

Medway



NHS Foundation Trust

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Our ref: MD/MJ

14 February 2013

Mr Christopher Smith
Vice-Chairman, in the Chair
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Kent County Council

Sent via email

Dear Christopher

Thank you for your letter dated 13 February 2013, regarding the Francis Report.

I can confirm that Medway NHS Foundation Trust has been identified as one of the 14 Trusts whom the NHS Commissioning Board (NCB) will be reviewing as our Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMR) are high. This decision is not prompted by any new data but on HSMR figures for 2010/11 and 2011/12, in which the Trust was an outlier.

As you know, the Trust's HSMR is an issue that we have been aware of for some time and about which we have been open and transparent. A higher than expected mortality indicator does not in itself mean that a hospital is unsafe. Nevertheless, the Trust remains concerned that, according to the Dr Foster report published last December, its HSMR remains higher than the national average. Extensive work has been taking place to try and identify the cause of these results and improve our position. Recently, the Trust has set-up a working party, chaired by Dr Alison Barnet, Director of Public Health, including membership of Trust clinicians and GP colleagues, to oversee its approach to improving mortality. The medical director from Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, which has a very low HSMR, has also been invited to review the working party's actions.

The Trust welcomes any further advice or input from the NCB through this review process, whose stated focus is to support and speed improvement. The Trust is absolutely committed to ensuring the provision of high quality, safe care for our patients – working in partnership with families, carers and GPs.

Further details on the timescale and terms of reference will be available soon. I will keep you closely informed of the position. If you have any further queries or matters you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mark Devlin
Chief Executive