

Witness Statement Ref No.

**WITNESS STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE OUTBREAK  
OF CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE IN NORTHERN TRUST HOSPITALS**

**WITNESS NAME: PETER O'DELL**

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE**

I Peter O'Dell say as follows:

1. I am making this statement at the request of the Clostridium Difficile Public Inquiry. My address and date of birth are known to the Inquiry. I am 86 years of age.
2. I refer the Inquiry to the statement made by my wife Dinah O'Dell about the circumstances surrounding my admission to Antrim Hospital in 2007 and to Whiteabbey Hospital in 2008. My own recollection is very clouded as I had a high temperature then and all I can recall is that I was well treated.
3. The care I got at Antrim Hospital was good. But on one specific day I remember distinctly telling my wife after lunch that my bed had not been made that morning, And at Antrim they never asked me if I wanted to

clean my teeth – I think they thought I was so old that I had false teeth but every tooth in my head is my own. My wife helped me clean my teeth.

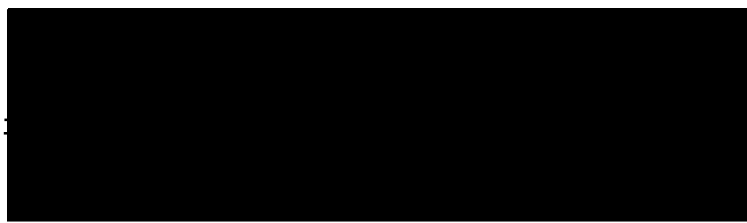
4. Another issue regarding both hospitals which I found annoying but is also amusing is that they did not have a barber. My hair had grown and I was like “Old Father Time”. My wife remembers one of the nurses said she would bring me a ribbon. I know that a barber could not have come in to the room when I had C diff but when I had recovered it would have been possible.
5. At both Antrim and Whiteabbey Hospitals I thought the nurses were overworked. They did not have time to talk to you. That is not a criticism of them as they could do nothing about it, but I do think it is so important. My time in hospital taught me that if nurses had been able to give you five minutes for a chat a day it would perhaps have “brought you on” a bit. But they did not have a chance to talk unless you were moaning to them.
6. In relation to precautions I recall one particular young lady, who I think was an orderly, came in to me and had not washed her hands and did not have gloves on. I think this was in Antrim. I told one of the senior nurses later and I believe that the girl was rather severely reprimanded.
7. I have a great deal of respect for the hospital at Whiteabbey and hope that if I had to go into hospital again it would be there.
8. I remember that in both hospitals I was allocated a specific nurse there as a contact point for family queries about how I was, which my wife found helpful as the nurse would know the history of my case.

**Aftercare**

9. I want to put on record that the aftercare I received when discharged from Antrim and the devotion of the aftercare staff assisted in my recovery. I was very weak, not only from a lack of appetite but also as a result of being cooped up in a hospital room and not allowed out of bed unless I had at least one nurse with me. This happened at Antrim Hospital and I suppose was for my own good.. An aftercare team came out again when I was discharged from Whiteabbey Hospital but I was not as weak that time.

I declare that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed:



Dated: 1.OCT.'10 .....