



The Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry

Witness Statement

Kendall Kimberley Ovens

**Provided by witness
on Thursday 17 February 2022**

Witness Details

- 1. My full name is Kendall Kimberley Ovens. My date of birth is in 1986. My work place address is a hospital in [REDACTED] My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Qualifications and experience

- 2. I qualified as a Staff Nurse in October 2007. My original qualification was a Diploma in Adult Nursing from the University of [REDACTED] I have since gained my Bachelors of Science in Adult Nursing in 2015 from the University of [REDACTED] and I am currently undertaking a Diploma in Advanced Practice with the University of [REDACTED] I am a member of the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Royal College of Nursing.
- 3. I qualified in 2007 and worked for NHS Fife within a colorectal surgical ward for the first 5 years. I then moved to a general surgical ward for 3 years. I then moved to the Emergency Department where I worked for 5 years. I then moved to NHS [REDACTED] where I worked as an Emergency Nurse Practitioner

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for 13 months before [REDACTED] to take up a training post to become an Advanced Nurse Practitioner for the In Hours urgent care service.

4. I currently work within the community in GP practices. My position is as a trainee Advanced Nurse Practitioner where I work within primary care alongside a General Practice team to assess, examine, diagnose and treat a variety of primary care presentations. As I am a trainee I work closely with the General Practitioner.
5. My job role in May 2015 was as a band 5 staff nurse. It was my second shift within the Emergency Department. I was part of the resuscitation area team and my roles and responsibilities were to assist the team to look after any patients who needed to be assessed within the resuscitation area of the Emergency Department.

Statement to PIRC

6. I have read my previous PIRC statements (PIRC-00200; PIRC-00201) and I can confirm that these statements are true and accurate at the time of writing. I am unable to recall if I signed these statements due to the passage of time from which the events occurred. I have seen a handwritten copy of my statement dated 20 May 2015 and can confirm my signature is at the bottom of each of the pages.

3 May 2015

7. My role on the 3rd May 2015 was to be a part of the resuscitation team of nurses. I stated my shift at 07:30am and finished at 20:00pm.
8. I am unable to recall all of the nursing and medical staff I was working with on the 3rd of May 2015 due to the passage of time from which the events

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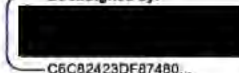
occurred and I was also new to the department and did not know everyone's names. I recall working with Junior Charge Nurse Jacqui James and Staff Nurse Lindsey Nicoll and I am aware of Dr Gillian Pickering being present due to reading the ED notes as a part of this Inquiry (PIRC-01069).

9. I do not have a clear memory of all the events that occurred on the 3rd of May 2015 due to the passage of time since these events occurred. I remember treating Sheku Bayoh. My memory was much better when I made the statement to PIRC than it is now.
10. I have read the A&E hospital notes relating to Sheku Bayoh (PIRC-01069) and I can confirm I did not write any of these notes. None of the signatures are mine.

Sheku Bayoh's arrival at hospital

11. Sheku Bayoh was treated in the Resuscitation room in Resus 1. The right hand side of the cubicle had the sink, then the red resuscitation trolley, with the defibrillator on the top, the oxilog beside this to the left, and in the top right corner was an anaesthetic machine. The back wall had emergency airway equipment. To the left side of the back wall were the oxygen points. The left hand side of the cubicle had the general equipment trolley with a yellow sharps bin on top of the relative's plastic chairs. The centre of the cubicle had the patient trolley and at each side there was a step to aid CPR for height difference.
12. The patient arrived at hospital in an ambulance on an ambulance stretcher.
13. Sheku Bayoh was a tall, well-built black man with a bald head. This is all I can recall about his features due to the passage of time. I did not know this man and I did not recognise him.

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14. I recall two police officers being there on the patient's arrival but I do not recall any further details including their sex. I know from reading my PIRC statement it was two male police officers but I don't recall what they looked like, what they were wearing or if they said anything to me. From my statement I can see one of them told me a police officer had been assaulted but I do not recall anything about this due to the passage of time.

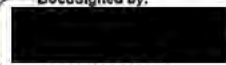
Assessment and treatment of Sheku Bayoh

15. I was involved from the moment the patient arrived in the cubicle. I helped to move him onto the ED trolley and then I took his temperature and his blood sugar. I do not remember what these readings were. I did make the senior ED doctor aware of the readings at the time. I was then asked to monitor the patient's femoral pulse which I did and I alerted the team to when this had stopped then CPR commenced in which I was involved with doing manual chest compressions intermittently as I rotated with other staff members. Towards the end of the resuscitation I took over noting times and numbers on the board from Junior Charge Nurse Jacqui James to allow her to go home.

