

# Nurse who wants sex-op sacked

by HUGH BERLYN

A FORMER Kidderminster mental nurse has claimed he has been sacked from his job because he wants to become a woman.

Staff Nurse Roger Brown, who nursed for 11 years at the Lea Castle Hospital for mentally handicapped children at Wolverley, near Kidderminster, has been dismissed from the Royal Earlswood Hospital at Redhill, Surrey.

Mr. Brown, aged 35, left Kidderminster in March to work at Redhill but was dismissed two weeks later after a medical examination.

Mr. Brown, who wears make-up, says he told the doctor who examined him that he wanted a sex change operation.

He was then declared medically unfit and sacked.

He said today: "I'm very confused and upset. All my life I've wanted to be a woman, but this has never affected my work.

"This only happened because I told the doctor who gave me a medical examination that I wanted to have a sex change. I should have kept my mouth shut."

Mr. Brown, whose parents still live at Kidderminster, has had his case taken up by the General and Municipal Workers Union. While the case is being fought with the Surrey Area Health Authority he is continuing to live in staff quarters at the hospital.

Senior shop steward Mr. Mick Sheeran said: "Roger is a damn good nurse and loyal to the hospital.

"When he was interviewed for the job it should have been obvious he behaved like a woman and if he was going to be fired because of that he should not have been given the job in the first place.

"We got an independent doctor to examine him and found he was in perfect health and quite able to work properly."

The Area Health Authority is to hold a full inquiry into the circumstances of his dismissal.

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