

Eljamel victims react to NHS Tayside chief stepping down

By Justin Bowie :



Victims of disgraced surgeon Sam Eljamel are braced for “more of the same” when NHS Tayside’s outgoing chief is replaced as they continue to fight for justice.

Grant Archibald, 62, [will retire in December](#) after five years in charge.

The news emerged just days after the health board was rocked by a major data breach.

During his tenure as chief executive Mr Archibald has presided over a number of high-profile controversies – including the [handling of the Eljamel scandal](#) as it escalated in recent years.

Whistleblowers claim managers [knew about concerns over the disgraced Dundee doctor](#) years before he was suspended in 2013 – an allegation denied by the organisation.



Disgraced surgeon Sam Eljamel. Image: DC Thomson.

Patients who were harmed by the rogue doctor claim they have been stonewalled by NHS Tayside in their demands for answers.

His victims want the Scottish Government to launch a public inquiry to [uncover what exactly was known about the neurosurgeon's behaviour](#) before action was taken.

But campaigners expect little to change within NHS Tayside once a successor to Mr Archibald – appointed in January 2019 – has been picked.

Campaigner Pat Kelly said: “I expect more of the same. The whole culture of sweeping things under the carpet is endemic in the NHS.



Campaigner Pat Kelly was a victim of Professor Eljamel. Image: Pat Kelly.

“There are too many senior people involved in this who have turned a blind eye to this nonsense, all because they were frightened to do anything.”

He added: “It’s a poisoned chalice, that job. It’ll just be another figurehead that’s told what to do, when to do it, with a good salary, before they run away after five years.”

Jules Rose, another victim of Mr Eljamel, said she found Mr Archibald “extremely approachable” but added: “I think it will be more of the same, because this is not just Grant Archibald we are holding to account.”



Jules Rose has been leading calls for a public inquiry.

Mr Archibald told colleagues he planned to quit last week, with a source insisting his decision to step down was solely due to reaching retirement age.

Ms Rose added: “We continue to campaign. Our campaign is growing day-by-day. It’s business as usual for us.”

Mid Scotland and Fife Tory MSP Liz Smith said: “There must be a public inquiry.

“That alone will give Eljamel’s victims the answers they deserve.”

On Friday, NHS Tayside [confirmed it was carrying out a “due diligence” review](#) into all documents held concerning Mr Eljamel.