

# Gosport Independent Panel Minutes of the Panel Meeting 19 January 2016

**Venue** Wellington House, London, SE1

**Present**

**Panel**

Bishop James Jones (Chair, Gosport Independent Panel, BJJ)  
Colin Currie (CC)  
Christine Gifford (CG)  
David Hencke (DH)  
Duncan Jarrett (DJ)  
Jim Smith (JS)  
Bill Kirkup (BK)  
Deborah Sturdy (DS)

**Secretariat**

Louise Dominian (Secretary, LD)  
Sarah Armstrong (SAr)  
Peter Burgin (PB)  
Code A  
Andy Fitt (AF)  
Judy Joslin (JJ)  
Code A  
Tracy Ofeosi (TO)  
Sarah Wishart (SW)  
Code A

**Apologies**

Kate Blackwell (KB)

	Agenda Item	Summary of discussion	Actions
1.	Introduction and Welcome	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair explained the importance of this year in "breaking" the back of the Panel's work in preparation for the Panel's overview and disclosure stage. The Chair congratulated Colin Currie on his MBE in the New Year Honours list for services to the management of hip fractures.</p>	
2.	Minutes of 8 December Panel meeting and matters arising	<p>Panel members should ensure they are content with the minutes as recorded. The Panel minutes will eventually form a public record. The minutes of the Panel meeting on 8 December were agreed with no amendments.</p> <p>The Panel confirmed that any preliminary papers prepared and views expressed by the Panel in the course of its work before publication of the Final Report could be accepted as alleged and that it was not necessary for the Panel to specifically use the word "alleged" when research or analysis points to a particular conclusion. There will be further discussion on this point as the review work progresses.</p>	a) BJJ signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

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	<p>The timing and approach for the Panel discussion of Annex A to the Records and Retention (Paper 14.4 refers) on the Panel's framing of its findings will be discussed at February's Panel meeting as part of the paper on initial options for the format of the Final Report.</p>	<p>b) SW and <small>Code A</small> to consider the framing of Panel findings within the Review paper on the format and structure of the Final Report at the Panel meeting in February.</p>
3	<p>Learning from Mazars' Report - Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust GIP/Paper 15.1</p> <p>The Panel discussed the learning from the Mazars' independent report into Southern Health's investigations into unexpected deaths.</p> <p><u>The learning/features in the Mazars' Report included:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of leadership, focus and careful investigations.</li> <li>• No effective systematic management or oversight of reporting of death.</li> <li>• Three groups were identified as more vulnerable to unexpected deaths: the elderly, patients with mental health and those with learning difficulties.</li> <li>• The size and complexity of mergers and the system of different reporting routes.</li> <li>• Consideration of the Panel's Final Report and its likely accessibility for a wider audience.</li> <li>• The lack of family engagement and the disconnection between clinical and organisational accountability.</li> </ul> <p>The Panel discussed the importance of its work being centred on the families' concerns and the "families first principle".</p> <p>The Panel agreed the Department of Health's policy landscape will be considered as part of the Panel's preparation for the publication of the Final Report. This should also include ensuring other Government Departments are aware of the report so that they are prepared to respond, once families have been informed.</p> <p>The possibility of overlaps between personnel and events at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust will be explored. It was likely that the Panel would acknowledge any overlaps in the Final Report.</p>	<p>c) SW and <small>Code A</small> to establish whether there is an overlap of individuals referred to in the Mazars' Report and within the evidence which the Review Team is analysing.</p> <p>d) TO and LD to consider how the Panel will be updated on relevant policy developments in preparation for the Final Report, as part of the communication strategy for the Panel meeting in March.</p>



