



PRESS RELEASE

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STAFFORD INQUIRY ‘ADDS INSULT TO INJURY’

Patient safety charity Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) has expressed disappointment and frustration at the limited terms of reference imposed on the independent inquiry into care provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, which was launched this morning. The inquiry has been restricted by Secretary of State Andy Burnham to only looking at individual episodes of care at Stafford. There has so far been a refusal to convene a full public inquiry (under the Public Inquiries Act) into the wider systems failures which allowed the scandal at Stafford to happen.

Attending the launch of the inquiry this morning, AvMA chief executive Peter Walsh said that the restricted remit of this inquiry ‘added insult to injury’ to both the families directly affected by events at Stafford, and the wider public. Mr Walsh said:

“It remains a mystery why the Government are refusing to have a full public inquiry into how the events at Stafford were allowed to happen. What do they have to hide? If a public inquiry is not warranted in this case, when would the Secretary of State ever concede that one is? AvMA want to see a full public inquiry into the systems failures which allowed Stafford to happen and which could allow another Stafford to happen. This should include the roles of the Strategic Health Authority, the Healthcare Commission, Monitor, ICAS, LINKs, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Department of Health itself.”

ENDS