

The Nottingham Inquiry

First Witness Statement of Mr Des McMorrow

I, Des McMorrow, will say as follows: -

Introduction

1. I am a Registered Mental Health nurse. I was commissioned in February 2024 by the Care Quality Commission (“CQC”) as an independent clinical reviewer to contribute to the CQC’s s.48 report titled, Special review of mental health services at Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (the “CQC Review”) and I make this statement in relation to this role.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the “Inquiry”) with matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 16 January 2026 (the “Request”).
3. I would like to express my sincere condolences to the families of those who tragically lost their lives and confirm my commitment to assist the Inquiry so that lessons can be learnt.

Career and Role

4. My full name is Desmond Joseph McMorrow. I qualified as a Registered Mental Health nurse in 1988. I have also obtained a Diploma in the Care of the Mentally Disordered Offender (1999/2000).

5. I am the Director of my consultancy business (DJM Healthcare Consultancy Ltd).

My current roles are:

- i. Chair - Fitness to Practice Committees on behalf of the Nursing Midwifery Council (NMC).
- ii. Chair – Fitness to Practise Committees on behalf of HCPC (Health & Care Professions Council)
- iii. Registrant - Fitness to Practice Committees on behalf of the NMC.
- iv. Chair Independent Care & Treatment Review for Department of Health & NHS England.
- v. Clinical Reviewer Death in Custody – working with Spectrum Community Health CIC commissioned by NHS England.
- vi. Associate Consultant undertaking Health & Social Care Needs Assessments in prisons and liaison & diversion services.
- vii. Quality Reviewer – NHS England Criminal Justice
- viii. Expert witness – Care Quality Commission
- ix. Investigator of homicides perpetrated by people in care of mental health services.
- x. Investigations into serious incidents and complaints

6. I have had a varied career that has included a number of roles as summarised in my CV.

7. I have prepared reports for Boards of Directors, inspections of services, disciplinaries, serious incident reviews, deaths in custody, NMC hearings, homicide reviews, care and treatment reviews and a range of other forums. I have considerable experience of report writing and communicating the findings and any

recommendations of these reports. I have been a keynote speaker at conferences and have given evidence at Coroner's Courts.

8. I confirm that the document exhibited here as CQCM0006080 is my CV, and is that which I provided to the CQC in February 2024.

The CQC Review

9. I was initially contacted by Jenny Wilkes of CQC regarding my capacity to undertake some review work for the CQC Review. She advised me of the very tight timescales for the Review. It was made clear that I would not be undertaking the review of the notes of Valdo Calocane (VC) but of other patients' records, benchmarking cases, to determine whether any problems were systemic in nature.
10. I confirmed that I would be able to undertake the work within the timescales, and it was confirmed to me that I would be provided with the Terms of Reference in due course. I was subsequently provided with the document exhibited here as CQCM0006060 which accurately set out the scope of the work I was asked to do in full. I refer also to document CQCM0006285, an email of 7 February 2024 from Jenny Wilkes to myself, which reflects the extent of the work I was asked to carry out. I do not recall receiving any other documents that formally set out or amended the scope of my review.
11. The records to be reviewed were provided to me by CQC via Egress. I understand that the records for the 10 cases came from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and related to 10 of their patients who were receiving care in similar community mental health services to that of VC.
12. The purpose of the review of the benchmarking cases was to be able to compare whether there were any similarities, themes or trends in the care delivered to

these patients and that delivered to VC by the Trust. The 10 benchmarking cases covered the period April 2020 – February 2024.

13. I was also provided with and reviewed the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Early Intervention in Psychosis Service Operational Policy. I do not recall being provided with any other policy documents or any records from policing bodies.

14. The reviews of the 10 benchmarking cases were undertaken by myself and one other reviewer. We split the 10 cases evenly between us; 5 patients each at random. Shortly after work commenced, I was contacted by CQC to ask if I would be able to review an additional case, which I confirmed I would. In total, I reviewed 6 sets of patient records.

15. A template was provided by CQC for the purpose of recording the review and I used this to conduct my analysis and record my notes for each case. I reviewed the patient records and policy document and, in each case, considered whether that policy was adhered to and whether there was anything of particular concern.

16. I confirm that documents CQCM0010441, CQCM0010626, CQCM0010676 and CQCM0010801 are the notes that I made in relation to 4 of the cases I reviewed. The notes for the other 2 cases I reviewed are exhibited here as CQCM0010473 and CQCM0010440.

17. In relation to document CQCM0010654, I contributed to the first 5 pages – these notes relate to the cases which I reviewed. These documents were used by the author of the CQC Review to inform the report. This was my only involvement/contribution to the report. I was not the author.

18. I was provided with a copy of the CQC Review prior to publication and invited to provide comments. Document WITN0400002 which is exhibited to this statement

is a copy of the draft report which was sent to me and upon which I provided my comments. The majority of the report focuses on VC, and I did not review any of his records or files. My work was related only to the wider scope and where it appears in the report it was more thematic and generalised in nature. I confirm that the Review accurately reflected the work I had done, including the analysis and conclusions I came to.

Recommendations

19. In relation to recommendations to be made by the Chair of this Inquiry and any improvements to be made, I believe a recommendation should be made on the theme of professional curiosity. It is important that all teams within a Trust are aware of the importance of professional curiosity, especially to ascertain why patients may be disengaging with a service.

Statement of Truth

I believe the content of this statement to be true. I understand that proceedings 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 of its truth.

Signed: **GRO-B**

Name: Des McMorrow

Dated: 11 February 2026

Index to First Witness Statement of Des McMorrow

No.	Inquiry URN	Document Description
1.	CQCM0006080	Curriculum Vitae of Des McMorrow, Mental Health Nurse
2.	CQCM0006060	Re: S48 commission for a special review of Nottingham Mental Health Services
3.	CQCM0006285	Email from Jenny Wilkes [CQC] to Des McMorrow, Evan Humphries [CQC] and Greg Rielly [CQC] Re: CQC - Clinical Expert Request
4.	CQCM0010441	Medical record review of anonymised patient dated 11-12/02/24 CQC Re: Summary of patient presentation
5.	CQCM0010626	Medical record review of anonymised patient dated 19-20/02/24 CQC Re: Summary of patient presentation
6.	CQCM0010676	Medical record review of anonymised patient dated 20/02/24 CQC Re: Summary of patient presentation
7.	CQCM0010801	Medical record review of anonymised patient dated 24-25/02/24 CQC Re: Summary of patient presentation
8.	CQCM0010473	Medical record review of anonymised patient dated 16/02/24 CQC Re: Summary of patient presentation
9.	CQCM0010440	Medical record review of anonymised patient dated 12-13/02/24 CQC Re: Summary of patient presentation
10.	CQCM0010654	Medical records of multiple patients, re summary and assessment of findings and treatment
11.	WITN0400002	S48 draft report with Des McMorrow comments