

**MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY  
WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Statement of Dr Elizabeth Brady**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

I, Dr Elizabeth Brady, make the following statement for the purpose of the Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) Inquiry.

The statement is made on behalf of Western Health and Social Care Trust in response to a supplementary request for evidence by the Inquiry Panel.

This is my second statement to the Inquiry.

There are no documents produced with my statement.

**Section 1: Qualifications and position**

1. I am providing the witness statement to this Inquiry in my current work capacity as Divisional Clinical Director, Adult Mental Health and Disability, Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCCT). My professional credentials have already been submitted to the panel.

## Section 2: Matters for Further Clarification

- A. Information regarding the WHSCT adult patients who spent time in Muckamore during the Inquiry's timeframe of its terms of reference, for example: by duration, type of patient (e.g. forensic), reason for admission (e.g. awaiting a bed in Lakeview).
- B. The systems in place prior to 2014 enabling the WHSCT to know if one of its patients had been admitted to Muckamore and was being abused.
- C. The level of outreach from Muckamore to the Western Trust.
- D. The systems in place following 2014 enabling the WHSCT to know if one of its patients had been admitted to Muckamore and was being abused. This includes the degree of escalation of reports of abuse.
- E. The number of recipients of direct payments within the Trust who have a learning disability.
- F. How the Western Trust satisfies itself that its model of community service provision is sufficient.

### Section 3: WHSCT Response

**A. Information regarding the WHSCT adult patients who spent time in Muckamore during the Inquiry's timeframe of its terms of reference, for example: by duration, type of patient (e.g. forensic), reason for admission (e.g. awaiting a bed in Lakeview).**

- The table below shows detail regarding the patient profile of those admitted to Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) throughout the period of the Inquiry. These are broad categories and inclusion in each has been done based on information available in Western Trust case notes.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>
Awaiting Lakeview Bed	6
Forensic	6
Psychiatric Intensive Care	1
Childhood admission	3
Other Trust of Origin	3
Historical Admission (pre -1985)	8
No Suitable Community Placement	1
<b>Total :</b>	<b>28</b>

***Table 2.1 Admission Profile Category***

**B. The systems in place prior to 2014 enabling the WHSCT to know if one of its patients had been admitted to Muckamore and was being abused.**

3. Staff who would have this knowledge have retired. Existing staff, in the lead roles, have no knowledge of these prior arrangements.
4. Of those staff who remain within the organisation, who had been working in the services at the time, there is no working knowledge of a formal process in this regard.
5. In absence of this knowledge, we can find no record formal policy or processes. WHSCT were reliant on communications from Muckamore in relation to any incidents or safeguarding concerns.

**C. The level of outreach from Muckamore to the Western Trust.**

6. WHSCT records show evidence of some discharge and transition planning.
7. Patients were considered to be under the care and treatment of North & West Belfast HSS trust and laterally the Belfast Trust (BHSCT) who engaged with WHSCT as and when required.
8. There was no formal, regular engagement or processes surrounding this.
9. There was no identified policy or guidance issued in this regard.

**D. The systems in place following 2014 enabling the WHSCT to know if one of its patients had been admitted to Muckamore and was being abused. This includes the degree of escalation of reports of abuse.**

10. These patients were considered to be under the care and treatment of MAH, and the associated healthcare trust.
11. WHSCT would expect that MAH would have advised of any allegations of abuse.
12. Information may have been communicated directly to WHSCT by client or carer self-reporting.
13. Information may also have been communicated directly to WHSCT from police, if they had been involved.
14. Development of the Gateway model has provides formal engagement, processes and communications.

**E. The number of recipients of direct payments within the Trust who have a learning disability.**

15. Within the Learning Disability Sub-directorate, WHSCT, as of 31/03/2023 there are;  
  
27 clients in receipt of one-off Direct payments  
  
329 in receipt of recurrent Direct payments

**F. How the Western Trust satisfies itself that its model of community service provision is sufficient.**

16. The WHSCT has a number of mechanisms that allow monitoring and benchmarking of the current service provision. This is primary via the Delegated Statutory Function Report (DSF), submitted on an annual basis.
17. There is also Patient and Public Involvement in Service review and development. This allows for patient and carer input to service design and delivery.
18. There are a number of regional fora for engagement with Service Commissioners and policy makers.
19. The Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) and policy colleagues from the Department of Health (DoH) have regular meetings at both Director and Assistant Director levels to review performance, pressures and promote regional collaboration and consistency.
20. In recent years this has included a number of wider workshops to develop a consistent Regional Model for provision of Learning Disability Services, including how they connect and integrate into other aspects of health and social care provision.
21. Hospital and Community Accommodations provision are subject to inspection and review through the Regulation and Quality Inspection Authority (RQIA).

**Section 4: Other relevant information**

22. None

**Section 5: Conclusion**

23. This concludes the Western Health and Social Care Trust submissions in relation to Matters for Further Clarification.

**Section 6: Declaration of Truth**

24. The contents of this witness statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed: Dr Elizabeth Brady

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

**List of Exhibits (Dr Elizabeth Brady)**

25. None