

# Nursing and Midwifery Council

## Voluntary Removal Decision

30 March 2022

**Registrant:** Lisa Chambers

**PIN:** 99I1598E

**Part(s) of the register:** Nursing, Sub part 1

**Field(s) of practice:** RNA, Registered Nurse – Adult (2 September 2002)

**Area of Registered Address:** England

**Type of case:** [PRIVATE] conviction

### REGISTRAR'S DECISION

A decision has been made by the Registrar to approve the application for voluntary removal based on the assessment of the relevant criteria. The reasons for the decision to grant voluntary removal from the Register are below.

#### Details of charge

That you, a Registered Nurse:

1. [PRIVATE]
2. On 20 February 2020 at Humber Magistrates' Court were convicted for an offence [PRIVATE] contrary to section 1(1) and 7 of the Theft Act 1968".

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

[PRIVATE]

### REGISTRAR'S REASONS

The following documents were considered when assessing this voluntary removal application:

- Voluntary removal application form
- Draft schedule of charge
- Case Examiners' decision letter dated 1 July 2021
- Ms Chambers' reflective mitigation statement undated
- Ms Chambers' statement dated 26 November 2020
- Ms Chambers' email dated 18 February 2021
- [PRIVATE]
- Completed Case Management form, dated 21 October 2021
- [PRIVATE]

## **Background**

An application has been made by Ms Lisa Chambers to remove her name from the nursing register through our voluntary removal process.

Ms Chambers is currently awaiting hearing before our Fitness to Practise Committee. This follows concerns we were told about on 11 October 2019 by the Head of Nursing at Scunthorpe General Hospital, which is part of the North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust. Ms Chambers worked at the Trust for 19 years, and last practised in October 2019. At the material time Ms Chambers was Acting Deputy Ward Manager.

The background to the allegations are as follows:

[PRIVATE]

[PRIVATE]

Later that day Ms Chambers presented at Scunthorpe Police Station and admitted theft [PRIVATE] Ms Chambers was arrested on suspicion of Theft by Employee and later convicted on 20 February 2020 after pleading guilty. Ms Chambers was sentenced to a community order, with 60 hours of unpaid work and a rehabilitation activity requirement.

## **Public interest considerations**

On 14 June 2020, the Case Examiners referred the concerns to the Fitness to Practise Committee having decided there's a realistic prospect of impairment to uphold public confidence.

The Case Examiners acknowledged that this wasn't a case about Ms Chambers' clinical practice, [PRIVATE] However, based on Ms Chambers' insight [PRIVATE] the Case Examiners concluded that Ms Chambers isn't a risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the public.

Ms Chambers applied for voluntary removal from the nursing register because she says she won't be able to secure work as a nurse having been convicted of an offence. Ms Chambers acknowledges that her fitness to practise is impaired [PRIVATE] She accepts the facts of the concerns. Ms Chambers has since retrained as an alternative

complementary therapist and continues to work voluntarily in the local charity shop where she carried out the unpaid work requirement of her community order.

Ms Chambers has signed a declaration to say that she won't reapply to our register for a period of at least 5 years. [PRIVATE]

We've seen that Ms Chambers has displayed immense remorse for her actions; she describes how she feels disgusted at her behaviour [PRIVATE] We're aware that Ms Chambers attended at the police station voluntarily to confess [PRIVATE]. From the information provided to us [PRIVATE], it is clear that Ms Chambers has extensive insight into her behaviour. [PRIVATE]

[PRIVATE]

[PRIVATE]

[PRIVATE]

On 4 March 2022, we wrote to the maker of the allegation for comment on the application for voluntary removal. We've not received a response.

Our guidance says the only circumstances in which we'll accept applications for VR are:

- the nurse, midwife or nursing associate accepts the regulatory concern(s);
- the regulatory concerns are not so serious that they are fundamentally incompatible with being a registered professional; and
- the nurse, midwife or nursing associate provides evidence that they do not intend to continue practising.

Our fitness to practise principles explain that in cases that aren't about clinical practice, taking action to maintain public confidence or uphold standards is only likely needed if the concerns raise fundamental questions about the trustworthiness of the professional in question. Our guidance says that conduct, such as dishonesty, could affect trust where it's related to professional practice.

Our guidance also explains that where concerns relate to convictions, they are less likely to be appropriate candidates for voluntary removal if the seriousness of the conduct is fundamentally incompatible with being a registered professional.

I've taken into consideration the link between Ms Chambers' conviction and her professional practice, [PRIVATE] I've also taken into consideration the insight that Ms Chambers has shown and the fact she voluntarily attended at the police station to admit to the theft. [PRIVATE]

[PRIVATE].

I've weighed Ms Chambers' interest in removing her name from the register against the wider public interest in this matter being dealt with by the Fitness to Practise Committee.

From weighing the relevant factors I've decided that, on balance, having regard to our guidance and the context in which the conviction arose, the matter isn't so serious to be fundamentally incompatible with being a registered professional. I don't consider the public interest requires the matter to be considered by the Fitness to Practise Committee. Had the matter been referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee, having regard to the circumstances of this case it is unlikely that Ms Chambers' would receive an order striking her name off the nursing register.

I've therefore decided to grant this application to remove Ms Chambers' name from our register through the voluntary removal process. As Ms Chambers' is subject to an Interim Suspension Order this will take place once that order is revoked.

### **Registrar's decision**

In summary, I've decided to grant Ms Chambers' application to remove her name from our register through the voluntary removal process. This will take effect once the Interim Suspension Order has been revoked.