

## **Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry**

The final report of Robert Francis QC into the care provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust was published on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013. The Inquiry Chairman, Robert Francis QC concluded that patients were routinely neglected by a Trust that was preoccupied with cost cutting, targets and processes and which lost sight of its fundamental responsibility to provide safe care.

Robert Francis QC has made 18 recommendations for both the Trust and the Government. His final report was based upon evidence from over 900 patients and families who contacted the Inquiry with their views.

The evidence gathered by the Inquiry shows clearly that for many patients the basic elements of care were neglected. Calls for help to use the bathroom were ignored and patients were left lying in soiled sheeting and sitting on commodes for hours, often feeling ashamed and afraid. Patients were left unwashed, at times for up to a month. Food and drink were left out of the reach of patients and many were forced to rely on family members for help with feeding. Staff failed to make the basic observations and pain relief was provided late or in some cases not at all. Patients were often discharged before it was appropriate only having to be re-admitted shortly afterwards. The standards of hygiene were at times dreadful, with families forced to remove used bandages and dressings from public areas and clean toilets themselves for fear of catching infections.

The Inquiry found that a chronic shortage of staff, particularly nursing staff, was largely responsible for the substandard care. Moral at the Trust was low and while many staff did their best in difficult circumstances, others showed a disturbing lack of compassion towards the patients. Staff who spoke out felt ignored and there is strong evidence that many were deterred from doing so from fear and bullying.

Robert Francis QC has recommended that the Department of Health, commission an independent examination of many external organisations who failed to detect any problems with the Trust's performance.

Robert Francis QC has not recommended that the Stafford Hospital be closed. A new executive team is now in place and have started improving the safety and quality of care that it provides. To assist the Trust in this process 15 recommendations for the Trust have been made within the report.

Following the publication of the results of the Inquiry the government have announced that a further 5 hospital trusts are to be investigated for neglect and similar breaches of their duty

of care. Those hospitals now in the spotlight are: Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust, Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Please [click here](#) to view the final report.

**If you or family members have experienced poor care whilst in hospital then we will be happy to have a discussion with you and advise you about the possibility of bringing a claim. We are happy to provide an initial consultation free of charge.**

For further information please contact:

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