

Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Area Team

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Our ref: RS/TJB/01/15

8 January 2015

Dr Katherine Rake
Chief Executive
Healthwatch England
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

Dear Katherine

Re: St Andrews Healthcare

Thank you for your letter of 8th December 2014 received in response to Dr David Sharp's letter of 30th September and the earlier response from myself to the Escalation Reference JL002 re: St Andrews Healthcare.

It is currently anticipated that the independent review team will have completed their report by February 2015 which is expected to tie in with the next NHS England assurance meeting following the CQC Quality Summit. We will send you the summary report when it is available.

The Terms of reference for the external clinical review were developed to focus on whether lessons learnt from the previous the investigation had been embedded into practice, which is in accord with your statement that it is vital that lessons from the 4 historic deaths have led to the necessary improvements in care.

In relation to the invitation to meet with yourselves and the CQC, you indicated previously that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 4 deaths that happened at St Andrews in 2010, the wider quality assurance framework and how we can work together locally to benefit patients in the area.

The purpose stated in your recent letter is to reflect on and understand better the various roles and responsibilities of local partners to enable effective collaborative working. You also suggest that CQC colleagues have agreed to meet. I would be grateful if you could indicate who the invited attendees would be and a draft agenda to enable Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Area Team, Senior Management Team to consider the invitation.

I note your concern regarding the different requirements for investigation of deaths in mental health settings and other environments and offer the observation that a hospital setting is different from a prison or other criminal justice setting. I would be interested in any response you receive from Norman Lamb.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Sargent". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Ruth" and the surname "Sargent" clearly legible.

Ruth Sargent
Head of Mental Health, PoC & High Secure Lead