

ORGANISATIONAL MODULES 2024

**MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY
WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Statement of Pat Cullen
Date: 24 September 2024**

I, Pat Cullen, make the following statement for the purpose of the Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) Inquiry. This is my second statement to the Inquiry having previously provided a statement to the Inquiry dated 24 April 2024 (MAHI – STM – 246 - 1).

I will number any exhibited documents, so my first document will be “Exhibit 1”.

1. Following on from my first statement that I gave to the Inquiry dated 24 April 2024, I would like to provide an addendum to my statement.
2. I am no longer employed by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) having left my position of General Secretary and Chief Executive on 29 May 2024.
3. I have however been provided with a letter from the Public Health Agency (PHA) to the Inquiry dated 18 September 2024 and an email referred therein from Alastair Ross in the PHA dated the 15 March 2024. I attach both of these documents to this statement as Exhibit 1.
4. I have no recollection of having received the email from Alastair Ross, at the time of making my statement, my office methodically checked my emails and could not locate any email reply from the PHA. The confusion may be that the email response did not come from Aidan Dawson (whom I addressed my email correspondence to) but in fact Alastair Ross.
5. I have contacted the RCN to see if they can check my emails. However my understanding is my email account is now closed. I have not received final confirmation as yet from the RCN.

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: *Far Cullen*

Date: 24th September 2024

List of Exhibits (Pat Cullen)

Exhibit 1: Letter from PHA to the MAH Inquiry dated 18 September 2024 enclosing email from Alastair Ross dated 15 March 2024.



Ms Lorraine Keown
Solicitor to the Inquiry
Muckamore Abbey Hospital Inquiry
By Email: Lorraine.keown@mahinquiry.org.uk

18 September 2024
DLS REF: IC10106/00001

Dear Ms Keown,

Our Client: Public Health Agency
RE: Statement of Ms Patricia Cullen dated 24 April 2024

We refer to the above and advise that the Public Health Agency notes, with disappointment, the following contention at paragraph 7 of Ms Cullen's statement:

I contacted Aidan Dawson, Chief Executive of the PHA, to inform him that I received this request for evidence and due to my inability to access any information, my response to the Inquiry would be limited. This email was sent on 11 March 2024, and I have not received a response.

The PHA did, in fact, write to Ms Cullen by email on 15 March 2024 to offer support and assistance in respect of the Rule 9 request issued to her. Ms Cullen did not respond to this offer. To assist the Inquiry, we enclose a copy of the email sent to Ms Cullen by Mr Alastair Ross of the PHA.

The PHA wishes to correct the record in respect of Ms Cullen's contention, and moreover, wishes to reassure the Inquiry of its full commitment to assisting and supporting the work of the Inquiry as fully as it is able to. The PHA hopes that this commitment is demonstrated through the significant efforts of other former employees who availed of the support offered by the PHA and were able to cite materials and information provided by the PHA in their detailed Rule 9 responses.

We trust this information is of assistance to the Inquiry and would be happy to address any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Donnelly
Solicitor Consultant
Directorate of Legal Services
Business Services Organisation

2 Franklin Street | Belfast | BT2 8DQ



From: PHA StatutoryPublicInquiries <Statutorypublicinquiries.pha@hscni.net>
Sent: 15 March 2024 13:22
To: Pat Cullen (RCN)
Subject: Re - Receipt of Rule 9 Request from the Muckamore Abbey Hospital Inquiry (MAHI)

Dear Pat

Further to your email of the 11 March which was passed across to myself.

I wanted to make you aware that as an active participant to the MAHI, the PHA have instructed the BSO Directorate of Legal Services (DLS) to provide legal advice, support and assistance in relation to our work. As a matter of course, we are making that same service available to any former member of staff who receives a request for information that relates specifically to their time in the employ of the PHA.

Appreciate the fact that you may be utilising legal support through RCN, but should you wish to avail of legal support from DLS then I would be pleased to pass on your contact details to our solicitor, Brian Donnelly.

Kind Regards

Alastair Ross
Senior Planning Manager - Public Inquiries
Operations Directorate
Public Health Agency
Direct Dial: RO1 [REDACTED]
Email: RO1 [REDACTED]

