C/4/2024

Anonymous Complaint from staff of Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre

On 20 December 2025, this Office received a complaint from members of staff of the Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre, alleging persistent and serious failures in management, professional conduct, patient care, and administrative oversight within the institution. The complainants stated that numerous prior complaints had allegedly been ignored, prompting them to issue what they described as a final appeal, with parallel escalation to political authorities.

2. The main allegation concerned the conduct of a Nursing Officer, who was accused of gross negligence in the supervision of patients placed under individual observation. It was alleged that he had been involved in two of time incidents of involuntary manslaughter in 2020 and 2021 and that he continued to neglect high-risk patients by leaving them unattended for extended periods. It was further alleged that he falsified nursing reports by stating that no anomalies had been observed during periods when patients were left without care. Despite the seriousness of these allegations, the complainants claimed that no disciplinary or criminal action had been taken against the Nursing Officer by the Nursing Council, the Public Service Commission, or the Police. Additional allegations included the deliberate reduction of patients' food portions and the misappropriation of patient food for personal use.

3. Serious concerns were also raised regarding workplace safety and staff wellbeing. Another Nursing Officer was described as having unpredictable and aggressive behaviour, allegedly linked to schizophrenia, which reportedly placed staff at risk. Incidents of verbal abuse towards medical professionals, including a psychiatrist, were cited. It was further alleged that this officer frequently misplaced the keys to psychotropic medication storage, thereby posing a significant risk to patient safety. Despite medical opinions questioning his fitness to practise, it was alleged that he remained "protected" due to a personal relationship with a Senior Nursing Officer.

4. A substantial portion of the complaint focused on the alleged abuse of authority by that Senior Nursing Officer. He was accused of unlawfully claiming overtime allowances despite earning a salary above the statutory threshold and receiving a continuous responsibility allowance. The complainants cited specific regulatory provisions to support their assertion that such overtime payments were prohibited. It was further alleged that Mr B.G regularly absented himself during overtime hours while continuing to receive payment and that he validated his own overtime claims with the alleged complicity of another officer.

5. The complaint further alleged systematic intimidation and misuse of authority against acting supervisors. According to the complainants, staff members who refused to

facilitate improper overtime claims by vacating supervisory duties on weekends were threatened with punitive transfers.

6. The matter was subsequently taken up with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, which conducted an enquiry and reported as follows:

(i) according to records available, there was no evidence of *"Homicides Involontaires"* against the Charge Nurse (Male);

(ii) The other, Charge Nurse (Male), suffered from schizophrenia and was on prolonged sick leave; and

(iii) the allegations against the Senior Nursing Officer (Male) posted at the Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre were unfounded.

7. It was further reported that the Regional Health Director of Dr A.G Jeetoo Hospital had been requested to enquire with the Police into the incidents which occurred in 2020 and 2021 at the Brown Sequard Mental Health Care Centre and to ascertain whether the matter had been referred to the Nursing Council.