

21 February 2018

Brighton and Sussex
University Hospitals



NHS Trust

Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals
St Mary's Hall
Eastern Road
Brighton
BN2 5JF

[REDACTED]

Miss V Hamilton-Deeley, HM Senior Coroner
Coroner's Office, Woodvale
Lewes Road
BRIGHTON
BN2 3QB

Dear Miss Hamilton-Deeley

The Late Paul Gander
Date of birth: 23.02.1958

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 8 December 2017, together with the two Regulation 28 reports and for drawing your concerns to my attention. As you know, we are always willing to review our practices in order to identify improvements which can be made in the light of experience.

I understand that although the Trust was legally represented at the Inquest there was no reference at the Inquest to potential Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD's) Reports being issued. The Trust is concerned at this omission and considers that it has effectively lost the opportunity to avoid parts of the report by not being given the opportunity to make representations at the time.

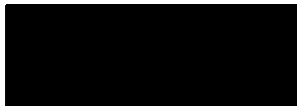
This lost opportunity is applicable with regard to your concerns arising from the Regulation 28 dealing with clinical practice issues, initially in that there were no agreed protocols for the escalation of patients who develop complications from saphenous vein harvesting sites, particularly in regard to whether there should have been a referral to either the Vascular team or the Trauma and Orthopaedic team. You have stated that 'very much time was wasted while this matter was resolved' and that this 'was unacceptable'.

The Protocol within the Trust has always been that the Trauma and Orthopaedic team deal with all compartment syndrome injuries, with the exception of compartment syndrome secondary to an acute or acute-on-chronic vascular ischaemia. This evidence was fully explored at the Inquest.

Thank you once again for raising your concerns with me. However on behalf of The Trust I must regretfully also raise our own concerns that some of the language contained within the PFD on this issue, in particular the use of the term 'maverick' could be seen as going against the Advice in the Chief Coroner's Guidance Note number 5 which states that Coroners should only use moderate, neutral, well-tempered language.

Finally I would be most grateful if you would please pass on my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Gander.

Yours sincerely



Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Chief Executive

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