

In accordance with [Restriction Order 3](#), the Inquiry has provided excerpts of the witness statement for Witness 5. The Inquiry will only provide excerpts of the statement that do not contain information that is capable of leading to the identification of the Witnesses

## Scottish Hospitals Inquiry

Witness Statement of

**Witness 5**

### OVERVIEW

1. My [REDACTED] was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was treated in the Royal Hospital for Children (RHC) and Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) between [REDACTED].
2. [REDACTED] spent time in ward 2A and PICU of the RHC. Following the closure of the Schiehallion Unit in 2018, [REDACTED] was treated on ward 6A of the QEUH which was supposed to be the 'new' Schiehallion Unit. I stayed with [REDACTED] during most of [REDACTED] admission to hospital as an in-patient. [REDACTED]. I can speak to the experience which [REDACTED] and I had on these wards.

### SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: THE FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE AT RHC AND QEUH

#### Experience in ward 2A

3. They were still getting [REDACTED] room ready when we arrived at the RHC. [REDACTED] was in a room for people to get transplants done on ward 2A. [REDACTED] was only in that room for maybe two or three days and then they moved [REDACTED] further down the corridor.

WITNESS STATEMENT OF WITNESS 5

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4. After we had been there for a couple of days, I noticed the windows in the bedroom have got the blinds built in between the two panes of glass. I opened the blinds but I heard a drilling noise coming from a drill when I opened the curtains at 7:30 in the morning. There were four people on a cherry picker taking the cladding off from underneath the bedroom window. It was cladding they were taking off but they didn't tell us why. I think it was something to do with the Grenfell Tower. I don't think it was fireproof. They actually changed quite a lot of it, right round the side of the kids' hospital entrance.
5. When we arrived in ward 2A, we were told not to use the water. I think [REDACTED] had a shower there though. You were allowed to wash with it. There were filters on the bottom of the taps where the water came out. Some of them were just getting fitted when we got there.
6. Ward 2A was nice. It was clean and the nurses were fantastic. The ward had massive fridges so you'd put your name on your stuff and it could be kept in there.

#### **Closure of Ward 2A and the move to the adult hospital: late 2018**

7. We found out they were decanting all the kids to ward 6A. The hospital brought in a big private removal company. Outside in the corridors, there were the big red packing boxes, the plastic ones; there were hundreds and hundreds of them. I think it was one of the nurses that came in and told us that we were getting moved. She did apologise for the inconvenience.
8. We were told at one point we were moving because of something to do with the water. You weren't allowed to drink the tap water in ward 2A. You were allowed to wash your hands in it and that was it. There were hundreds of the two litre water bottles on the ward. Staff would hand these out for nothing.

9. On the days leading up to the move, everything got stickered for your bedroom so you knew who had the right furniture and different stuff like that. [REDACTED]. They took everything, all the furniture was moved out the room in ward 2A and taken over to ward 6A. [REDACTED] We were taken along the dark corridors that usually members of the public don't get to see. There was rubbish and broken furniture lying everywhere.
10. [REDACTED]. There were nurses waiting for us when we got to ward 6A. The move to ward 6A was one big massive convoy. It all happened in one day. It was alright but you would maybe expect one person to get moved in a hospital, not an entire unit. That's when we started thinking things were wrong. Ward 2A obviously wasn't adequate for what the kids were needing. It was all different stuff we were told as to why we were moving.

#### **Experience ward 6A: late 2018**

11. Ward 6A was just like an adult ward. It was basically a long corridor with rooms on each side. You could turn at the bottom of it and come back up as that's where the teenage kids were. The kids were playing in the corridor.
12. You had to use the main entrance of the hospital to access ward 6A and there would sometimes be drunk people there. There was pigeon shit everywhere. That's when all the scaffolding was still up because the window panels had been falling out.
13. In ward 6A, they didn't have the same patient monitor screens at the nurse's desk. Nurses were having to go to ward 6B, just across the landing to scrape up some bandages and wipes. They weren't prepared for moving all the kids and they didn't have enough supplies.

14. There wasn't a kitchen in ward 6A so they had started to feed parents but I wouldn't give that stuff to my dog. The food was awful. You were spending a fortune every day just going and getting sandwiches from the shops downstairs.
15. Ward 2A was cleaner than ward 6A. There was a red bag in the room. [REDACTED], if there were any accidents, everything would go in the red bag. In ward 6A the red bag could sit there for a couple of hours 'til somebody would take it away.
16. [REDACTED] there were alarms going off every 45 minutes or every hour and a half so you weren't getting a night's sleep. Sometimes you would have to wait for a nurse to attend. I think there was a shortage of staff in 6A. They were getting agency nurse that had never worked with kids before so they never had a clue what they were doing.
17. I don't think we were given bottled water on ward 6A. [REDACTED].
18. At the start of the corridor. The baths in these bathrooms weren't available because there were no filters on them. The whole ward had moved and the big bathroom was massive. It had two massive baths in it but it was basically just used for storage. There was even stuff lying in the baths.
19. [REDACTED] must have been moved nine or ten times in ward 6A, at least. They had to order in beds for the parents as the ward didn't have them. They shipped in beds and they were folding beds that have got a little table on top like a guest bed but there were that many complaints about them not being comfortable. The hospital then ordered new beds with thicker mattresses. You still had to fold that up in your room and try keep it somewhere out of the way.

**CONCLUDING COMMENTS**

20. In terms of how I feel about the hospital now, I wouldn't set the hospital on fire. It actually makes me feel sick driving past it on the motorway.

21. I think Jeane Freeman's got a lot to answer to. They only signed that hospital off because the Queen was coming on a certain day to open it.

22. I do still have concerns about the safety at the hospital. It's not just happened to ■■■; it's happened to loads of kids over the past eight years since the hospital has been open. You don't expect to go into hospital to get sick. You expect to go into hospital to get better.

23. I think that I heard that the NHS are trying to sue the contractors that built the hospital, I think that is just to pass the blame to somebody else.

24. I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that this statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.