

In accordance with [Restriction Order 3](#), the Inquiry has provided excerpts of the witness statement for Witness 4. 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 4

OVERVIEW

1. My [REDACTED] was diagnosed with Burkitt Lymphoma, an aggressive form of cancer in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was treated in the Royal Hospital for Children (RHC) and Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) between [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] was an in-patient during this time.
2. [REDACTED] spent time in ward 2A of the RHC which is known as the Schiehallion Unit. The Schiehallion Unit treats children and teenagers with cancer. Following the closure of the Schiehallion Unit, [REDACTED], was treated on ward 6A of the QEUH. [REDACTED]. I can speak to the experience which I had with [REDACTED] in the hospital.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: THE FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE AT THE RHC

3. [REDACTED] transfer us to the RHC and that it would be ward 2A. The doctor did say at that time that the RHC were having problems with the water and that [REDACTED] may not get a shower, but she said they were working on it and fixing it.

WITNESS STATEMENT OF WITNESS 4

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Experience in Ward 2A: August 2018 – September 2018

4. When we arrived at ward 2A, they were still getting the room ready for us. It was a transplant room we were in. That's a room where you have the outer bit where you do all your hand hygiene and put on your PPE before you go into the inner room. I think it's called a source or an isolation room or something like that.
5. ■■■ was only in that room for two or three days and then we were moved to a normal room just up the corridor which just had the bedroom and the en-suite bathroom.
6. They spent a couple of days doing blood tests and various scans. We met with Dr Chaudhury, ■■■'s consultant. She told us that ■■■ had Burkitt's lymphoma.
7. Ward 2A itself was nice. The facilities in it were good. It was clean and the nurses were always really good. The rooms had beds for the parents that folded down from the wall and could be pushed away into like a cupboard so it gave you space in the room.
8. There was a kitchen for parents to store and make their food. ■■■. We also got to talk to other parents, so we didn't feel isolated as everyone was in the same boat. There was also a kids' playroom but we were never in the playroom with ■■■.
9. The nurses' desk also had monitors that showed all the vital statistics and things like that. The monitors showed all of the stats of the kids that were in the ward, so they could keep track of them.

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

10. We had been in Ward 2A for about four to six weeks when we got a letter from the ward sister to say we were going to be moved to ward 6A in the adult hospital. It just said the date the move was going to happen and apologised for the inconvenience. The letter also said that it was something to do with the water and that it was a temporary move.
11. We packed any stuff we had for [REDACTED] the night before, so that it was easier to go the next morning. In the lead up to the move, Ward 2A was getting packed by staff and it was busy.
12. [REDACTED]. Everything was moved out [REDACTED] room and we went along a big corridor, like one of the corridors where normally people coming to the hospital wouldn't get to see.

Experience in the QEUH (adult hospital): late 2018

13. Ward 6A was just like an adult ward, just basically a big long corridor but it didn't have any facilities for parents. It didn't have anywhere for the kids to play.
14. At the time we moved we were told it was only going to be for a couple of months because they were fitting filters on the taps and fixing the issues that were there. It wasn't until we'd been there about five or six weeks that we were told that ward 2A wouldn't be reopening until the year after I think they said.
15. To access ward 6A, we had to use the main entrance to the adult hospital. That was horrendous. The entrance was full of smokers, it was just dirty and there was pigeon poop everywhere.
16. [REDACTED] the other kids were just playing in the corridor with their toys, with their drip stands behind them because there was nowhere for them to play at all.

17. There were no monitors at the nurses' station.
18. We were moved a lot in ward 6A, probably about ten times. [REDACTED]. We got very good at packing as we did it so often.
19. We weren't really given particular reasons for all the moves. One of the reasons one time was that it was to do with a health and safety audit because they'd found that the panels at the back of the bed, where everything plugged in, weren't sealed properly and it was an infection control risk.
20. I can't remember the rest of the reasons but I do remember the domestic coming in one Saturday morning and saying to me that there were moves afoot that day. [REDACTED].
21. There really wasn't much room to move at all in the room in 6A.
22. There were also no beds that folded down from the wall in ward 6A, like there had been on ward 2A. We just got these folding beds, like with the little table on top, like a guest bed. They had to ship new beds in for parents and carers after a few weeks.
23. Ward 6A really wasn't as good as 2A. [REDACTED] when you were trying to sleep at night the alarms would go off all the time. The alarms obviously alerted the nurse but they would take a wee while to get there, so long actually that we worked out how to silence the alarms. The drip would finish and the buzz: the buzz every five minutes would drive you insane. I would press [REDACTED] buzzer, look out to see if anyone was there and then just end up switching it off. I think this was a combination of the fact that the staff didn't have the monitors at the nurses' station and because there were less staff in 6A than in 2A.
24. Ward 6A ran out of dressings several times and had to go and borrow them from neighbouring wards.

25. The food was terrible. On ward 6A we had no access to a parent's kitchen so we had to just eat from the hospital. They would offer you food for dinner but you knew it was going to be awful, so you were really limited.

WATER: EVENTS INVOLVING WATER SYSTEMS

26. When we arrived in ward 2A we were told not to drink the water and were given bottled water to drink. You could wash with it though. [REDACTED].
27. There were filters on the taps in ward 2A, but some of them were just getting fitted when we got there.
28. We'd asked if [REDACTED] could have a bath on ward 6A. Staff said [REDACTED] couldn't have a bath because of the taps. They didn't have any filters on the bath taps in ward 6A at that point. [REDACTED].

CLEANLINESS

29. Ward 2A was much cleaner than 6A. I thought the adult hospital would have been cleaner, if I'm being honest. I even thought that the entrance would have been much cleaner. There were hand gels out and the domestics did clean the room but it wasn't like a thorough deep clean by any manner of means. You were lucky if they were in each bedroom five minutes. That was including the en-suite. It was like a damp wipe down of things. It wasn't anything more than that.
30. When [REDACTED] was in 6A, [REDACTED], they were measuring [REDACTED] urine output. There were a few occasions with the cardboard urine bottles, [REDACTED], there could have be two or three of them sitting full in the bathroom before anybody would come and collect them. At one point they ran out of the bottles so we just had to use just the normal ones that go inside a commode. They

then they ran out of sick bowls as well and again [REDACTED] had to use the ones for the commode. [REDACTED] .

OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

31. I think the ventilation is a problem. The rooms in the hospital are either freezing cold or roasting hot. The thermostats on the walls didn't work so you had no way of controlling the temperature.
32. I just don't understand why you build a hospital and don't build windows that open to let in fresh air. We're all told now with COVID-19 that you're best to meet outside in the fresh air and everything else. Yet you've got a hospital that's hermetically sealed, containing any germ that's in there and can't go anywhere.

THE HEALTH BOARD

33. I think the Health Board have a lot to answer for and I don't think the hospital should have been signed off. There were too many issues like panels needing replaced and windows falling out. The whole place seemed unfit for purpose with scaffolding up, the entrance being closed, dirty, smelly exteriors. There were many contractors carrying out various jobs that really should have been completed.
34. I don't think they'd got through their snagging list. There were a lot of things that were still wrong and hadn't been rectified and I don't think the hospital had been maintained. I also don't think the water checks and the ventilation checks were up to standard. It also smelt like raw sewage outside. You would walk walked outside and all you could smell was that cesspit.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

35. I pass the hospital a lot and I hate it. [REDACTED].
36. I would never advise anyone to go there; it's a sick building. I feel really let down because we've not had answers. That feels like people are trying to cover things up. I think with that and the water situation, it's a sick building. I don't think it promotes health.
37. I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true, that this statement may form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.