

**The Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry**  
**Day 5**

March 23, 1999

[1] to see us, we were right opposite her office, but you  
 [2] could not make eye contact with the woman. She seemed  
 [3] to have a mobile phone stuck to her ear constantly all  
 [4] afternoon.

[5] **Q:** Perhaps we should look at witness 125/14. The middle of  
 [6] the page, in bold print you put:

[7] "Surely she knew we were coming."

[8] **A:** She must have known we were coming. Helen Vegoda must  
 [9] have been notified when we were transferred over to the  
 [10] Children's Hospital. She was there at Oliver's bed at  
 [11] 9 o'clock on Monday morning as soon as she arrived in  
 [12] work. Oliver was not due to be admitted until the  
 [13] Friday, but she must have been notified we were coming  
 [14] in as a cancellation or whatever for an opening, and  
 [15] Oliver was going to be operated on on the Friday. So we  
 [16] did not really even have time to get our bearings; we  
 [17] were in there, we expected tests to be done and Oliver  
 [18] to go to the theatre on the Friday. Surely she should  
 [19] have supported us. She did not even introduce herself  
 [20] to us.

[21] **Q:** The statement, I think, is made originally by your  
 [22] husband and you jointly, and this part is obviously done  
 [23] by your husband, if we look at the very bottom of the  
 [24] screen.

[25] "I, Oliver's Dad [so his description] went to get

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[1] not."

[2] Stopping there, I imagine you were?

[3] **A:** That is an understatement.

[4] **Q:** "They were told by Mr Dhasmana at 18.00 [6 o'clock] that  
 [5] Oliver would be going to theatre on Tuesday."

[6] **A:** Yes.

[7] **Q:** "Night staff were told he would be going on Friday."

[8] That was the original plan.

[9] "Oliver will now be going to theatre on Tuesday.

[10] Parents both wanted to sleep by the bed. It was stated  
 [11] that only one parent could stay by the bed. The parents  
 [12] feel they have had no support and got very irate about  
 [13] the situation."

[14] **A:** That is right, in a very nice way.

[15] **Q:** So when did you discover that it was going to go ahead  
 [16] on the Tuesday?

[17] **A:** When Mr Dhasmana came to see us. He came to see us  
 [18] straight from theatre. He was extremely apologetic. He  
 [19] said he had been called, I believe it was to Birmingham  
 [20] to assist on a life-or-death operation on a new-born  
 [21] baby, and he was really sorry that Oliver at that  
 [22] time - Oliver at that time was not classed as  
 [23] a life-or-death operation and he had no choice but to  
 [24] reschedule Oliver's surgery for the Tuesday morning. We  
 [25] were quite happy with that. If Oliver had been in the

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[1] something to eat," and how when you got back something  
 [2] had upset you. Can you tell us in your own words,  
 [3] I know it is in the statement, but give us your  
 [4] recollection?

[5] **A:** I will not look at the statement.

[6] **Q:** It is not a memory test, just a question of how you  
 [7] remember it today.

[8] **A:** It is a nightmare. A doctor literally stuck his head  
 [9] around the door, did not introduce himself or say who he  
 [10] was, just to say "There is a message from Mr Dhasmana.  
 [11] Oliver's operation will not be going ahead tomorrow. He  
 [12] will be around to see you later". That was it. He  
 [13] disappeared. It thought, "Well, what is going on?" My  
 [14] husband came back. I was in a real bad state. We  
 [15] telephoned family, friends, everyone, "Oliver is being  
 [16] operated on tomorrow", and now we were told it was not  
 [17] going ahead, we did not know when it was going ahead.  
 [18] My husband went to reception to find out what was going  
 [19] on and nobody seemed to know anything.

[20] **Q:** Can we have a look, please, on my screen first, at  
 [21] 1840/558, the top left-hand corner.

[22] This comes from the nursing notes. The nurses  
 [23] have made a note in relation to Oliver:

[24] "15th July 1993, Nocti [night-time] parents quite  
 [25] agitated over whether Oliver is going to theatre or

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[1] same sort of situation, we would have wanted that sort  
 [2] of service for him. Once it was explained to us  
 [3] properly, then we were quite happy with that.

[4] **Q:** So there was no problem, provided you had a decent and  
 [5] proper explanation?

[6] **A:** That is right, yes.

[7] **Q:** That was at 6 o'clock. What happened at 7 o'clock?

[8] **A:** It just went from bad to worse. We went down to the  
 [9] shop. We got back and we were told by a nurse that  
 [10] Oliver's operation was back on again, but this time  
 [11] Mr Dhasmana was not operating at all, it was  
 [12] Mr Wisheart.

[13] We had never even heard of Mr Wisheart, we did  
 [14] not have a clue who he was. All our faith was in  
 [15] Mr Dhasmana. He had operated on Oliver for the first  
 [16] operation. We trusted him completely, implicitly, and  
 [17] it was just a nightmare. So we were told that  
 [18] Mr Wisheart was going to operate.

[19] Then she came back and told us it was not going to  
 [20] happen on the Friday, it was going to be now the  
 [21] Saturday morning, and it would not be Mr Wisheart but  
 [22] his understudy. By then, I mean, it was just a joke.  
 [23] We just totally ignored the whole lot and thought "Until  
 [24] we hear from Mr Dhasmana what is going on, we will just  
 [25] take it with a pinch of salt", but it did not help. It

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