16. I cannot recall what information I was given about this patient as it was so long ago.

17. I did not fully assess this patient as it was the medical staff who undertakes this role. I took his temperature with a thermometer and his blood sugar using the sampling equipment.

18. I took the patient's temperature using a thermometer. I cannot recall if it was the standard thermometer or the low grade thermometer. They are both medical grade thermometers. I believe they are accurate as they are still used today as standard equipment.

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19. I do not feel qualified to state what treatment was required. I also cannot recall all details of the patient's treatment due to the passage of time and also once chest compressions commenced I was focused on this.

20. I have not taken the advanced life support course or training. As I was new to the ED I was not familiar with advanced life support so I do not feel qualified to explain how it operated in this patient's assessment and treatment.

21. CPR is administered in a hospital setting in accordance to the training that is developed by the Resuscitation Council UK.

22. I do not recall if bloods were taken from the patient as I was not involved in this. I have seen from the ED notes that bloods were taken but I did not participate in this and do not recall from the passage of time.

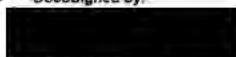
23. I am not aware of there being anything about the patient being black that would need consideration during his assessment or treatment.

Restraints

24. I remember the patient having standard police handcuffs on his wrists and black leg restraint straps around both legs. That is all I can recall.

25. I recall the handcuffs and restraints being removed early in the patient's arrival to the ED after request from Dr Pickering. I do not recall any treatment or assessment being impeded but I cannot recall clearly due to the passage of time.

Respiratory arrest and cardiac arrest

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26. As it was only my 2nd day in the ED I was not sure who the Doctors were or their grade. I know from the ED notes it was Dr Gillian Pickering who took the lead.
27. I am not an expert in this field but a respiratory arrest is when a person stops breathing. A cardiac arrest is when a person's heart stops.
28. I do not feel qualified to comment on the causes, signs and symptoms of respiratory arrest.
29. I do not feel qualified to comment on the causes, signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest.
30. I do not feel qualified to comment on the differences in treatment of cardiac arrest and respiratory arrest.

Specific tests and treatment

31. An ultrasound was carried out. I do not recall by whom, or why this was done.
32. I recall the patient was shocked as it was indicated by the defibrillator that he was in a shockable rhythm – I do not recall how many times or by whom due to the passage of time since the events.
33. I can only recall Adrenaline and Amioderone being administered as per the resuscitation guidelines as I read this in the ED notes prior to this statement.
34. A thumper machine is a mechanical chest compression aid. It is also called a lucas device. It can be used during any adult cardiac arrest. Its purpose is to take over chest compressions. I do not know how it mechanically works or how many compressions it administers per minute or at what pressure.

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35. I cannot accurately remember if the thumper was used on this patient due to the passage of time since the event.

Fractured ribs

36. It is possible to fracture a patient's ribs whilst performing manual chest compressions and using the thumper. I do not know if incorrectly positioning the thumper increased the likelihood of a fracture as I am not an expert in the lucas devices.

37. I am not aware of myself or my colleagues fracturing any of the patient's ribs.

Life pronounced extinct

38. I do not feel qualified to comment on who made the decision to pronounce life extinct (PLE) and why.


39. I do not recall who made the PLE decision due to the passage of time since the event.

40. I do not recall who called the time of death due to the passage of time since the event.

41. I believe the whole team worked tirelessly to resuscitate the patient.

42. I do not recall what happened after the time of death as I then left the area to go for my break.

43. I do not recall how long the patient was in the hospital due to the passage of time since the event.

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Miscellaneous

- 44. I do not recall in detail the interviews in which I gave my PIRC statements. The investigators were professional in their approach. I cannot recall the questions and areas covered unless I read over my original statements. I feel they were thorough.

- 45. I no longer work within the ED. I am not in regular contact with any of the staff who treated this patient. I have not discussed the case with any of the doctors or nurses.

- 46. I have seen posts on social media but I did not read them or the comments. I do not feel qualified to answer if the medical aspects of the case were reported accurately.

- 47. I believe 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.

Signature of witness.......... Date..... April 13, 2022 | 9:43 AM CVT

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