

NAME OF REGISTRANT: Susan M Hurst
PROFESSION: Paramedic
HPC REF.NO: PA1129
DATE OF HEARING: 09/07/04
COMMITTEE: (INVESTIGATING/CONDUCT & COMPETENCE/HEALTH) Conduct & Competence
PANEL MEMBERS: Sandy Yule – Chair and Council Member David Whitmore – Paramedic Colin Allies – Lay Partner
LEGAL ASSESSOR: Michael Taylor
HPC'S SOLICITOR: John Harding (Kingsley Napley)

**CASE SUMMARY:** Three allegations against the Registrant were pleaded in the alternative of either misconduct or lack of competence. It was alleged that the Registrant (1) failed to identify herself at the scene by showing identification as a paramedic or proof of qualification as a paramedic, (2) improperly removed a crash helmet by failing to ensure the chin strap was released, (3) failed to administer high level of oxygen but rather requested fluids. The Committee considered the documentary evidence produced by both parties and heard oral evidence from Dr Griffin, Steven Jones and Allan Medcraft for the HPC and from the Registrant herself and Andrew Blackman on behalf of the Registrant. It viewed a short video of the incident in question produced by the Registrant. There was clear conflict between the evidence adduced by the HPC and that of the Registrant as to who arrived first at the scene, what steps were taken to remove the helmet and by whom and as to whether or not the Registrant requested fluids rather than seeking to administer high level of oxygen. This incident took place in the context that

the Registrant was not part of the official medical team at the race meeting. The Registrant admitted that she did not have a formal ID card with her. The Committee was advised, as to its powers and duties, by the Legal Assessor. It was reminded that it had to consider whether or not each of the allegations was well founded and that the burden of proof lay with the HPC.

**PANEL'S DECISION:** The Committee found that the Registrant had failed to identify herself at the scene by showing identification as a paramedic or proof of her qualification as a paramedic. It determined however that this did not amount to misconduct or lack of competence. The Committee found that the remaining allegations were not well founded.



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