

EVIDENCE MODULES 2023 STATEMENT

**MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY
WITNESS STATEMENT**

Statement of Owen Barr

Date: 9 March 2023

I, Owen Barr, make the following statement for the purpose of the Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) Inquiry. The statement is made on behalf of Ulster University in response to a request for evidence by the Inquiry Panel.

This is my first statement to the Inquiry.

There are no documents produced with my statement.

Ulster University was asked to provide a statement for the purpose of the education and training elements of Module 4(b), (c), (d) and (h), insofar as the University has responsibility for those matters:

Section 1 – Qualifications and Position

Professor Owen Barr RN(A), RN(LD), MSc, PhD, PFHEA, Med

School of Nursing and Paramedic Science Faculty of Life & Health Sciences, Ulster University.

Section 2 – Modules to be addressed.

Module 4 (b) (c) (d) & (h)

b. Training and recruitment of learning disability nurses.

- c. Leadership education for ward managers and senior nurses/ key performance indicators.
 - d. Training, recruitment and deployment of learning disability psychiatrists, psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.
 - h. Programme at MAH for clinical audits/ University placement audits/ NIMDTA placement audits.
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Ulster University Statement:

b. Training and recruitment of learning disability nurses.

Ulster University can confirm that it does not provide education to pre-registration nurses who are undertaking a programme to obtain a Registered Nurse Learning Disability (RNLD) qualification. Although all student nurses in our Adult and Mental Health nursing programmes do undertake 2 weeks practice learning with people with learning disabilities, we can confirm we have not used Muckamore Abbey Hospital for this experience.

There were three post-registration students who undertook practice-based learning in Muckamore Abbey Hospital. One student was undertaking a Return to Nursing practice programme in 2016 and undertook 300 hours practice at Muckamore Abbey Hospital. This one student successfully completed the programme of study. There were also two students on the Specialist Practice Nursing (Learning Disability) programme in the academic year 2016-17. These two full time students undertook 75 days practice learning in Muckamore Abbey Hospital. Both students worked in Muckamore Abbey Hospital at the time they were seconded to the programme. Both students successfully completed their programme.

All these students completed practice learning portfolios related to their required NMC proficiencies. It is University policy that coursework is not retained once the student has successfully completed the programme of study and ratified by a formal Board of Examiners. The University therefore does not have the portfolios of these 3 students.

c. Leadership education for ward managers and senior nurses/ key performance indicators.

Ulster University has not had any specific role in leadership education of ward managers or senior nurses at Muckamore Abbey Hospital. There may have been staff undertaking stand-alone modules as part of a wider student group but the University did not have staff who were specifically commissioned from MAH.

d. Training, recruitment and deployment of learning disability psychiatrists, psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

Training of students is integrated within programmes of study prior to undertaking placement. Emphasis is placed on the integration of theory and practice across modules in each year of study, and student performance and outcomes are assessed at a level appropriate for the level/stage of learning.

There were 2 Physiotherapy and 2 Occupational Therapy students who undertook placement in the Belfast Trust. As part of that placement they undertook a short placement at Muckamore Abbey Hospital. The 2 BSc Hons Physiotherapy students undertook the short placement during 2014/15 and the 2 BSc Hons Occupational Therapy students timelines were - one student on placement 7th Nov – 23rd December 2016 and one student on placement 3rd Nov – 19th December 2014. It is University policy that coursework is not retained once the student has successfully completed the programme of study and ratified by a formal Board of Examiners. The University therefore does not have the portfolios of these 4 students.

No Ulster University Psychology students were recruited by Muckamore Abbey Hospital. No Ulster University Speech & Language Therapy students were recruited by Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

h. Programme at MAH for clinical audits/ University placement audits/ NIMDTA placement audits.

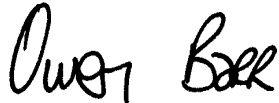
The paperwork for the placement audit, which would have taken place as part of the student's portfolio of evidence, is no longer retained by the University. The University does not require retention of paperwork after a student has successfully passed their programme of study. This is to ensure that the University complies with the legal and regulatory obligations with retention

of documentation, and to comply with our data protection obligations, in particular to keep data no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which it is required.

Section 7: Declaration of Truth

The contents of this witness statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have produced all the documents to which I have access and which I believe are necessary to address the matters on which the Inquiry Panel has requested me to give evidence.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angus Barr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Date:

9th March 2023