
Clarification request - individual clinical review

Julie Rose [REDACTED]

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To: CabSecHSC@gov.scot, firstminister@gov.scot

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Dear Mr Matheson,

On behalf of the harmed patients, we welcome the announcement of a Public Inquiry into the conduct of neurosurgeon Eljamel and NHS Tayside.

We note from your press release published on 7 September 2023 that "a full public inquiry will not necessarily answer the individual clinical questions of each former patient about their own particular circumstances" and that an independent review will "allow a person-centred, trauma-informed review of each patient's own clinical case, addressing their individual needs and circumstances and attempting to offer answers in a bespoke and personalised way that an inquiry may not".

With these comments in mind and given that the Terms of Reference for the Public Inquiry have yet to be determined, could you please provide clarification of the function, format and aim of these individual clinical reviews as a matter of urgency. In particular, will these reviews be used to evaluate the need for and facilitate access to future medical care only?

Given the highly sensitive nature of a patient's individual circumstances - it is vital that confidentiality be maintained: could you please confirm that patient confidentiality will be respected for those involved in individual reviews, and that no information coming out of these will be shared with any other party for any purpose whatsoever beyond the individual review. There will, of course, be individuals who consent to their own circumstances being brought before the Public Inquiry but that is conceptually different from the position of those who are involved in individual clinical reviews.

Can you also please confirm that the individual clinical review, based on what you said in our meeting on the 7th of September, will be provided by healthcare organisations that are independent of the Public Inquiry? In this meeting you mentioned that NHS Tayside would not be handling this, but we feel it important that any other organisation involved should be suitably independent of the upcoming Public Inquiry. Further - please provide a date when you will brief the patients on how this clinical review will be executed, when are the reviews going to commence, and what is the expected duration for the reviews to complete?

I look forward to your responses.

Yours sincerely

Jules Rose
Patient representative and lead campaigner.