



PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release Friday, 26th September 2014

INQUEST FINDS THAT JOHN MOORE ROBINSONS'S DEATH WAS AGGRAVATED BY MID STAFFS GENERAL HOSPITAL'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE BASIC MEDICAL ATTENTION AND AMOUNTED TO NEGLIGENCE

The Leicester Coroner, Ms Catherine Mason has today made clear that John Moore Robinson's death was aggravated by Mid Staffs General Hospital's failure to provide basic medical attention and amounted to neglect.

The Coroner also found that there was a failure to adequately staff the Accident and Emergency department and that understaffing impacted on the care provided to John.

A number of failings were identified but of particular concern was the fact that John was not appropriately managed and his condition investigated while in A&E and that his discharge was not safe.

Mr Moore Robinson suffered a ruptured spleen as a result of falling onto the handlebars of his bike whilst out mountain biking with friends at Cannock Chase. While in the ambulance on his way to Mid Staffs General Hospital he had to be given a large dose of morphine to help control his pain. On arrival at the hospital he was attended to by a junior doctor who, having ruled out any fractures or injury to his lungs, discharged him home. The discharge occurred despite the fact that, according to the evidence of John's friends who were with him, he was vomiting, unable to understand simple instructions on how to take pain killer tablets and his pain levels were so great that he was unable to stand. He had to leave hospital in a wheelchair.

This is the second inquest the family have been through and they are grateful to the Coroner for ensuring that all the relevant evidence has been heard and to their barristers: Ms. Isabel McArdle who represented the family at the inquest and Ms Paula Sparks who assisted the family in securing a second inquest. Despite the legal expertise arranged by the independent, patient safety charity "Action against Medical Accidents" (AvMA), this family's journey for justice has been an exhausting struggle.

John's parents, Frank and Janet hope that lessons will be learned by all trusts on the importance of being open and honest with families when things go wrong. There should also be proper procedures and support for staff who blow the whistle. Frank Robinson says: ***"It is only by trusts recognising the importance of these steps being taken and committing time and resources to proper training that the NHS can hope to move away from the negative culture that is still present in many hospitals. If any good can come out of the problems with Mid Staffs and John's death, let it be that lessons have truly been learned"***

Although, there is relief that some form of justice has been secured, it has been a long and emotional battle. The Coroner's findings represent an acknowledgment that, with proper care, their son, John, would still be with them today; no amount of investigation can turn the clock back for them. What has become apparent is that the trust's slavish obsession with meeting the governments 4 hour targets and the need to save money caused them to lose sight of the business for which it was intended: to care for the sick.

From 1st November, University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust will become responsible for the delivery of services originally offered by Mid Staffs Hospital and subsequently Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust. Lisa O'Dwyer, Director of Medico Legal Services at AvMA says ***"It is hoped that this will herald a new era in healthcare for the area and the population it serves, and that the new Trust will seize the opportunity to become a beacon of exemplary practice for the future"***.

ENDS