For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Stourbridge News
Date of article	18/07/2013
Reporter	Bev Holder
Headline	Heads must roll
First paragraph/s of article	TWO former hospital governors are calling for top bosses at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust to be sacked after a major review exposed staff shortages and a failure to handle complaints properly.
Press enquiry	Bev Holder enquired about HSMR figures and what these figures mean with regards to number of deaths. The reporter quoted the following figures: 205 more deaths than expected in 2011 143 more deaths than expected in 2012 She asked the following questions: 1. Do we accept these figures? 2. Would we like to comment on calls from former hospital governors that the Trust leadership team should be sacked as a result of the review findings on staffing levels and complaints procedures? 3. Can we confirm that Chief Executive Paula Clark's salary is in the region of £175,000 and £180,000?

Trust response

COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The Trust does not accept the figures the Stourbridge News has quoted from Dr Foster Intelligence.

The mortality data published in the Sir Bruce Keogh data pack for The Dudley Group shows an HSMR of 98 (January to December 2012) and was within the expected range.

The most recent data from Dr Foster shows the Trust mortality index as 99.5 which is well within the expected range. Similarly, the Department of Health's own methodology, the SHMI index, shows a continuing improvement over the last year and again is within the expected range at 1.04 (October 2011 – September 2012).

Mortality data collection is not designed or intended to identify 'unnecessary' or 'excess' deaths nor does it measure quality and safety. They are a smoke alarm or flag that something might need further investigation and we are pleased the team noted the work we had done on improving our indicators. We are not outliers for the Hospital Summary Mortality Ratio (HSMR) or the Summary Hospital level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).

Sir Bruce Keogh's overview report of the 'Review into the quality of care and treatment provided by 14 hospital trusts in England' states "However tempting it may be, it is clinically meaningless and academically reckless to use such statistical measures to quantify actual numbers of avoidable deaths."

To help understand the cause of and reducing avoidable deaths Sir Bruce Keogh will look to introduce a new national indicator on avoidable deaths in hospitals, measured through the introduction of systematic and externally audited case note review.*

The numbers cannot be related into actual individual deaths but are statistical models only and cannot be used to describe avoidable or unnecessary deaths. This can only ever be established after a detailed review of case notes, which the Trust undertakes for any hospital deaths.

The Trust was one of three of the 14 under review not to be placed in special measures and we are pleased Monitor, the independent regulator for foundations trusts, has confidence in me and my management team to deliver the review's recommendations.

We are also pleased that Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt reported in the House of Commons that he found the Dudley has "the right leadership in place".

The review team did not find any areas of major concern that warranted further escalation. This is testament to the hard work and commitment of all our staff and the pride they take in delivering the best possible care to our patients

The pay band for the Chief Executive's salary for The Dudley Group is between £175,000 and £180,000.

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