

OUR MARK: VI

RGX2/RGX2

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF WITNESS

(C.J. Act 1967, s.9; M.C. Act 1980 ss5A(3)(a) and 5B, Criminal Procedure Rules 2012, Rule 27.2)

Name: Ann Longden
Age of Witness (if over 18 enter "over 18"): Over 18
Occupation: Mobility Assessment Officer

This statement (consisting of pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed.....Signature witnessed By.....

Dated the 13th day of July 2022

NOT DOCTOR WITH SPINE SPECIALISATION

I am the above named person and I am a Mobility Assessment Officer for the Blue Badge Team at East Sussex County Council. I have held this role since October 2019. I am also a Registered General Nurse and have been since 1982. I also have a District Nurse Qualification. My current role involves me assessing blue badge applications and blue badge renewal applications for those whose badges are due to expire. This involves me screening applications to assess if a client meets the criteria set by the Department for Transport to ascertain whether the client is eligible to be issued a blue badge or not. If necessary and a decision can't be made when the application is assessed it may be required to invite the client to a face to face mobility assessment

On the 6th of April 2022 I carried out a face to face mobility assessment with a Mr Riccardo Gresta along with my colleague Mandy Gaved who is also a Mobility Assessment Officer. The assessment was conducted at St Mary's House in Eastbourne

The Assessment and outcome are uploaded on Mr Gresta's record in e-casefile on Liquid Logic. Ecasefile is local East Sussex County Council database where clients records are stored. I can produce a copy of this assessment as my Exhibit (AL/01).

Mr Gresta was assessed by qualified registered health care professionals and based on his presentation at his clinic appointment and as he left the building, he was found to be not eligible. His overall presentation was inconsistent therefore he did not meet the DFT criteria.

Mr Gresta was notified of the outcome of his assessment by letter dated 14/04/2022.

Mr Gresta wrote an appeal letter dated 22.04.22 with a supporting medical letter which was headed with Hurstwood Park Hospital, Neurology Department and dated 19.04.2022. It had a typed signature at the bottom of the letter, this was typed as Angus Anderson Independent Consultant Neurologist. Overall the letter had a number of grammatical errors and it did not give me the impression that it had been written by a consultant neurologist. It looked to be written in a manner very similar to Mr Gresta's appeal letter.

Another concern noted was that if Mr Gresta had been seen by the Musculoskeletal (MSK) consultant on the 12.04.22 as he stated he did, it would have been very unlikely that he would have been referred, seen by a neurologist and received a written report from them within 7 days. (HARRIS / Personal opinion)

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Due to having reasonable suspicion that this letter was not a genuine medical report I rang Hurstwood Park Neurology department on 27.04.2022 at 14:30 and spoke to the neurologist's secretary Mandy Covey. I was informed by Mandy that their department did

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Continuation of statement by
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not have a consultant by the name of Angus Anderson and she did not know of an independent consultant neurologist of this name. Mandy informed me that the consultant's name at Hurstwood Park was Angus Nesbit. She also stated that if an independent consultant had written a letter/report they should not be using Hurstwood Park's address at the top of their letter. Mandy also told me that Mr Gresta had not been seen at Hurstwood Park neurology department since September 2019. The last referral to Hurstwood Park from MSK was dated 05.09.2019 and the consultant practitioner who signed that letter was called Michael Anderson. The name on the medical letter sent in by Mr Gresta was Angus Anderson. My colleague Mandy Gaved looked on the General Medical Council (GMC) register to ascertain if there was a listed Doctor with the name Angus Anderson and found that there was no one of this name registered. Due to my concerns that the medical letter provided by Mr Gresta in order to support his appeal was not genuine, I spoke to Mark Jobling who is the Investigations Officer for the Blue Badge Team and informed him that I did not believe that the letter provided was genuine and had not been written by a Consultant Neurologist. I am willing to attend court and give evidence if required.

Signed:
Signature witnessed by: