



UROLOGY SERVICES INQUIRY

USI Ref: Notice 27 RQIA of 2023

Date of Notice: 28th November 2023

Third Witness Statement of: Briege Donaghy

I, Briege Donaghy, will say as follows: -

Introduction

1. This is my third statement to the Urology Services Inquiry, which is intended to address several discrete issues.

The Right Touch paper

2. At paragraphs 86 and 87 of my first statement to the Inquiry I referred to the Department's paper 'The Right Touch'. This document was received from the Inquiry via egress on **Friday 16th February 2024**. Within it, Annex A records a log of engagement activity and RQIA is referred to therein. On receipt of this information a further search was undertaken around the first date in the log, 3 May 2017, referring to a meeting with RQIA on this date. Email correspondence has been located for 4 and 5 May 2017, indicating such a meeting was held on 3 May 2017. It was noted that the subject matter was referred to as 'Review of Regulation'. Previous searches had sought to locate information on 'The Right Touch' and had failed to locate this material. Further searches confirm RQIA received a Discussion Paper from the Department dated June 2017, this too is referred to in the Annex A log. In addition, an email dated 17 April 2018, also listed in the log, remarking 'update on progress sent to RQIA', was located with a progress document attached. The subject matter referred to as 'Review of the 2003 Order and policy'.
3. As a result of the above, I can now confirm that the information referred to in the Annex A of 'The Right Touch' is accurate in terms of engagement or communication with RQIA on this matter.



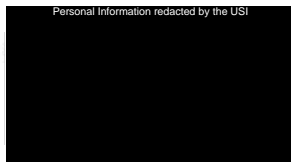
Urology Services Inquiry

4. This information was not known to me prior to seeing 'The Right Touch' paper, despite searches for evidence of this in electronic archives. I had, in preparing my first statement to the Inquiry, spoken with Senior RQIA Executive Team colleagues, who had no knowledge on the matter. However, I have noted that the membership of the RQIA Executive Team during the time of this engagement, as per Annex A log, being late 2015 to early 2019, has entirely changed, with no previous EMT members currently members of the RQIA EMT. The Authority membership also changed in its entirety from June 2020. This points to challenges of retaining corporate memory during periods of organisational change.
5. Apologies to the Inquiry for the inaccuracy in my first statement regarding this matter and I trust this updated information is helpful in this regard.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:



Date: 19th February 2024