

Dear Peter,

I thought it would be useful to set down on paper a record of our meeting on Monday 7th October.

- You asked to see me because you were concerned about the feedback you had received from the meeting at which Professor Baker came to introduce himself and to talk about his audit on Thursday 3rd October at Fareham Reach.
- You made it clear to me that you had considered I had acted inappropriately by attending this meeting. Your reasoning was that I should not have been present at a meeting which was deemed to be solely the province of the executive and clinical management. This was because I might have to take decisions in the future concerning the employment of clinical or executive staff and that my presence at the meeting might have been seen to jeopardise my ability to take those decisions.
- You intimated to me that Professor Baker had not expected to see me there and found my presence unhelpful.
- You also told me that you had received feedback to the same effect from other sources, which you were not prepared to name.

I responded to your comments by telling you that I was unaware that my presence at the meeting had produced such a reaction. I had had several conversations both before and after the meeting with a number of people who were present, in particular, Dr Sommerville, Dr Reid, and Alan Pickering and had not received any indication that they considered it inappropriate for me to attend. I have a good working relationship with all of them and believe that if they had thought this to be the case they would have told me. Since my meeting with you it has been made clear to me that my Acting Chief Executive welcomed my attending, had expected me to attend and fully supported my contribution to the discussions. He shared my view that it was critically important that I should be aware of the proposed way ahead for Professor Baker's audit especially as it is likely to have far reaching consequences for our organisation, the people we employ and the community who use our services.

I made it clear that the reason why I had not asked for advice from either your self or anyone else is because I did not consider that there was any need to ask for advice; I was entirely comfortable and confident in my decision to attend, *because as I have already said my presence was requested by CEO.*

After only nine months in post as Chair of a PCT which only stood up on it's own on the 1st April I believe I have faced more challenges than most people in my situation. I have responded to the current crisis by ensuring that I have been fully briefed on all matters pertinent to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital so that I could give the necessary support required by my terms of reference to my Chief Executive, and latterly my acting Chief Executive. My style of working with both men in regard to the GWMH issue is one of partnership, which I believe is an entirely appropriate response to a unique set of circumstances. I hope I can continue to count on your support for this approach.