



FINDINGS: Dr Sam Eljamel botched surgery even while he was being supervised.

Campaigners: Monitoring of NHS surgeon was 'farcical'

JUSTIN BOWIE

Campaigners demanding an inquiry into the scandal surrounding disgraced former NHS Tayside surgeon Sam Eljamel have said claims he was being "supervised" are "farcical".

Freedom of information data shows he carried out 141 surgeries from the start of June 2013 until December 9, just before he was placed on leave.

Answers about this period - in which the rogue doctor was able to continue harming patients - have been demanded by victims as their pursuit of a public inquiry continues.

They want clarity over how closely Eljamel, believed to be working in Libya now, was being watched by those in charge.

Pat Kelly, one of the lead campaigners, said: "For NHS Tayside to claim Mr Eljamel was being supervised is farcical.

"He should have been supervised in the theatre and not at a bedside.

"Mr Eljamel was seriously harming patients in the

theatre and again NHS Tayside turned a blind eye.

"This supervision farce is yet another perfect example of why we need a public inquiry."

Eljamel was placed under supervision on June 21 2013 - nearly three weeks after he blamed junior staff for his declining performance.

NHS Tayside initially accepted this excuse and said the surgeon had been under "significant pressure".

Just weeks later, though, the health board said Eljamel would have to be placed under supervision after two further complaints emerged.

On June 25, NHS Tayside clinical director Philip McLoughlin approved consultant neurosurgeon David Mowle to monitor him.

Despite the concerns over his practice, Eljamel was still regularly at the operating table while he was being supervised.

In August, he botched an operation on Kinross mum Jules Rose by removing her

tear gland instead of a tumour.

The health board, when asked by The Courier, did not confirm whether or not the disgraced neurosurgeon was monitored while patients were under the knife.

In a statement, NHS Tayside said bosses were carrying out a "due diligence" review into all documents they hold relating to the rogue doctor "in response to the ongoing and continuing concerns being raised by former patients".

A spokesperson said: "The purpose of this new appraisal and evaluation of the documents held - and actions recorded - is to gain a better contemporary organisational understanding of NHS Tayside's decision-making relating to the former surgeon who was suspended in December 2013."

So far the Scottish Government has refused to grant a public inquiry despite acknowledging the hurt of patients.