

WITNESS STATEMENT

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

Agency Ref : **S202**

PF Ref :

Surname : MITCHELL Other or previous surname :

Forenames : Katherine DoB : [REDACTED]/1980 Age : 34

Occupation : Foundation Year 2 Doctor Other Occupation :

Police Station : Years Service :

Disclosable address :

Post Code:

This statement was taken :

Date and time : 17th of June 2015 11.10

By : DSI EDWARD MILES & TRAINEE INV LYNN UNGI

Place : A&E Dept, Victoria Hospital

In the presence of :

I have/the witness signed/refused to sign this and all other pages

It was/not read over to the witness and was/not recorded on Audio tape and/or Video tape

States :

My name is Katherine Mitchell. I am a Doctor working within the A&E Dept of the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy. I graduated with MBCHB in 2005 and worked for 2 years as a foundation doctor and 2 years in Ophthalmology. After a 4 year break I returned to Clinical Medicine in 2012 to refresh my foundation competencies. I have worked in the Western General Hospital (Edinburgh) in a number of Depts. and here at A&E in the Victoria since April 2015.

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

WITNESS STATEMENT

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

I am aware of the nature of the investigation by the PIRC and the reasons for giving the statement. I have also been shown the A&E notes pertaining to Nicole Short: 0302860223.

On the 3rd May 2015 I was working an 8 am-8 pm shift in the A&E Dept of the Victoria Hospital. That morning there would have been 3 other doctors including Doctor Rachel Anderson. I do not recall the other doctors. I was aware of an on-going resus in Cubicle 1 of Resus. This involved many members of the medical and nursing staff.(not known). I did not have any involvement in the Resus. About 8.10 am I saw a female patient who was a serving police officer who was in uniform. At this time I did not know of any connection with the Resus which was still on-going. Within the A &E Dept. there are 3 main areas, classed as Majors, Minors and Resus. The Minors area is for patients who would be deemed to be physiologically stable and would be used for dealing with muscular and skeletal injuries and minor head injuries. When a patient presents at the front desk the patient is then placed within the Dept appropriately. If a patient had come into the Dept by ambulance they would be stepped down, not stepped up, so to speak. The patient Nicole Short was in the Minors area and she described to me as having been chased by a member of the public earlier that morning and having been struck blows to the back of the head. She said that she remembered falling to the ground putting her arms out to save herself and when she was on the ground curling up into a ball. She said she had been from there lifted up by one of her colleagues and told to sit in a police van. I haven't written anything about more of the incident. I did note she hadn't been sick but she did have a headache at the back of her head.

She presented as being quite shaken and if I remember rightly was tearful during the consultation. I thought it was an honest reaction for someone who had been through a traumatic event. I examined her and didn't find any abnormalities of her chest or cardio-vascular system, or her abdomen or her neurological system (evidence of dysfunction from anything from brain down to peripheral nerves, looking at strengths, reflexes, tones, sensation and co-ordination. I also looked in ears to check for blood or CSF which is cerebral spinal fluid. There was none that I could detect. She had a number of superficial abrasions on her elbows and knees, swelling and abrasions on her left hand and a little bit of redness on her right ear. I concluded that this lady had sustained a head injury. There was no indication to further investigate her or to observe her at this point. I discussed my findings with Dr Rachel Anderson at about 9.40 am and agreed that Nicole Short should be discharged from the department with head injury advice and advised to remain with another person for the rest of the day and overnight. I think she was going to stay with her parents.

Her speech wasn't slurred [REDACTED] and to my mind the history given by Nicole Short was in keeping with my findings upon examination. I have documented the neurological examination in the A&E notes and I found them to be within normal ranges.

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

WITNESS STATEMENT

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

I would like to add that it was only one and a half years in Ophthalmology with 6 months maternity leave.

I have been shown writing which is on the rear page of the original A&E notes. There is ink written with a question mark and LOC which means loss of consciousness and below this punches to head. During my examinations of Nicole Short I was able to discount the loss of consciousness by her ability to recall of the events pre and post event.

Signed : (Witness)

.....

WITNESS STATEMENT

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL - NOT TO BE DISCLOSED

Surname : MITCHELL Forenames: Katherine

Alias/known as :

Place of birth : [REDACTED] Age : over 18

Telephone : [REDACTED]

Home address : [REDACTED]

Post code : [REDACTED]

Telephone : [REDACTED]

Business address : Victoria Hospital

Hayfield Road

Kirkcaldy

Post Code : KY2 5BD

Mobile : [REDACTED]

Email : [REDACTED]

Fax/Pager :

Other :

Dates when unavailable in next 12 months :

Other Confidential Material :