

ORGANISATIONAL MODULES 2024

**MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY
WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Statement of Pauline Adair
Date: 17/04/2024**

I, Pauline Adair, make the following statement for the purpose of the Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) Inquiry.

The statement is made on behalf of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme at Queen's University, Belfast 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.

Qualifications and positions

1. I am a qualified clinical and health psychologist. I hold a degree in Psychology as follows: BSSc in Psychology 1989, master's degree in psychology 1991, Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology 1994 and PhD in Health Psychology 2005.

2. I have held the following positions.

2023-present	Interim Head of School of Psychology, Queen's University Belfast
2017-2023	Programme Director/Joint PD, Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Queen's University Belfast
2013-2017	Director of Behavioural Medicine/Principal KE Fellow, University of Strathclyde

- 2013-2014 Program Director – Psychology Specialist Practice, NHS Education for Scotland. (0.4wte seconded from Feb 2013 until March 2014)
- 2010- 2013 Professor of Health Psychology, University of Salford
- 2005-2010 Consultant Clinical Health Psychologist/Head of Clinical Health Psychology, NHS Fife

- 2005-2008 Senior Clinical Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, Dundee University
- 2003-2005 Consultant Clinical Health Psychologist, Royal Hospitals Trust, Belfast
- 2002-2003 Consultant Clinical Health Psychologist/Head of Chronic Pain Subspecialty Greater Glasgow Primary Care NHS Trust
- 1997-2002 Clinical Lecturer in Health Psychology (Related to Dentistry), Dundee University
- 1994-1997 Lecturer in Behavioral Sciences Related to Dentistry, Dundee University
- 1994-1997 Grade A Clinical Psychologist in Clinical Health Psychology, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust
- 1991-1994 Trainee Clinical Psychologist, Western Health and Social Service Board/Queens University, Belfast
- 1982-1986 Trainee Nurse, Royal Group School of Nursing, Mater Hospital, Belfast

Module

- 3. I have been asked to provide a statement for the purpose of M2: Professional Education.

- 4. My evidence relates primarily to paragraph 9 of the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference.

- 5. I have been asked to address a number of questions/ issues for the purpose of my statement. I will address those questions/issues in turn.

Q1. How many clinical psychology students graduate each year from the QUB DClinPsy programme? Please provide annual figures for the period 1999-2021 inclusive.

6. We have data from 2002 as follows:

Year	Number of graduates
2002	8

2003	5
2004	11
2005	8
2006	11
2007	11
2008	13
2009	11
2010	7
2011	11
2012	12
2013	12
2014	9
2015	11
2016	11
2017	10
2018	5
2019	10
2020	6
2021	11

Q2. How many of the clinical psychology graduates go into learning disability posts? If annual figures are available for the period 1999-2021 inclusive, please provide these. If precise figures are not available, please provide an estimate.

7. We have data from 2002 as follows:

Year	Number of graduates entering ID services
2002	1

2003	0
2004	1
2005	2
2006	1
2007	2
2008	1
2009	3
2010	1
2011	2
2012	2
2013	1
2014	2
2015	2
2016	1
2017	0
2018	1
2019	1
2020	0
2021	1

Q3. Of those students going into learning disability posts, how many have taken posts at MAH? If annual figures are available for the period 1999-2021, please provide these. If precise figures are not available, please provide an estimate.

8. I am unable to provide specific detail regarding graduates taking up posts in MAH as we do not monitor employment outcomes beyond first post following graduation. I would estimate a very small number (i.e. low single figures) as most of our graduates go into community learning disability posts across all five HSCNI

Trusts. BHSCT Psychology department or HR in BHSCT may be able to provide this information.

Q4. What actions have been taken by QUB, in collaboration with BHSCT or others, to ensure that posts in MAH are filled? For example, has special funding been given for training in such posts? Have joint posts been created combining community working with working at MAH?

9. There has been no specific work undertaken between QUB and BHSCT to ensure certain clinical psychology posts are filled. Compared to elsewhere in the UK, fewer clinical psychologists are trained each year. This means that graduates are in high demand so there is no need for specific actions to fill posts.

Q5. Did you become aware of any concerns about MAH? If yes, please provide details of when and how you became aware and what, if any, action was taken.

10. One of our trainees, who was on placement in MAH raised a concern in Nov 2017 through an email to the programme (I can provide the email exchanges if necessary) as the trainee felt that due to staff suspensions at the time that staff morale was low, and they perceived the wards to be understaffed. The trainee was requesting a move to another placement. This was resolved with the placement supervisor, an experienced clinical psychologist, at the time and the trainee continued placement with a community focus. There were no clinical issues raised throughout.

Q6. Was there a system to ensure that clinical psychology graduates could raise concerns about any aspect of a training facility, such as MAH? What action was, or would be, taken in such a case?

11. As detailed in previous requests for information, the DClinPsych training programme has a rigorous process in place for monitoring trainee placement

provision with 3 placement meetings required for each individual trainee placement (preplacement, mid-placement, end of placement). A QUB staff member coordinates these meetings, and they are attended by the trainee clinical psychologist and the clinical supervisor. This setting provides a forum where concerns about any aspect of placement provision can be raised and resolved at a local level. The programme also has other quality assurance mechanisms in place including an annual placement audit completed by both trainee clinical psychologists and placement supervisors. The programme also has a placement panel which meets twice per year to review placement provision and has representation from trainee clinical psychologists and placement supervisors across the HSCNI.

Q7. Do you wish to draw to the attention of the Panel any other matters not covered by the above questions that may assist in the Panel's consideration of paragraph 9 of the Terms of Reference?

12. I don't have any further information to add.

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 which I have access to and which I believe are necessary to address the matters on which the Inquiry Panel has requested me to give evidence.

Signed: 

Date: 17/04/2024