

27th March 2001

Dear Ms Knowles,

On 23rd February, 2000 I was admitted to Warley Hospital for overnight observation. This was due to concerns that my daughters had over the state of my mental health. I was admitted voluntarily to allay any fears my daughters had.

As a result of this observation, I was declared fit and well on 24th February, 2000, by one of your doctors. I was issued with a form, a MED 10, on this day to reflect the findings of the doctor.

On the previous evening I had arranged with my daughters that they would collect me at 5.00 P.M. the following day. When I was admitted to hospital I had no money in my possession nor access to my vehicle, hence the arrangements with my daughters.

At approximately 2.00 P.M. on 24 February, 2000 I was issued with the previously mentioned certificate and told I was free to leave. I stated I would have to wait until 5.00 P.M. for my daughters to collect me. Upon stating this, I was informed by a staff member that I would have to leave the premises immediately, otherwise I would be trespassing and the police would be called. I again explained my position, but to no avail. Approximately one hour later the police arrived, there were a total of six officers deployed to the premises to deal with a non-existent problem.

I explained my position to officers present, but again to no avail. The situation culminated in my daughters arriving to collect me, as arranged and witnessing me being assaulted by no less than six police officers on your premises. I was then taken to Brentwood Police Station, held for two hours and released without charge.

It is with interest that I write to you to gain your views of my treatment whilst on your premises. I feel it is most irregular that your staff find it permissible to stand by and watch while I was being viciously assaulted by six officers of the law.

I would be grateful to receive your views and await your reply with great interest.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Knowles
Chief Executive,
Trust Headquarters,
Bentley Suite,
St. George's Hospital,
117 Suttons Lane,
Hornchurch,
Essex RM12 6RS

Cathy Cannon

01277 219172