



Christine Mullen worked as a care assistant with the former Strathclyde Regional Council.

Her battle for justice has seen her record five previous instalments of her journey in Nursing Scotland. This is her sixth report.

Another year gone and I fight on

Hi to all in Independent Federation of Nursing.

Thank you for the continuing support. It does mean so much to me, and is therapeutic when the going gets tough, as it did again this year dealing with Westminster Parliament. Searching for justice and the truth, and finding injustice and lies, is a total nightmare where systemic failure still flows in abundance. It is a sad reflection on our society, when it reached our Ombudsman Dame Julie Mellor, who held the highest position in government office, who was sacked for her devious actions. She should have been jailed for misconduct in public office (MIPO), and breach of ministerial conduct. Her actions, cost the taxpayer over £400,000 in court expenses, but who cares!

A political awakening is what we need, for them inside and us on the outside, with answers to the question “**who governs our governors?**” My experience is, Mr & Mrs Nobody, where the seven Nolan Principles of public life have been ignored by politicians, who are duty bound to comply within them.

The three Nolan Principles that concern me most are:

1. **Honesty**
2. **Accountability**
3. **Integrity**

Oh, how I wish I could meet one politician with one ounce of honesty, accountability, or integrity as I have lost faith in them all, with the exception of Lord Tommy McAvoy our long outstanding MP for Rutherglen who is still my main witness. Thank you, Tommy, for all your help.

We do have PASC (Public Administration Select Committee) Mr Bernard Jenkin. The word public means us lot, surely at least we have them on our side when all else fails. Sorry, got that wrong after wasting three years meeting the full committee in London only to be told PASC do not deal with individual cases, despite the fact there were 16,333 individual complaints in one year from Joe Public. Sorry as they were, to hear this plight and situation we found ourselves in, they intended to store our papers as a reference for future cases. This was an insult, and a complete cop out to ignore individual cases looking for justice; another brick wall. I feel so let down by Mr Bernard Jenkin. We, the public, deserve better. PASC is misleading to the public and a waste of taxpayers' money, who cares?

Confession Time

I must confess from April this year I was on a downer, nothing was happening and silence was the only response. I had done all I could think of. My thoughts strayed to the fact, this was the beginning of the end. I had been well advised, and warned by Unison and the Royal College of Nursing, I would never win against the establishment, never get to court and never, in a million years, get near to or win a Judicial Review, and I would be shafted at all levels. Not one for giving up, and being shafted by the abuse of their power at all times, to the extent of a fraudulent act, committed by the DWP. Yes, the very ones paid to prevent fraudulent acts! I have no regrets that I took on the establishment, and found my political awakening, who cares? Mr Nobody gives a dam.

I telephoned my loyal legal pal, Mr Austin Lafferty. We made an appointment for the following week for a catch up, and one of our many chats to tell him of my decision to quit! A sadness crept over me at this time, it was the same feeling I had in my heart and the pit of my stomach when I lost the job I loved with all my heart. Reminiscing and writing this has brought tears to my eyes, ill health and chronic pain crushed discs and trapped nerves are a constant reminder and the reason I never gave up until now. This was my lowest ebb. I could not find the words, maybe the courage, to tell Austin about my decision to quit. Our meeting was fast approaching when I called him to postpone our meeting for another week, *“no problem, see you same time next week”*.

Well, well, well, that was the week that was. I received a phone call out of the blue from Della Reynalds informing me that the newly appointed Ombudsman Mr Rob Beherns was investigating the handling of some previous complaints. Would I like to pick up the pieces again (Yes!), would I send some factual evidence (wow!) and would I condense it into no more than two pages and present it within two weeks. The biggest task was condensing it to fit the requirements, so I decided to send a copy of the fraudulent medical and the Judicial Review, then I condescend the rest into fifteen pages. This had been the only request I had ever received from the Ombudsman, having been ignored by his three previous predecessors, so this was a giant step forward. I also received news from the MET office that my case was being forwarded to their legal department for further investigation. Also, two journalists contacted me for more information on my story. By the time my meeting with Austin came around, I had no more thoughts of quitting and the fight in me was renewed. I received an invite to meet with the newly appointed Ombudsman, Mr Beherns, at his London Office, as I had the strongest evidence in the group, by winning the Judicial Review the meeting was arranged for 10th October 2017.

Mr Beherns made it clear that he wanted to change things for the future. I informed him that I had done my bit for the future, when I changed the law for all carers and I was here for action, and you are action man and the only person that can bring me justice I won in Scotland. He promised me, in front of all at the meeting, that he would investigate my case personally.

To date (30th November, 2017) I await to hear the outcome.