

On the 29th March 2017 my secretary had a phone call from Tracy Bullock's secretary, Tracy was the Chief Executive of Mid Cheshire Hospitals (Leighton Hospital, Crewe) at the time asking to speak to me. She arranged for an appointment to speak to me by telephone for the following day, 30th March. Tracy had been the Chief Executive at Crewe throughout the entire time that I had been working there as a Consultant and I knew her reasonably well through that work. She rang me up and explained that she's a personal friend of Tony Chambers and that as a Chief Executive in a Trust nearby they would talk about what was happening in their organisations and bounce ideas off each other.

So she was aware of what was happening within the COCH at the time and she had suddenly realised that I was now working at Chester and had potentially now found myself in a very tricky position. Her understanding of the situation was that there were clinical issues on the Neonatal unit, that the Paediatricians were refusing to accept these clinical issues and trying to pursue another explanation for the problems that had been happening on the Neonatal unit.

That they were now pushing for a police investigation.

Her understanding was there were two particular leaders of that refusal to accept the clinical issues on the unit and pushing for an alternative explanation, and that things were going to end badly for those two leaders. She was concerned that I was going to get caught up in it and my reputation would be brought down along with those other Paediatricians. She did not mention the names of the two Paediatricians but it would be obvious it was Ravi and Steve as the Clinical and Neonatal leads.

She had heard that an email from me had been read out in that meeting on the Monday pushing for a police investigation. She was concerned for me, that my reputation would be brought down along with the other Paediatricians in the Trust.

She was basically ringing me telling me to be very careful. I can't quite remember how she started our conversation but my understanding was that it was from her relationship with Tony Chambers that she'd received that information.

Signature: M.P.MCGUIGAN
2020

Signature witnessed by:

Tony Chambers had been at that meeting on the Monday and would have heard my email being read out, and was clearly considering at the time whether a police investigation was the right or wrong thing to do.

The telephone call was a slightly awkward conversation, I didn't know what she knew and I didn't want to say things that I wasn't allowed to say and breach confidentiality. My response was that it was hard being part of something as serious as this in a new organisation where I did not know people. If it had been at Leighton Hospital where I knew people well it would have been easier. In this situation with a Chief Executive and Medical Director that I did not know, and a department where there was significant differences between the Paediatric Consultants and the Trust Executives on how we should proceed.

My other response was that I didn't feel I was working with a bunch of people who were ignorant and had got themselves on the wrong agenda, but that I had a lot of confidence with the people I was working with. That it wasn't just the opinion of two people but everybody was concerned in a similar way. I had a confidence in my colleagues that they were trying to do the right thing in a difficult situation.

The implication of what she was saying is that the paediatricians should be recognising the faults within themselves and their department and addressing them, and that because they are egotistical, selfish or in denial that they were trying to push the problem onto someone else. That they are bad people who are heading for a downfall. Actually what I was seeing was people who believed the right thing to do was to continue to push for a police investigation, despite the fact they were under threat of disciplinary action. It was completely the opposite, they were trying to do the right thing despite being under a lot of pressure, that they were doing the right thing despite it potentially having consequences for them.

I did not feel any pressure from that phone call or that she was calling me to tell me to shut up. It was purely that she was concerned that I was in a tricky position, wondering if I was making the wrong judgement calls, and warning me about how it might be seen by other people. It was purely a friendly call to tell me to be careful about the situation.

I kept that conversation to myself for quite a while, I didn't really know what to make of it. I was already being very cautious and thinking very carefully about things and remained cautious. It was over the next

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