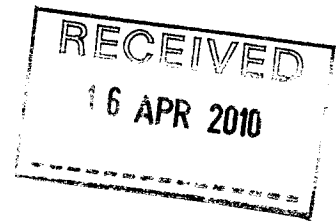


Northern Health
and Social Care Trust

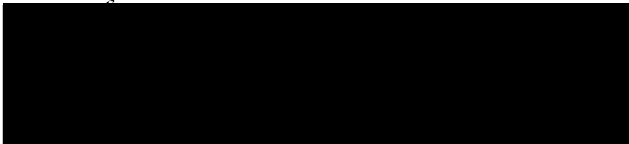


Antrim Area Hospital
45 Bush Road
Antrim BT412RL
N. Ireland

Witness Statement C. Diff Inquiry
14.4.2010

My name is Robin G. Ashe, Consultant Gynaecologist at Antrim Area Hospital. I was Chairman of Medical Staff from Sept. 2005 – Sept. 2009. During that time on behalf of Medical Staff, I wrote to the Chief Executive Mr Bernard Mitchell, about Hospital Cleanliness and Infection Control (see attached letter). A reply was not received – my memory is that Mr Mitchell retired and was replaced by an interim CEO.

The above statement is true



Date 14/4/10

Robin G. Ashe MAO, FRCOG, DCH
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist

18.4.2006
Mr Bernard Mitchell
Chief Executive
United Hospitals Trust
Bush House
Bush Rd
Antrim

Dear Mr Mitchell,

Re: Hospital Cleanliness and Infection Control

Concerns were expressed at the recent Medical Staff Meeting (6.4.2006) about the poor state of cleanliness in the hospital. Medical staff are particularly critical of the attention paid to the public and corridor areas in addition to points of congregation of staff and patients at the front and rear of the building. The corridors, especially at weekends, may be littered with sweet and crisp papers. Soft drink stains as well as coffee and tea spillage is commonplace. I understand that the end of corridor A adjacent to the consultants' offices is routinely used as a smoking area by patients and their relatives and, indeed, staff.

A robust approach is needed to stop the consumption of food, tea, coffee and fruit drinks within the hospital corridors in the interests of infection control. I should appreciate if you would inform domestic supervisors of our concerns and seek their assistance in improving hospital cleanliness.

Yours sincerely

Robin G. Ashe MAO, FRCOG, DCH
Medical Staff Chairman

Cc Dr P. Kearney, Chairperson Infection Control Committee
Dr Anne Kyle, Honorary Secretary, Medical Staff Committee