

Witness Name: Hazel Borland

Statement No.:

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 26 June 2024

## **UK COVID-19 INQUIRY**

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### **WITNESS STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR HAZEL BORLAND**

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I, Professor Hazel Ann Borland, of NHS Ayrshire & Arran Health Board, will say as follows;

1. I am the COVID Inquiries Clinical Lead for NHS Ayrshire & Arran (NHSAA). I make this statement in response to a Request for Evidence under Rule 9 of The Inquiry Rules 2006 issued by the UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry, which NHSAA received via letter through our legal representation.
2. I make this statement on behalf of NHSAA in my capacity as Clinical Lead COVID Inquiries. I have been in this role since 07 November 2022. Prior to this, I held the position of Executive Nurse Director (January 2016 – March 2022), Deputy Chief Executive (2020 - 2022) and Interim Chief Executive (June 2021 – January 2022) of NHSAA.
3. The facts and the matters addressed in this witness statement are based on my own knowledge and that of relevant colleagues who held key roles in NHSAA during the relevant period as outline in the Rule 9 notice.
4. These colleagues have a more detailed knowledge of the work in specialist areas, and it is my belief that they have diligently and fairly reported to me the relevant information that I have set out below. My statement should therefore be read as representing the collective knowledge and understanding of NHSAA in relation to the 01 March 2020 - 28 June 2022 relevant period to which this Module 3 Rule 9 notice refers.

#### **Impact on Primary Care**

5. The patient information management systems in Ayrshire and Arran do not capture availability and capacity of GP appointments, but do count activity and consultation date.

### **Impact on Secondary Care**

8. There were no closures of Ayrshire & Arran Emergency Departments or transfer/diversion of incoming patients to other hospitals in Scotland due to a hospital outbreak of COVID-19 during the relevant period.
9. NHSAA does however have long established clinical pathways for the transfer of patients who require specialised care to other NHS Health Boards (mainly across the West of Scotland) who provide specialist tertiary level care in these areas:
  - Paediatric service (Royal Hospital for Children) NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
  - Vascular service (Hairmyres) NHS Lanarkshire
  - Cardiology service (Hairmyres or Golden Jubilee National Hospital)
  - Neurology service (Institute of Neurological Sciences, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital) NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
  - Plastics service (Canniesburn Unit) NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
  - Renal service (Glasgow Royal Infirmary) NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
  - Gastroenterology service (Royal Infirmary Edinburgh for liver patients) NHS Lothian
  - Oncology (Beatson Oncology and various UK Cancer Centres) NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
10. I can advise that these pathways were well established prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, continued during the relevant period and are still in place at this time.

### **Data Relating to Hospital Capacity**

11. Critical Care Services were provided from both our acute receiving hospital sites during the relevant period; these are University Hospital Crosshouse (UHC) and University Hospital Ayr (UHA).
12. Based on the data from our Business Objectives local warehouse, the table below shows the count of the number of these hospitals where level 3 critical care beds (Significant Facility = Intensive Care Unit (ICU)) reached 100% Occupancy and the date this occurred:

level 3 critical care beds (Significant Facility = ICU) 100% Occupancy	
Date	No. of hospitals
04/03/2020	1
08/03/2020	2
03/10/2020	1
14/10/2020	1
15/10/2020	1
29/10/2020	1
30/10/2020	1
02/11/2020	1
03/11/2020	1

13. Based on the data from our Business Objectives local warehouse, the table below shows the count of the number of these hospitals (UHC and UHA) where level 2 critical care beds (Significant Facility = High Dependency Unit (HDU)) reached 100% Occupancy and the date this occurred:

level 2 critical care beds (Significant Facility = HDU) 100% Occupancy	
Date	No. of hospitals
01/03/2020	1
02/03/2020	1
03/03/2020	1
04/03/2020	1
05/03/2020	2
06/03/2020	1
07/03/2020	1
08/03/2020	1
09/03/2020	1
10/03/2020	1
12/03/2020	1
25/08/2020	1
26/08/2020	1
27/08/2020	1
01/09/2020	1
07/09/2020	1
09/09/2020	1
15/09/2020	1
17/09/2020	1
23/09/2020	1
24/09/2020	1
26/09/2020	1
03/10/2020	1