

telling them that really bad things happened to me in Sri Lanka and that I felt really unwell. I remember being visited by two nurses from Langley Green Hospital who said they could take me out of Brook House to hospital and give me better treatment. I did not hear anything further about going to hospital after that visit. My solicitors tell me that the medical records state these nurses decided I was “*unsuitable for an inpatient admission*” (HOM032191\_0005) but this was never communicated to me. There was one healthcare person who I did find very helpful. She kept telling me to be strong and she gave me some medication which did help me sleep and switch off. But this didn’t change the fact that I was in detention and I still felt extremely unwell.

### Complaints

60. I have been asked whether I made any complaints while I was detained at Brook House. There was one night when nobody brought me my medication and I attempted suicide. My solicitors tell me that from the records this was 19 March 2017. The next day I told one of the officers, nobody brought my medication last night and it caused me to have suicidal thoughts, so please could they make sure I have my medication every night. I remember the officer responded with words to the effect of ‘Okay, we will try our best’. Other than that I did not make any complaints. I would not have known how to make a formal complaint. I was not aware of the Professional Standards Unit or the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. I don’t remember being aware of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group.

### Other Matters

61. There are some other issues about my treatment at Brook House that I do think the Inquiry should take into account.
62. Firstly my solicitors tell me that there is no evidence that in the decision to detain me in 2017 that proper consideration was given to my mental health. Given how badly detention had affected me before and given what the Home Office knew about my mental ill health during the period between the first and the second detention (including having possession of Dr. Lawrence’s report), I can’t understand this. I am told that Home Office policy at the time requires consideration of this so I don’t understand why my illness does not appear to have been taken into account before I was detained.
63. Even after I was detained, I am told that the detention reviews did not mention reports about my health that the Home Office were in possession of before my detention, including Dr Lawrence’s report.

84. I feel safer now that I have refugee status. But still, being asked to go back to my past, including my detention in Brook House, is dark for me. This is because the detention centre itself reminded me so much of what happened to me in Sri Lanka. To me it was a prison, it was frightening and intimidating. I did not feel safe and I do not think it was the right place for someone with my mental health problems. They just locked me away and I was in the room alone for many hours where I had no escape from my bad thoughts and memories and was in constant fear of being sent back to torture in Sri-Lanka.
85. If the Inquiry has questions for me, if possible, I would like to have that provided to me through my solicitors in writing so that I have time to consider them and provide answers through my lawyers. I would however like to stress again that it is extremely difficult for me to think about my detention at Brook House. I have tried to give as much detail as possible over several zoom meetings with my solicitors. There are some topics I was asked about by the Inquiry that I have not commented on in this statement because it is just too difficult for me to think about or discuss.
86. 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.

Signed

**Signature**

Dated: 26.01.2022

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