

Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.01. The Writer

I am Dr Lesley Haines. My specialist field is the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. I qualified as a doctor in 1984, was made a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1989 and obtained a Masters Degree in Psychological Medicine in 1995. I have been a Consultant Psychiatrist since 1995 and worked as a General Adult Psychiatrist until January 2009, treating hospital and community patients. I am now an independent practitioner.

- 1.01.1. Full details of my qualifications and experience entitling me to give expert opinion evidence are contained in appendix A.

1.02. Summary background of the case

- 1.02.1. The case concerns Mr Tommy Atkins, who is currently detained in Rawnsley House, St Elsewhere's Hospital, Bursley, under Section 37 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (amended 2007). He was originally charged with a robbery: the offence took place on [REDACTED] 2007, the female victim was assaulted with a tree branch used as a weapon. Concerns were raised about Mr Atkins's mental state in August 2007. He was transferred to the Rawnsley House, a medium-secure unit, on [REDACTED] 2007 and has remained there since.

1.02.2. The current working diagnosis is **personality disorder**. Mr Atkins is on no regular medication and does not believe that he has a mental illness. He wishes to be discharged from hospital to independent accommodation with staff 'popping in' on a weekly basis to make sure that he is coping well. He recognises that this will take some time and is happy to remain at the Rawnsley as an informal patient whilst these arrangements are put into place.

1.03. Summary of my conclusions

This report will show that in my professional opinion, Tommy Atkins is suffering from a mental disorder, namely **personality disorder**. As a consequence of this disorder, he is at high risk of exploitation and being assaulted. Criminal behaviour and drug use are extremely likely. He has few skills enabling an independent lifestyle. Appropriate treatment is available, but Mr Atkins is unwilling to engage. Conditions of low or medium security will be necessary to deliver any treatment. It is my opinion that Tommy Atkins should continue to be detained.