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4.	<p>Family Liaison Update</p> <p>GIP/Paper 15.2</p>	<p>The number of families the Panel is in contact with remains at 100 families (as of 19 January) relating to 99 deceased patients.</p> <p>The Panel was updated on the programme of work with families. About 70% of families have attended at least one Family Liaison Meeting and a higher number of new and existing families are engaged with the Panel, even when they have not attended a Family Liaison Meeting.</p> <p>The Panel decided to retain the 2016 Family Liaison Meeting format and dates. A Family Liaison sub-group will be formed. Families will be informed of the Panel sub-group style meetings at the February meeting.</p> <p>The venue for the Family Liaison Meetings will remain the same, for the present. The Panel considered and agreed it could not facilitate the engagement of families by telephone at the Family Liaison Meetings because it is not a viable option.</p> <p>The importance of families' questions to the Panel's work will be reiterated at the Family Liaison Meeting.</p> <p>An agenda for the Family Liaison Meeting in February was agreed. The Panel noted the change to the date on the draft agenda.</p>	<p>e) JJ to arrange for information about future Family Liaison Meetings and the Family Liaison sub groups Panel Meetings to be disseminated to families.</p> <p>f) JJ to retain the format of engaging families at the Family Liaison Meetings, subject to any necessary changes in the future.</p> <p>g) JJ to send Panel members the revised agenda with the correct date for the Family Liaison Meeting in February.</p> <p>h) CG to reiterate the important role of families in shaping the Panel's work and remind them, at the Family Liaison Meeting in February, to submit any new or additional questions to the Panel.</p>
5.	<p>Access Workstream Progress Report</p> <p>GIP/Paper 15.3</p>	<p>The Panel was updated on progress with key stakeholders. Organisations might receive further requests/queries where the Panel's area of activity is widening or work is being refocused. The relevant stakeholders will be informed when this occurs.</p> <p>Organisations who need further encouragement will receive a letter from the Chair. The letter will mention that organisations that fail to provide the Panel with access to their material will be named in the Final Report which will be laid in Parliament.</p>	<p>i) PB and CG to include Mazars on the stakeholder list and ask them for relevant material relating to Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>j) PB and CG to identify, at the end of February, any organisations that</p>

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		Ongoing prioritisation of cataloguing is continuing. The search terms are being refined to ensure information being retrieved is relevant and at a manageable level.	need further encouragement on response or timeliness, and arrange for the Chair to write to them.
6.	Review Workstream Progress Report  GIP/Paper 15.4	<p>The Panel was updated on progress across the five strands in the Review Workstream. Three of the strands are functional – Networks (Historic Media Review), Clinical Ascertainment Pilot Phase (CAPP) and Comparative Analysis Document (CAD). The Regulatory and Investigations strands will be functional in April.</p> <p>The Panel will be provided with progress reports, at February's Panel meeting, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Historic Media Review;</li> <li>b) CAPP</li> <li>c) The CAD and include three completed CADs,</li> </ul> <p>The Panel discussed the investigation and thematic approaches. The Panel will be updated on progress across all the Review strands, including prioritisation decisions at every Panel meeting from March onwards.</p>	<p>k) DJ, SW, <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">Code A</span> and MT to provide progress reports on the Historic Media Review, CAPP and CAD at February's Panel meeting.</p> <p>l) DJ and the Review team to develop and provide monthly progress reports on the five strands at all Panel meetings from March.</p> <p>m) The lead Review Team and Panel members to develop outstanding strands so they are functional by April 2016.</p>
7.	Highlight Report and High level plan  GIP/Paper 15.5	This was covered within the Workstream updates in items 3-5 above.	
8	Forward Look Steer on preparation for February's informal Panel meeting  GIP/Paper 15.6	<p>The informal offsite Panel meeting is on Monday, 15 February. There will be no papers or agenda for the meeting. Panel members should come prepared to share their own hypotheses, on the basis of information they have heard over the last year and applying the filter of their own expertise. The relationship between hypotheses and evidence is reciprocal.</p> <p>The Chair is meeting the outgoing DH Permanent Secretary, Una O'Brien on 8 February. A meeting will be arranged with her successor in due course.</p>	<p>n) TO to arrange a meeting with the Bishop and the Permanent Secretary's successor.</p> <p>o) Panel members to share their own hypotheses at the informal Panel meeting in February.</p>
9	AOB	None  The meeting ended at 1pm.	

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**Code A**

16/2/16