could blame him for this death, but he wouldn't do it. In the many years I have been in paediatrics I have personally never come across this, any senior doctor, or consultant saying this before. This conversation with Dr Malik was a few days after Lucy Crawford died. Although the nurse said to me she was dead anyway, it takes a lot of tests, to confirm it, it is very complex. After sometime I put my concerns in writing in a letter to the Mills. I also voiced my concerns about the other children in the ward. I sent copies of this letter to Dr Anderson, and to Dr Jim Kelly, the medical director, and to other senior ^{managers} ~~members~~ in the hospital. I also sent a copy to the fee. I felt that whatever I did was in accordance to the guidelines with the GMC. I have given a copy of this to Dr O'Donohue Hall. I went personally to Hugh Mills and gave him

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the letter. I went to ~~Statute~~ Statute
~~Hospital~~ or the Tof Hospital and
 gave the letter to Hugh Mills in
 his office. He told me he had
 already started an internal investigation
 into Lucy's death. This was
 sometime in June 2000, early June.
 As with all investigations I expected
 they were confidential and didn't
 expect to know the outcome of any
 investigation, or to be told of it.
 I also had a few meetings with
 Jim Kelly regarding Lucy and other
 children. I also discussed it
 with Maureen Kelly who was a
 staff grade community paediatrician.
 He Kelly told me he would
 investigate my concerns. During one of
 these meetings he Kelly stated he
 had passed the information on to the
 Royal College of ~~Paediatricians~~ ^{Paediatricians}. It was
 Straker from the Royal and Andrew
 Consultant from London came down to
 the tube and spent all day speaking
 to me and other staff. He Kelly
 discussed their report with me verbally,
 but would not give me a copy of
 it. I feel that I have suffered in my

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resigned at the time as a result
 of raising my concerns. I was the
 whistle blower. I ~~for~~ ^{because of raising these concerns} people turned
 against me and I had a number
~~notes~~, I suffered great ~~my~~ psychological
 stress. I found it difficult to convince
 my senior colleagues that there was
 truth in what I was reporting. I
 felt my senior colleagues turned
 against me, that I was being sidelined
 for example I was responsible for
 organising the teaching rota and Dr
 O'Donohue took that away from me
 saying he would do it himself.
 then he took away the teaching
 from me and ~~he~~ took away the
 responsibility of on call rota from me. I heard that
 Dr O'Donohue said my job was
 a waste of space. It was a locum
 consultant who told me this. I
 was cold shouldered. This put me
 under a lot of stress. I lost sleep.
 Every night I used to go to bed
 thinking about what happened. Every
 morning I woke up thinking about the
 Lucy Crawford ^{and other children's cases, finally} resigned my job
 in the same hospital, my last working
 day was 31.7.03. The difficulties I

the events
 surrounding

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have described were a big reason for
me resigning but not the only reason.
When I said about the nurses
talking about Lucy and her death,
I do not remember who the
nurses were. Also I do not
remember who the BCUM consultants
was who told me of Dr O'Donoghue's
comments.

Mary

8/11/04

Dr M.M. ASGHAR