

PROFESSOR IAN HANN

COMMENTS ON TRANSCRIPT OF MRS CHRISTINA LEITCH'S EVIDENCE

I have read the transcript of the evidence given by Mrs Christina Leitch, former Senior Social Worker at Yorkhill Hospital, who gave evidence to the Inquiry on Friday 24 June. I have been asked by the Central Legal Office for my recollection of events in relation to two particular issues raised by Mrs Leitch in her evidence:-

- Page 140 (line 14) to page 143 (line 11) of transcript – where Mrs Leitch discusses the inconsistency between the advice that was being given to patients and schools, for example by way of preventative measures that required to be taken and the measures being taken by hospital staff when dealing with an HIV infected patient
- Page 155 (line 23) to page 158 (line 22) of transcript – where Mrs Leitch discusses the setting up the parents' group and her surprise at the reaction of her colleagues

In relation to the second point, I really don't have any memory of difficulties between myself and this type of work by Social Workers. My view, based on experience, was that this was exactly what they should be doing. I personally did not initiate or take part in any such resistance. I do, however, recall that social work had not developed to this level in the Unit generally, prior to my arrival and I did encounter some initial resistance to this developed role, in particular from some nurses. I worked hard, however, to overcome this rather '*outdated*' view and I believed I was successful in this. It is not possible to determine from the evidence of Mrs Leitch exactly who is being referred to but I certainly did not have the type of over-cautious legalistic approach.

In relation to the first point, Dr Pettigrew would be more appropriately placed to comment on this. My own evidence to the Inquiry has been that we lacked proper national guidance and fought continual battles on behalf of our patients to prevent them being treated like lepers. The fact is that we were dealing with many known and '*unknown unknowns*' at the time and it was not helpful that we had so little by way of guidance.