

Our ref: [REDACTED]  
Your ref: [REDACTED]



**Stockport**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr Christopher Murray  
HM Assistant Coroner  
Manchester South Coronial Area  
Mount Tabor  
Stockport

[REDACTED]  
Oak House  
Stepping Hill Hospital  
Poplar Grove  
Stockport  
Cheshire  
SK2 7JE

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

21 November 2024

**Ref: Mr Ryan James Richard CAMPBELL**

Dear Mr Murray,

Further to the inquest you held on 20 September 2024 into the death of the late Mr Ryan Campbell, I am writing to you at your request for further information in relation to the matter of concern you have raised. I have asked [REDACTED] (Associate Medical Director for Medicine and Urgent Care), [REDACTED] (Consultant Cardiologist) and [REDACTED] (Interim Directorate Manager for Cardiology) to review your concerns.

Your concern related to:

- 1) The absence of a full suite of cardiac diagnostic imaging equipment at Stepping Hill Hospital, particularly CT or MR angiograms, contributes to delays in diagnosis for patients and the risk of delays is heightened by having to switch treatment centres. This lack of a range of equipment is inconsistent with providing a full cardiology service to patients.

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust are commissioned for the following diagnostics/services:

- Plain Echocardiogram
- Stress Echocardiogram
- Contrast Echocardiogram
- Transoesophageal Echocardiogram (TOE)
- Valve surveillance
- Electrocardiogram (ECG)
- 24hr ECG
- 72hr ECG
- 7 day ECG
- 24hr blood pressure
- Implantable loop recorder
- Myocardial Perfusion Scan (Radiology)
- Tilt Table Test

**We Care, We Respect, We Listen**

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust are not commissioned for CT or MR angiograms. In Mr Ryan's case, the CT Coronary Angiogram (CTCA) scan that was requested following his admission to AMU in December 2023 is delivered at Wythenshawe Hospital (Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust). Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) have always been the regional provider for this. Some other NHS hospitals in the region do have their own CTCA service (for example, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust), but do not accept external referrals.

The waiting times for CTCA at Wythenshawe Hospital have unfortunately been increasing for some time. Prior to last year the turnaround time for a CTCA would have been around 6-12 weeks. However, in the last year this has become around a 6 months turnaround time.

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust is not an outlier in terms of being a district general hospital with a cardiology service that does not include a full suite of cardiac diagnostic imaging equipment, particularly CT or MR angiograms. This centralisation of specialist services like this is fairly longstanding and is not unique to Stockport NHS Foundation Trust or the North West Region.

The cardiology service would like to expand the services offered on site at Stockport NHS Foundation Trust in the future and CT Coronary Angiogram service provision is on the Division of Medicine and Urgent Care's service development programme for review next year. Within this review specific areas of focus will be equipment required and cost, radiology and other staffing requirements and availability, and the predicted demand for the service.

In Mr Ryan's case, he had a 6 week wait for an urgent Stress Echocardiogram; which was requested by his GP on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. An appointment was booked for Mr Ryan for a Stress Echo for 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024. This was the earliest appointment available. The waiting list at this time was 5 months.

The Trust has made significant progress in relation to Stress Echo waiting times, with an additional 20 lists now planned over weekends which will cover 140 patients and should clear the backlog that the Trust is experiencing. This will bring the waiting time for Stress Echo back to 6 weeks; it is hoped this will be achieved by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The service will then be achieving the 6-week standard for all patients and urgent referrals will be prioritised and booked from 2 weeks.

In terms of plain echocardiogram, the community diagnostic centre (CDC) opened in September 2024 providing the Trust with an additional 74 ECHO slots per week, which has had a direct impact on the waiting times. Patients are now being seen within the expected 6 week timeframe for echos.

I would like to express my apologies to Mr Ryan's family in relation to the delays in diagnostic tests, and offer my sincere condolences for their loss.

I trust that the above addresses your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact the Trust if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**Chief Executive**