

## **BROOK HOUSE INQUIRY**

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### **Second Witness Statement of James Wilson**

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 23 March 2022. I have been authorised by Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group (GDWG) of The Orchard, 12 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD, to provide this witness statement.

I, James Wilson, Former Director of Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, and currently Deputy Director of Detention Action (Unit 1.8, The Greenhouse, 244 – 254 Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9DA) will say as follows:

1. I make this statement further to the statement I signed on 13 September 2018 in the Judicial Review (DPG000001), my first statement in the Inquiry signed on 15 November 2021 (DPG000003) and the oral evidence I gave on 10 December 2021.
2. I have been shown a copy of the witness statement of Nic Eadie, who was Director of GDWG immediately before me. I have also been shown an email exchange between Nic Eadie and Christopher Milliken of G4S in February 2016 (HOM0332156).
3. I had not seen this e-mail exchange before. Nic left GDWG in May 2016 and there was a gap of about a month before I started in June 2016. I spent a day with him before he left. That day was focussed on practical matters such as the IT system, the database and meeting staff. I do not recall any handover about the MOU.
4. I learned of the MOU sometime after I joined GDWG and understood it had not been agreed to or signed. I have never seen a signed version. It can be seen from my email communications with Brook House managers, which have been disclosed to the Inquiry, that I assumed that the MOU had not been agreed or signed. I don't recall it ever being suggested by Brook House managers in my dealings with them that the MOU had been signed by Nic or anyone else at GDWG.

Witness Name: James Wilson  
Statement No: Second  
Exhibits: None

5. I do understand the pressure Nic Eadie will have felt to agree terms of the MOU because I too came to feel that I needed to sign a MOU so as not to lose the drop-in sessions. As I mentioned at paragraph 23 of my statement signed on 13 September 2018 in the Judicial Review (DPG000001\_8), I felt GDWG was in a vulnerable position, worried that Brook House management would take away our sessions if we did not reach some written agreement with them and for that reason I tried to negotiate on the terms of the wording of the MOU. After the hostile meeting on 6 June 2017 with Mr Skitt, Mr Gasson and Mr Haughton, which I described in my Judicial Review statement at paragraphs 39-42 (DPG000001\_13), I felt the need to placate them, and I sent an email on 12 June 2017 saying that I would work on the MOU draft and send them an updated version (GDW000003\_29).
6. On 26 June 2017 I sent them an amended version of the MOU stating that the trustees of GDWG were happy for me to sign it (HOM0332150) and asked them to arrange a meeting. I chased that up by email on 24 July 2017. The next meeting, which was on 18 August 2017 with Mr Skitt and Mr Gasson, was taken up with their complaints about GDWG and their comments that they were seriously considering ending the drop-in sessions altogether. As I recall the terms of the MOU were not discussed at that meeting, nor at any time after that whilst I was the Director.

<b><u>Statement of Truth</u></b>	
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.	
I am content for this witness statement to form part of the evidence before the Brook House Inquiry and to be published on the Inquiry's website.	
Name	James Wilson
Signature	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>Signature</b></div>

Witness Name: James Wilson  
Statement No: Second  
Exhibits: None

Date	Apr 1, 2022
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Witness Name: James Wilson  
Statement No: Second  
Exhibits: None