



PRESS RELEASE

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**MID STAFFORDSHIRE NHS TRUST INQUIRY -
ANDY BURNHAM'S STATEMENT FAILS TO SATISFY**

The patient safety charity Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) says that public confidence in the whole system of regulating healthcare will be further damaged if the Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham, continues to ignore calls for a public inquiry to learn lessons about the wider system failures that allowed the Stafford scandal to happen. Mr. Burnham, in his statement to Parliament today, announced he was ordering another inquiry into commissioning, supervising and regulating bodies, but this is not to be a public inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005.

Peter Walsh, Chief Executive of AvMA, said:

“We welcome the fact that at long last it is recognised we have to look beyond the hospital itself and into why all the bodies and systems the Government have in place failed to recognise what was happening and intervene. We have Robert Francis QC to thank for that. However, it was a grave error of judgement not to call a full public inquiry from the beginning, and public confidence will be further damaged unless the new inquiry has the clout and independence of an inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005. Furthermore, the terms of reference need to include examination of the role of the Department of Health itself, which was contacted directly by a number of families. The Government itself made provision for the holding of public inquiries under the 2005 Act in exceptional circumstances. What could be more exceptional than this?”

ENDS