

Witness statement Of Barbara Down

Occupation: Retired

Former Occupation: Auxiliary Nurse, Dinner Lady, Mother

This witness statement was made by

Geoffrey Blanche on behalf of Barbara Down via video link.

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Case No. K19ZA750

Mr Geoffrey C. Blanche (Claimant)

Versus

Swansea University Corporation (Defendant)

For Hearing being held at:

Cardiff Civil Justice centre

- 1 I was asked by Geoffrey Blanche to accompany him and be a witness to his Masters viva voce at Swansea University on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, which I did, and was happy to attend.
- 2 We travelled in Geoff's car, and we arrived at around 12.30pm
- 3 I sat in reception with Geoff a man appeared and introduced himself as Huw Summers and he explained he was the chairperson of the viva.
- 4 He invited Geoff to the viva room, I stood up to go with them and was told by Mr Summers, that I wasn't allowed in the viva.
- 5 Geoff objected and asked for the rulebook. Mr Summers then took us to the room the viva would take place.
- 6 As we were walking to the viva room, I heard Geoff ask Mr Summers if he had read his work, which he replied to as no, and said he is just the chairperson and is impartial to the thesis.
- 7 Mr Summers led us to the viva room. He invited us to take a seat anywhere, Mr Summers then left to go and consult the rules, when he came back, he said, the examiners had agreed that I could be present during the viva. He didn't mention anything about the rules.
- 8 Mr Summers then saw a paper that I had been reading whilst waiting, it was placed on the table. The headline was, Pfizer knew the vaccines would kill. Mr Summers then said unprovoked, with an aggressive tone whilst raising his arms, "We are not discussing vaccinations today", I thought this was rather strange as Geoff had told me he had written about covid in his work, and Mr Summers had only just said he hadn't read his work. He then sat down.

- 9 Mr Summers then introduced himself to Geoff formerly, and the reason for the viva. He said he was there to make sure the rules and regulations are applied, he was impartial, and order was kept during the viva. After about 5 minutes Mr Summers explained he would then go and get the examiners and bring them to the viva room.
- 10 Minutes later Mr Summers arrived with the two examiners. Mr Summers introduced everyone to each other.
- 11 The examiners sat down opposite Geoff and myself. There was no communication between me and the examiners. There was some eye contact. They both had laptops in front of them and they were looking at them throughout the viva.
- 12 They asked Geoff to explain some of his work, and when Geoff was explaining things, they were disagreeing with most of what Geoff was saying which I found odd as Geoff is very good at what he does. Yet the examiners seemed to not understand the principles Geoff was describing.
- 13 Mr Widanalage asked most of the questions but was never happy with Geoff's answers. Neither of the examiners seemed to grasp Geoff's work. Geoff said he wasn't studying batteries. I understood what Geoff was saying but they seemed not to, which I found strange. It seemed like Geoff was the expert and the examiners were his students. The viva went on quite a long time, Mr Summers was writing notes throughout the viva in a A4 notebook.
- 14 I did not see the examiners write anything on paper, but I cannot confirm if they typed anything.
- 15 At one point Mr Summers interrupted with some science comments.

- 16 At the end of the viva Mr Summers stopped Geoff from asking the examiners any further questions. Mr Summers wanted to end the viva, he was quite irate with his body language and seemed to want to end the viva in a hurry, stopping Geoff asking the examiners further questions. I noticed that the examiners did not seem to know stuff Geoff did.
- 17 We were then asked to leave the room and come back at 4pm. I left the room with Geoff and walking past the window we saw Mr Summers talking with the examiners.
- 18 We arrived back at 4 o'clock, and Mr Summers opened the door, and we sat down. Mr Summers then told Geoff that the examiners had come to their decision, and Geoff's work had been failed.
- 19 Geoff continued to defend his work to the examiners, complained to them that all they wanted to do was discuss batteries. This went on for about half an hour, during this time Mr Widanalage admitted to Geoff he had browsed some of his work and not read it all. Mr Summers seemed irritated and wanted us to leave the room, Geoff told the examiners to go and do their homework, Mr Summers gave the impression, he just wanted to get out of there, he said this viva has now ended and we should all leave the room. Geoff and I left the room, there was no paperwork offered as a record of the viva. Geoff left empty handed.

### **Statement of Truth**

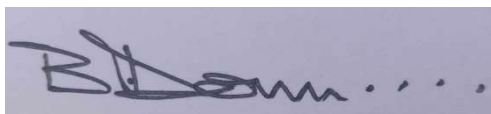
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I

understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought

against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in  
a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief  
in its truth.

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Signed

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. Down', followed by three dots. The signature is written on a light-colored background.

Miss Barbara Down