

Correspondences with Senior Management

Julie Lowe - Chief Executive, David Pratt -
Finance Director and Paul Stanton – HR
Director

suspension

From: **sharmila chowdhury** (sharmila.chowdhury@hotmail.co.uk)

Sent: 17 November 2009 17:48:40

To: julie.lowe@eht.nhs.uk; david.pratt@eht.nhs.uk

Dear Julie & David,

As you are both aware that I have been reporting unauthorised claims for the last year. I have reported this to my line managers and HR. All of whom have been aware. I felt that it was my duty as the budget holder to do this. If I didn't report I would be at fault and it seems that now that I have reported I am also at fault.

I had reported these as this is public money and also felt a duty to the Trust to ensure that you are not paying for things that you shouldn't be.

I had discussed the matter with David Pratt with my recorded evidence. David then called in the fraud at Ealing hospital. Fraud department came to see me & I had handed over all the paperwork that I had and left it at that. I however, have kept copies for myself - just in case. They had further enquiries, and I had helped with that.

I have now had meeting with John Coleman & HR who have advised me that I am now suspended for fraud. They couldn't give me any reasons why. I was escorted out of the hospital. Staff in the department have been told that I have been suspended.

I know I haven't done anything wrong and I think this is appalling. I loved working at the hospital and loved my department and have worked in the NHS since 1983, with no incidences. I have never experienced such humiliation. I would hardly speak to fraud willingly if I had something to hide.

I think Ealing needs to consider how they treat their loyal staff. By trying to help, you have made my life a misery.

With kind regards

Sharmila

Sharmila

I acknowledge receipt of your e-mail. The situation is being managed through the relevant HR policies and I cannot comment further at this time.

Regards

Julie

Julie Lowe

Chief Executive

Ealing Hospital NHS Trust

tel. 0208 967 5492

RE: suspension

From: **sharmila chowdhury** (sharmila.chowdhury@hotmail.co.uk)

Sent: 18 November 2009 08:18:03

To: julie.lowe@eht.nhs.uk; david.pratt@eht.nhs.uk

Cc: paul.stanton@eht.nhs.uk

Dear Julie.

Thank you for your response and I won't be contacting you any further as I don't want to compromise your position. I absolutely understand.

Just to let you know that finance managers, ADO's, Clinical Director and senior HR managers were all made aware for a long time. The Clinical Director and the last ADO had also highlighted the ongoing issues to the Medical Director, who was also well aware. With continuing problems Terry Roberts- senior HR manager, had recommended contacting counter fraud but then later advised me that the medical director had advised against this action as he would deal with it. The last ADO had said that he had brought it up at the executives meeting - again there was reluctance in dealing with the issues. No one wanted to deal with the ongoing situation.

I have paper trail of written correspondences, which the fraud department have been given a copy.

Even the present ADO, had informed me that it is known that the Medical Director won't be doing anything as he is 'soft' and that 'we need to look at using a carrot rather than a stick' and had advised me against speaking to David Pratt & yourself saying and that he was new & didn't want to have to answer any questions on the subject. Clearly the matter was handed over to him from the old ADO.

I had stopped signing off additional waiting lists and waiting list sessions for radiologists when I realised they were not accurate and cause for concerns. These were then signed off then by my line managers. All unauthorised absences that I knew about were entered in the red book with follow up correspondences to the ADO, clinical director and HR in each case.

However, only after I had discussed my concerns with David Pratt who after looking at the paperwork called in the fraud team that the matter is now being taken seriously. Although inappropriately it seems to be me who has been suspended for fraud.

With kind regards

Sharmila

Subject: RE: suspension

Date: Tue, 17 Nov 2009 18:16:34 +0000

From: Julie.Lowe@eht.nhs.uk

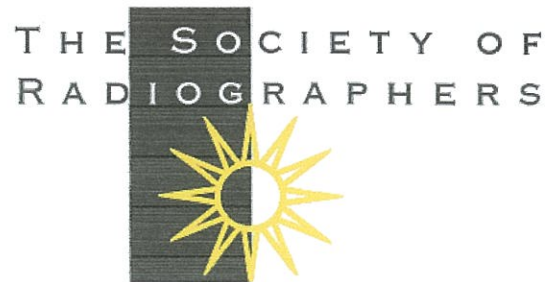
To: sharmila.chowdhury@hotmail.co.uk; David.Pratt@eht.nhs.uk

CC: Paul.Stanton@eht.nhs.uk

Tele: 020 7740 7225

Fax: 020 7740 7233

e-mail: paulb@sor.org



PB/va/00038484

25th January 2010

Julie Lowe
Chief Executive
Ealing Hospital
Uxbridge Road
Southall
Middx
UB1 3HW

Dear Julie

SHARMILA CHOWDHURY

As you know Sharmila Chowdhury has been suspended since 17th November. Apart from the circumstances of her suspension, there are a number of concerns I draw to your attention.

1. Her name plaque was removed from her office door.
2. Her PACS workstation was removed from her office and relocated to the radiologist's corridor.
3. Table and chairs were removed from her office.
4. The digital number of her office door has been changed.
5. There has been a serious breach of confidentiality; it is general knowledge throughout the Trust that she has been suspended for allegations of fraud.
6. **The day after her investigation meeting on 23rd December, one of your consultants, Miranda Harvie, in the main radiology office announced to staff there, "up and out" with reference to Sharmila. Clearly certain individuals within the Trust are being kept up to date with the situation.**
7. Sharmila is suffering a significant financial loss as she is not longer receiving her reporting monies.

I know that this investigation must run its course, however, we expect it to be carried out in a fair and objective manner and in a timely fashion.

I am aware of the serious concerns that have been raised by Sharmila with your senior managers and the fraud department. Sharmila believes her current situation to be a direct result of this. You should know that we will not sit back and allow Sharmila to be scapegoated.

Yours sincerely

Paul Bromley
REGIONAL OFFICER

Sharmila Chowdhury
6 The Firs
Ealing
London W5 2HG

2 March 2010

Julie Lowe
Chief Executive
Ealing NHS Trust
Ealing Hospital
Southall
Middlesex UB1 3HW

Dear Julie,

With this letter I am enclosing the statement which I submitted at my investigation meeting held on 22 December 2009.

I do not believe that the concerns which I have raised have been taken seriously or have been looked into.

In addition, I have now been suspended for nearly four months, which is wholly unacceptable and in my view unnecessary.

Unless I receive an assurance from yourself in writing within two weeks from the date of this letter, that these concerns are being looked into by yourself, I will without further reference to the Trust, be referring my concerns to the NHS fraud and corruption reporting line.

Yours sincerely

Sharmila Chowdhury

CC. Ian Green – Chairman of Ealing Trust Board

Paul Bromley – Society of Radiographers