

Nursing and Midwifery Council
Fitness to Practise Committee
Substantive Hearing
23 September 2019
15 November 2019
23 January 2020

Nursing and Midwifery Council, Regus Belfast, Forsyth House, Cromac Street, BT2 8LA

Name of registrant: Ian Stevenson

NMC PIN: 89A0146N

Part(s) of the register: Registered Nurse (Sub Part 1)
Adult Nursing – June 1992

Area of Registered Address: County Antrim

Type of Case: Conviction

Panel Members: Paul Powici (Chair, Lay member)
Deborah Hall (Registrant member)
John Vellacott (Lay member)

Legal Assessor: Patricia Crossin

Panel Secretary: Caroline Pringle (23 September 2019)
Amira Ahmed (15 November 2019 and 23
January 2020)

Mr Stevenson: Present and represented by Liam Magill, Solicitor,
for part of the hearing (23 September 2019)
Present and not represented (15 November 2019
23 January 2020)

Nursing and Midwifery Council: Represented by Sylvia McLean (23 September
2019), Robert Benzynie (15 November 2019 and
23 January 2020), Case Presenter

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Facts proved: | 1 |
| Facts not proved: | None |
| Fitness to practise: | Impaired |
| Sanction: | Striking-off order |
| Interim Order: | Interim suspension order (18 months) |

Details of charge

That you, a registered nurse:

1. On 20 December 2018 were convicted by Belfast Magistrates Court as follows:
 - a) On 29th day of April 2017 you intentionally touched Colleague A, the circumstances being that the touching was sexual, that she did not consent to the touching and you did not reasonably believe that she so consented, contrary to Article 7(1) of the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008.

AND in light of the above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of your conviction.

Decision and reasons on application under Rule 19

At the outset of the hearing Mr Magill made a request that this hearing be held in private. [PRIVATE]

Mr Magill submitted that you attributed this incident to the recent criminal proceedings against you. [PRIVATE]. He therefore submitted that this hearing should be held in private, to protect your personal safety.

Ms McLean, on behalf of the NMC, submitted that the general rule is that hearings should be in public and your criminal conviction is already in the public domain. However, she acknowledged that the [PRIVATE] is a serious matter and submitted that the issue of whether the hearing should be held in private is a matter for the panel's discretion.

The legal assessor reminded the panel that while Rule 19(1) provides, as a starting point, that hearings shall be conducted in public, Rule 19(3) states that the panel may hold hearings partly or wholly in private if it is satisfied that this is justified by the interests of any party or by the public interest.

The panel considered the submissions made. It was mindful that there is a public interest in these proceedings being held in public. [PRIVATE]. The panel's role was to balance your interests against the public interest in an open and transparent hearings process. The panel took the view that, in these circumstances, it would be appropriate to hold the hearing in private. The facts which lead to your conviction are already in the public domain and the outcome of this hearing will still be published on the NMC's website. [PRIVATE].