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15 November 2019

I wanted to write to you regarding the whistleblower who I understand made contact with you in relation to a paediatric-oncology patient who died in 2017 at the Royal Hospital for Children, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH). Given the seriousness of the situation and the significant distress which has been caused I would like to clearly state my understanding of the facts and the actions I have taken.

On 17 September 2019, I announced the public inquiry into issues that have arisen at the QEUH and at the RHCYP in Edinburgh. Following this announcement, I received correspondence on the 20 September from the bereaved parent of a child who had died after receiving treatment at the QEUH in 2017. This was the first time I had been made aware of this child's death. On the date I received the letter, the ward which haematology/oncology patients were receiving care, 6A, was closed to new admissions and had been since August 2019.

On 23 October, I wrote to the parent expressing my concern for them and my condolences for their very sad loss. I also advised them that I was ensuring that senior staff from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde would make personal contact with them to address the questions I was sure they would have.

Following my intervention I have checked and been assured that communication has been established, which will provide the necessary information for the family. I also made clear to the parent my intention that the public inquiry will be an opportunity for the voices of families to be heard and for answers to be provided.

I am at all times aware of the importance of patient confidentiality and so rightly I believe, I did not treat this correspondence as a public matter. The ward in which the child concerned in the correspondence I received on 20 September, 2A/2B, was closed and undergoing remedial and upgrading work. Any suggestion that children were at risk after I received this information is therefore incorrect.



However there are additional issues you have raised on the basis of information you have received. I would want to address these as a matter of urgency but to do that, I need to have sight of that information. So I would be grateful if you would provide me with that as soon as possible.

I am of course happy as always to discuss these and other concerns you may have directly with you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Paul
JEANE FREEMAN