



Improvement

Chief Executive and Chair's Office

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28 February 2018

BY EMAIL

Steve Barclay MP
Minister of State for Health
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

Dear Minister

Independent review into Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust - oversight arrangements

Thank you for your letter of 20 February 2018, also addressed to Sir Malcolm Grant. NHS Improvement and NHS England are reverting to you separately.

In order to respond both fully and fairly to the matters you raise and thereby also to provide Parliamentary colleagues with as much clarity and assurance as possible, NHS Improvement has commissioned an independent investigator, Susan Newton, to look into the issues. Susan Newton is an experienced HR professional who has managed HR departments in large and complex organisations. She followed this with a career in HR and OD consultancy and has developed a specialism in sensitive, senior level investigations for disciplinary and grievance cases in both the public and private sectors.

The investigator's brief is straightforward, namely, that set out in your letter "...to clarify the circumstances under which roles were found or facilitated for individuals identified in the [Kirkup] report as bearing some responsibility for the issues at the Trust". In addition and separate from the issue raised in your letter, the investigator will consider what action, if any, followed an e mail sent to the Trust Development Authority and the Care Quality Commission in March 2014 by a former employee of the Trust, as recently sent to NHS Improvement by Rosie Cooper MP.

NHS Improvement is committed to being a transparent organisation and therefore we hope to be in a position to publish the investigator's report.

The importance of providing a clear and comprehensive response as swiftly as possible is understood by NHS Improvement. I therefore anticipate being in a position to respond substantively shortly.

Yours sincerely

Dido Harding

Baroness Harding of Winscombe
Chair, NHS Improvement