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Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email

5th March 2019

Dear Lewis

Chairs of the Independent review of Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

During my statement to parliament on the 26th of February regarding the infection incidents that recently took place in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, I stated that the Independent Review into the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital should be led by someone with clinical expertise. I am pleased to confirm that Dr Brian Montgomery, former Medical Director and interim Chief Executive of NHS Fife and Dr Andrew Fraser, Director of Public Health Science, NHS Health Scotland have been approached and agreed to be the co-chairs of the Independent Review.

In addition to being the former Medical Director and interim Chief Executive at NHS Fife, Dr Montgomery was also an honorary senior lecturer at the University of St Andrew's Medical School. Dr Montgomery has been involved in a number of regional and national initiatives, including the national patient access scheme advisory group for medicines, national planning forum and national unscheduled care groups. He also chaired reviews of non-surgical oncology and forensic medical services in South-East Scotland. After standing down from his NHS role in 2015, Dr Montgomery has continued to be involved in a range of projects, including with NHSScotland.

In addition to his current role, Dr Andrew Fraser was Director of Public Health in NHS Highland from 1994-97, Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Health Department of the Scottish Office, then Scottish Executive from 1997-2003, where he was responsible for advice on Public Health Policy. From 2003-2012, he worked in the Scottish Prison Service as Director of Health and Care, where he also co-directed the World Health Organisation co-ordinating centre to improve prisoners health. Dr Fraser was also a member of several prison service independent reviews in Northern Ireland, and his recent focus has been on public health reform, ways to tackle health inequalities, improve and protect health in Scotland.

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As I have previously outlined, the Review will look at the building's design, commissioning and construction, handover and ongoing maintenance, how these matters contribute to effective infection control and any other areas considered necessary by those carrying out the review.

It is essential that all relevant information is available to the Review to ensure that a robust, evidence-based assessment can be provided. It is expected that individuals involved in the design, construction, commissioning and maintenance of the hospital, along those providing healthcare (staff) and relevant expertise will input into the Review. Patients and families will also have an opportunity to have their views heard. It will be for the chairs of the Review to establish where and how the required information is collected.

The Review will fully address and investigate all matters it considers relevant. We must all understand what the issues are, why they have arisen and the recommendations will be taken forward and learning applied across NHS Scotland to ensure our healthcare facilities – existing and future – are fit for purpose and support the delivery of world class health care.

I will provide a further update to parliament outlining the Review's remit and timescales once Dr Fraser and Dr Montgomery have considered their approach, which I would like to reiterate will follow the principles outlined in Professor Alison Britton's report.

Once the Review has completed its work the recommendations will be made public and the Scottish Government will inform Parliament of its response to the Review recommendations.

I trust this is helpful.



JEANE FREEMAN

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