



The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

Leigh Ann McLaughlin

**Provided by witness
on 31 March 2022**

Witness Details

1. My full name is Leigh Ann McLaughlin. I was born in 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Qualifications and experience

2. I qualified as a nurse in 2008.
3. I completed my Nursing Degree at the [REDACTED] between 2005-2008. I am a member of the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
4. I joined Accident & Emergency in 2008 after qualifying as a Staff nurse. I remained there til 2018 when I joined [REDACTED] as an Urgent Care Practitioner, where I am still currently employed.

[REDACTED]
Signature of witness.....

5. My role as an Urgent Care Practitioner involves triaging, seeing and treating patients of all ages autonomously in out of hours. In May 2015, I was a staff nurse working in A&E. My role involved working in triage, minors, majors, observation and resus. I worked within a team taking care of patients' needs.

Statement to Police Investigations & Review Commissioner (PIRC)


6. I have read my previous statement to the PIRC (PIRC-00302). Statement reads true to events.

3 May 2015

7. I was working in triage, I started at 0730-2000 that day.
8. I can only recall staff nurse Linda Limbert working that day in resus , I cannot recall what other staff were on duty that day.
9. I do not recall triaging Nicole Short, but after referring to my earlier statement I can now remember triaging her. My recollection of events was better when I gave my statement to the PIRC at the time. In the event of a contradiction between my statement to the Inquiry and to the PIRC, the written statement would be preferred due to the time lapsed since this incident.

Standby call


10. A standby call is a call made from ambulance service to the standby phone located in majors area to alert department of urgent treatment required for a patient. I am unsure what was relayed to me but reading my statement, I was told that a cardiac arrest was on route and would arrive in 1 minute.
11. I cannot recall who I spoke to and what exactly was said on the standby call.

Signature of witness..........

12. Following the standby call, I would have alerted staff over a tannoy system about the nature of the emergency and the estimated time of arrival. I have no recollection of what was said and whom I spoke to directly.
13. A Cardiac Arrest is when your heart stops pumping blood around the body. A Respiratory Arrest is the absence of breathing.


Nicole Short's arrival at hospital

14. I have read the notes for Nicole Short (PIRC-01158). I obtained her blood pressure, temperature, pulse, oxygen levels and respiratory rate. I also checked her Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) which was 15/15 indicating she was fully alert, and her pupils were equal and reacting to light indicating no obvious damage causing the brain not to function correctly. My signature is not on the notes.
15. I was with Nicole in the minors area in Accident and Emergency Department.
16. I cannot recall but looking back to my statement it states Nicole was distressed
17. I confirm I did not know or recognize the patient before she attended hospital.
18. 1 officer was with Nicole, I remember it was a male officer but cannot recall what was said by him.
19. Nicole checked in to reception desk and as the Triage nurse, I triaged her.
20. I don't know what previous assessment and treatment she had.

Signature of witness .....

Assessment of Nicole Short

21. Nicole presented with a head injury, she stated she was punched 5 times to the back of the head. I gave Nicole my full attention and allowed her time to explain what had occurred.
22. No further information was given to me by anybody else.
23. Nicole had a head injury. I cannot recall any other injuries.
24. I recall she stated she received 5 punches to the back of her head. Referring to my statement there was more details given but I cannot recall these.
25. She was shaking and distressed.
26. Observations were carried out. Blood pressure, temperature, pulse, oxygen levels and respiratory rate and GCS.
27. I do not know what treatment was required.
28. I did not give any advice to Nicole.
29. I left her in the minors area for a doctor to assess, I cannot recall her condition at this time.
30. In my previous statement at page 3 paragraph 3 I have commented: "*During the course of that morning I became aware that there as a connection between this patient (Nicole Short) and the cardiac arrest patient who had been brought into Resus who I had received the stand-by call about.*" Although I have seen this comment in my previous statement, I cannot recall this.

Signature of witness.....

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31. I cannot recall any back or torso injury to Nicole, I cannot recall her telling me this. If she did I would have recorded this in the notes or in the triage notes on the computer but I cannot recall this.

32. I do not recall examining her back or torso.

33. I took her observations; I cannot recall but as stated in my statement I checked her head for any cuts,

Miscellaneous

34. I do not remember my interview with PIRC when they took my statement.

35. I cannot remember all doctors or nurses involved, only the nurse mentioned earlier, who I do not see. I've not discussed this case with colleagues.

36. I haven't seen anything about this case in the news or social media.

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

Signature of witness.......... Date..... 4/8/2022

