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RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIANS ON 30TH APRIL 2018

1. Introduction

1.1. On Monday 30th April 2018, Ian Harvey, Medical Director and Stephen Cross, Director of Corporate and Legal Services attended a meeting with the Consultant Paediatricians: Michael McGuigan, **Doctor ZA** John Gibbs, Steve Brearey, Murthy Saladi, Susie Holt, **Doctor V** and Ravi Jayaram. At the end of the meeting, Dr Jayaram passed to them, on behalf of all the Consultant Paediatricians, a written paper setting out 26 questions that they would like responses to.

1.2. I know that the events over the past 18 months have been very difficult and the constant feeling of being in the spotlight has been a challenge for everyone yet through all of this I have never lost sight of the fact that behind these mortality numbers, there have been families left bereaved by the loss of their baby. I also recognise that these events have inevitably put a strain on the relationship between us and with hindsight there are always examples of how things could have been better. Yet even against this backdrop we have still been able to move our paediatric service forward. Not least of all in the recruitment of two new outstanding colleagues and eventually pushing the business case for the Neonatal new build over the line, thank you for your support in these endeavours. Notwithstanding this I acknowledge that communications between us could have been better and that at times the constraints of confidentiality and later, on police advice, might have given the impression of my being dismissive or distant from you.

1.3. I will try to answer each of the 26 questions sequentially and directly, inevitably and to avoid duplication; some will be better addressed by implication as part of other responses.

2. Responses

2.1. The August meeting with board members shared findings from an internal review which was not undertaken in isolation. As you know one of our own senior paediatricians, Dr Gibbs and a senior nurse, Anne Martyn (Children's Unit Manager), reviewed all unexplained collapses. Ian Harvey suggested that the increased acuity and staffing changes *may* have been contributory to the increased mortality rate but he was certainly not saying that they were only causes nor did he regard that he was commenting on things that needed neonatal expertise.