

## **Autistic woman contracted HIV after being 'raped by care home worker'**

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An autistic woman contracted HIV after being raped by a night shift worker at a care home, it has been claimed.

The woman in her 50s, named 'Cassie' to protect her identity, was allegedly abused at an independent care home in Brent, north London, some time between 2006 and 2016.

Her condition emerged after she collapsed and was taken to Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in central London.

Doctors there found she had contracted HIV and that she lacked the mental capacity to consent to sex.

A report published by Brent Council has said Cassie, also known as 'Adult B', was 'failed by services'.

It is alleged that she was raped by a night worker at the care home and that the same employee may have abused another five residents over a ten-year period.

The council report said Cassie had been in care since childhood, and that she started suffering from rashes, bruising, teeth problems and a loss of appetite from about 2007.

Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, chairman of the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board, told the Sunday Express: 'This is a distressing case of a woman who should have been safe but has acquired a serious infection probably as a result of sexual abuse.'

'The board wishes to express its deep and sincere regret to Adult B and her family.'

Police were not able to take forensic evidence as the alleged rape could have happened any time between 2006 and 2016.

The Metropolitan Police said the investigation was closed in 2017 as there were no new lines of inquiry.

The care home has since been closed and Brent Council says it no longer places residents with the private company who ran it.

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