



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CALL FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY OVER MID STAFFORDSHIRE HOSPITAL**

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) – the charity for patient safety and justice, has written to Alan Johnson the Secretary of State for Health asking for a public inquiry into how the Mid Staffordshire Hospital scandal was allowed to happen, and offering to help with the independent review of medical records promised to patients and families.

In an open letter to Mr Johnson, AvMA say that the Healthcare Commission report does not go far enough. What is needed is an examination of how existing systems for monitoring and regulating patient safety failed so spectacularly and tragically. AvMA also thank Mr Johnson for the offer he made on national TV to guarantee any concerned patient or family with concerns about treatment at Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust to have an independent review of their medical records. AvMA is offering to advise the Department of Health on how this can best be conducted and to offer independent advice and support to concerned patients and families from AvMA's trained staff and volunteers.

**ENDS**