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For immediate release

STAFFORD HOSPITAL INQUIRY DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) – the charity for patient safety and justice – together with other patients’ groups, has responded with deep disappointment to the restricted terms of reference of the inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, announced by Secretary of State, Andy Burnham, this morning.

AvMA chief executive, Peter Walsh, said:

“Whilst we welcome the acceptance from the new Secretary of State that some form of independent inquiry is needed, this simply does not go far enough. The terms of reference of this inquiry are restricted to individual cases at Stafford and do not include the role of bodies such as Monitor, the Healthcare Commission or the Strategic Health Authority in what was a whole systems failure. Nor is it a full public inquiry. The Secretary of State should think again if there is to be any confidence that the Department of Health really wants to learn all the lessons from Stafford”.

ENDS