

BROOK HOUSE INQUIRY

Fourth Witness Statement of Dr Oozeerally

I provide this supplemental statement pursuant to Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, as requested on 17 March 2022.

I, Dr Oozeerally, date of birth DPA, of DPA say as follows:

Introduction

1. In so far as the contents of this statement are within my own personal knowledge, they are true, otherwise they are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.
2. I am a General Practitioner (Medical Doctor) that has worked in Immigration healthcare in this capacity since 2013.
3. This statement is supplemental to my first three witness statements; the first and second of which are dated 30 November 2021 and the third is dated 3 February 2022. The Inquiry has referenced these witness statements as DRO000001, DRO000002 and DRO000003 respectively.
4. On 11 March 2022, I attended the Brook House Inquiry in person to give oral evidence. I make this statement to provide further information in relation to information raised during my questioning from Counsel to the Inquiry.

Meeting and Presentation with the Home Office

5. During my oral evidence, I stated that I had told people in the Home Office that, in my view, the Rule 35 system was not working. I also referenced a presentation that myself and Dr Chaudhary gave to the Home Office during a meeting regarding the challenges in relation to the Rule 35.
6. I recall that I directed my concerns regarding the Rule 35 system to Ian Cheeseman, who was my contact at the Home Office. I have been unable to provide any email chains to the Inquiry as I have been unable to locate them. The searches that I have undertaken are set out further below.
7. However, my colleague Dr Chaudhary has provided me with an email chain between Mr Cheeseman and me, that he was copied into. I have reviewed this email chain and can confirm it matches my recollection of some of my correspondence with Mr Cheeseman. This email chain is exhibited at "DO1".
8. My recollection was that the meeting with the Home Office occurred around 2018. Having reviewed the email chain, we attempted to organise the meeting in 2018 but due to conflicting diaries, the meeting did not occur until 7 February 2019 at the Croydon Home Office building. I specifically recall that Ian Cheeseman and Terry Gibbs attended the meeting.
9. As shown from Mr Cheeseman's email dated 28 January 2021, the topics on the agenda were firstly, a phone medical advisory service and secondly, a discussion surrounding the Rule 35 process. This was to include a request from Mr Cheeseman on *"how R35 might be improved, particularly in respect of the range of vulnerabilities it should cover, and the range of healthcare staff who should be able to complete reports. It would also be helpful to hear from you on the practicalities involved in considering, writing and submitting R35 reports, and on the interactions you have with Home Office caseworkers."*
10. Dr Chaudhary and I gave the presentation referenced above to four senior staff at the Home Office which covered the Rule 35 process and Adults At Risk policy. The presentation includes criticisms and suggestions in relation to both. I exhibit the presentation at "DO2".

11. I recall discussing the Stephen Shaw Report recommendations. We made a number of suggestions including a pre-detention assessment and an independent medical input into detention decisions (as per the Shaw report).
12. I have been informed by the Inquiry that the metadata on the presentation states that it was created on 5 February 2019. I am unable to confirm whether this was the first or an updated copy, however 5 February 2019 was two days prior to the meeting.

Searches conducted for email history

13. I have searched both my personal Hotmail email account as well as my NHS email account [DPA] for email chains with Mr Cheeseman.
14. I have searched the Inbox, Deleted and Archive of my NHS email address. I have additionally followed the instructions in the help section within NHS mail (to recover deleted emails) and subsequently emailed the individuals named in the help section, to retrieve deleted emails. Unfortunately nothing has been received further from them. I believe that I have provided the Inquiry with all of the emails (in the form of emails that Dr Chaudhary was cc'ed into) that I have had with the Home Office in which I raised concerns, as referred to in my evidence to the Inquiry.

<u>Statement of Truth</u>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Name	Dr Husein Oozeerally

Signature	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Signature </div>
Date	29/04/2022

Witness Name: Dr Husein Oozeerally
 Statement No: 4
 Exhibits: DO1-DO2