

ORGANISATIONAL MODULES 2024

**MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY
WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Statement of Dr Robin H McKee
Date: 14 August 2024**

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

The statement is made on behalf of North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust 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 Medical Practitioner presently registered with the GMC. I hold a degree in Medicine MB.Bch.BAO 1972 QUB Previously MFCH and have BA QUB. I am also currently Retired Fellow RSM.
2. I have held the following positions. Medical adviser re Primary Care 1994-5, Part time Director of Medical Services (Community) 1995-2008. General Practitioner Eastern Health and Social Services Board (EHSSB) 1976-2011.

Module

3. I have been asked to provide a statement for the purpose of M9: Trust Board.
4. 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. Please identify:

- i. **The time period in which you were a member of the Trust Board.**
- ii. **Any sub-committee(s) of the Trust Board of which you were a member. Please also outline the composition and remit of any such sub- committee(s).**

5. 1995 - 2008

Q2. Please explain your understanding of the structures and processes that were in place at Trust Board level for the oversight of MAH. How effective were those structures and processes in ensuring adequate oversight of MAH at Trust Board level?

6. Director of MAH, Director of Nursing (Trust wide) and Medical Director of MAH/Community Psychiatry all reporting to Chief Executive and Trust Board.

Q3. To your recollection, how often was MAH included on the agenda of:

- i. **Meetings of the Trust Board.**
- ii. **Meetings of the Executive Team.**

7. On every occasion.

8. On every occasion.

Q4. Did you have occasion to visit the MAH site during your time on the Trust Board? If so, please indicate how often and outline the objectives of the visit(s).

9. Refer to Executive & Trust Board minutes.

10. Largely for meetings of above.

Q5. Did the Trust Board receive reports on the following (and if so, please indicate how often):

- i. **Safeguarding of patients at MAH.**

- ii. **Seclusion rates at MAH.**
- iii. **Complaints relating to MAH.**
- iv. **Resettlement of patients from MAH.**
- v. **Staffing (both establishments and vacancies) at MAH.**

11. Refer to minutes but imagine yes to all above.

Q6. If the Trust Board did receive reports on the matters set out in 5 (i)-(v) above, please explain:

- i. **Who prepared those reports?**
- ii. **Was the information received sufficient to facilitate effective intervention by the Trust Board, if that was required?**
- iii. **Was the information received monitored over time by the Trust Board? If so, how was it monitored?**

12. I could not be sure of this but would be in all minutes.

Q7. Please provide details of any occasions on which you became aware of concerns relating to the matters set out in question 5 (i)-(v) above and describe your recollection of action taken at Trust Board level to address any such concerns.

13. Refer to minutes.

Q8. What arrangements were in place at Trust Board level for workforce monitoring, planning and implementation to ensure the appropriate staffing levels and skill mix (and thereby to ensure safe care) at MAH? Please also describe your recollection of any actions taken by the Trust Board to ensure that MAH staff skills matched MAH patient needs.

14. Refer to minutes as I only dealt with Community Health aspects excluding MAH, Psychiatry both Community and Learning Disability and Social Services.

Q9. Did the Trust Board's approach to cost savings and efficiencies in relation to MAH differ from the approach taken to other service areas within the Trust? If so, please explain how and why it differed.

15. Refer to minutes.

Q10. From 2010 onwards, following bed closures at MAH:

- i. How did the Trust Board assure itself that the reorganisation of wards was safe?**
- ii. Were concerns about ward staffing (both establishments and vacancies) at MAH raised with the Trust Board? If so, please describe your recollection of any actions taken by the Trust Board to address those concerns.**

16. Refer to minutes.

Q11. Were any issues relating to MAH ever included in:

- i. The Delegated Statutory Functions Report?**
- ii. The Corporate Risk Register?**

If so, please describe the issues that were included. Please also explain your recollection of whether those issues were discussed at Trust Board meetings.

17. Probably. Refer to minutes.

Q12. Were SAIs which occurred at MAH always reported to the Trust Board? If so:

- i. What information did the Trust Board receive in respect of SAIs?**
- ii. Were SAIs discussed at Trust Board meetings?**
- iii. What actions did the Trust Board take in response to SAIs?**

18. Refer to minutes.

Q13. How did the Trust Board consider and respond to inspection reports relating to MAH prepared by RQIA? How did the Trust Board assure itself that any required actions were addressed within the timeframe of any Improvement Notices?

19. Refer to minutes.

Q14. Did the Trust Board ever escalate issues related to MAH, or formally correspond with DoH, in relation to problems such as staffing shortages or challenges around resettlement? Please provide your recollection of what, if any, issues were escalated and what the outcome of that escalation was.

20. Yes, but would not have been involved. Again, refer to minutes.

Q15. Do you recall the Trust Board ever discussing the installation and operation of CCTV at MAH? If so, please give details.

21. Yes, refer to minutes.

Q16. Other than as addressed in responses to the questions above, please provide details of any occasions on which you became aware of concerns over the abuse of patients by staff at MAH and describe your recollection of action taken at Trust Board level to address such concerns?

22. Would be contained in all minutes.

Q17. Were you aware of the Winterbourne View scandal in England and the Transforming Care work undertaken by the NHS? If so, what was your view of the subsequent steps to reduce hospital beds in England, and the associated initiatives such as STOMP (“stopping over medication of people with a learning disability, autism or both”)? Did you or the Board consider whether similar

initiatives should be applied in Northern Ireland? If not, why not?

23. The Trust dissolved in 2008.

Q18. 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 the Terms of Reference?

24. As Director of Community, I did not have any operational oversight of MAH. As such anything will be contained in T Board & SM team meetings. Those managerially responsible may have a more detailed recollection of.

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: Robin H McKee

Date: 14/08/2024