

## **Molly-Star Kirk:**

### **Statement by Molly-Star's family, 20 March 2026**

Molly was a loving and gentle person. She was a cherished daughter, niece, granddaughter, sister, partner, and aunt. Her death has left a hole in our family that can never be fixed.

For us, Molly's move to the Farndon Unit was the beginning of the end. Over the months that she spent there, we witnessed her light slowly go out. Despite the really serious challenges Molly faced with her physical and mental health, she was a bubbly young woman, and drew strength from being around her family. After she moved to Farndon, things changed. We didn't know if it was because of the medication, or something else, but she became withdrawn, vacant, and disconnected. When we visited her, she would shuffle along, barely able to follow any conversation. She had an empty look in her eyes, like all the life had drained out.

As a family, we felt shut out of Molly's care, and like our visits were not welcome.

It was only after Molly died that we found out about the extent of her self-harm there. It was shocking how many incidents there had been. At the time, we couldn't understand this – how could she have hurt herself, so often, and in so many different ways, when she was supposed to be on such high levels of observation?

We asked this question when Elysium's conducted their investigation, and about how Molly's medication had been managed. We were told there was no issue.

Today we have got our answers.

The evidence we have heard has exposed the neglect that Molly experienced. It has been an agonising process, and if we had known then what we know now, we would never have let her go there. We heard there was a culture where observations were routinely not done. Of those that were done, few were done properly. The records were routinely falsified.

Everything we have heard about what happened the day before Molly's death has been devastating. It causes us immense pain as a family to think about how desperate and powerless she must have felt when her calls for help were shut down. Given everything

that happened the day before, it's incomprehensible to us that no one was concerned when she didn't wake up the next day.

Although we heard from one staff member who seemed genuine and who tried to do her job as best she could, it seems compassion was otherwise hard to come by at the Farndon Unit. The experience of hearing so many witnesses deny that they did anything wrong – even when CCTV showed them failing to do what they were supposed to, has been maddening.

To us, it seems like oversight by management was just a tick-box exercise.

It has been a very long journey to find out what happened to Molly, and we thank the Coroner, whose investigation has uncovered much needed answers.

We thank the Coroner for recognising in her findings very serious and gross failing in Molly's care.

For finding that Elysium had allowed a dangerous culture to develop, which harboured a lack of care, non-adherence to care plans, and a lack of management oversight.

And for finding that Molly was exposed to care which was dangerous and perfunctory.

Ultimately, although the medical evidence can't prove what killed her, we as a family know our truth.

Today, we remember Molly for the light she brought to our lives. We remember her for everything that she was, and not what was taken from her, and from our family.