



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Anas Sarwar MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Region

Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee

18th November 2019

Dear Lewis,

You will have seen the heart-breaking coverage in the media in recent days about infections at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) campus linked to water contamination, and the tragic death of Milly Main in 2017.

This information came to light after a brave NHS whistleblower approached me with details of a clinician-led review undertaken earlier this year. This review has never been made public. It found evidence of 26 infections linked to the water supply in 2017, and one death directly linked to infection. After this information was made public, the mother of ten-year-old Milly Main, who died in 2017, approached me and she said she '100%' convinced her death was linked to problems with the water supply. It also transpired that the Cabinet Secretary for Health was only made aware of Milly's death after the parents contacted her in September.

It is my belief there has been an unacceptable cover-up by Greater Glasgow and Clyde health board. Over the last few days, the health board has resorted to attacking the whistleblower and only apologising for the media 'coverage'. It is clear to me that the health board is not fit for purpose and should be placed in special measures.

Earlier this year, your committee launched an inquiry into 'health hazards in the healthcare environment' following the death of patients after contracting a fungal infection linked to pigeon droppings at the QEUH, and I am aware you have already made a number of recommendations. However, in light of the revelations in recent days, I am writing to request that the committee specifically investigates the water supply problems at the QEUH. It is my belief that health board chiefs should be required to provide oral evidence to MSPs, as well as other relevant witnesses. I would also be willing to provide further information to the committee if that would be of assistance.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Anas Sarwar
MSP for Glasgow Region