

## UHB Pathology Issues

Deborah Lee  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2009



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- **22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008.**  
Correspondence sent to Mary Barnes, Cancer Network Director from Dr Charlie Tomson, Renal Physician and Safer Patient Initiative Lead raising concerns about the quality of pathology services and citing examples of pathology errors that had led to unnecessary treatment and missed diagnosis of serious conditions in the areas of lung, breast and gynaecology cancer
  - **22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008**  
Geoff Pye and Mary Barnes notified Deborah Lee, Director of Commissioning of correspondence from Dr Tomson  
DL briefed (verbally) Deborah Evans and agreed action including letter to Network staff and Chair raising concerns over delay in reporting such a serious allegation to commissioners and brief to Strategic Health Authority.
  - **23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008**  
Detailed telephone conversation with Dr Jonathon Sheffield who stated that he felt there was nothing in these allegations and that they were vexatious in nature. Discussion reached agreement that an external review of service would be undertaken to demonstrate to all that UHB services were safe and of appropriate quality and that the allegations were unfounded.
  - **24<sup>th</sup> September 2008**  
Lisa Manson briefed and agreed to involve Mike Durkin and seek his confirmation on whether a Royal College Review was considered sufficiently robust for the purpose. MD confirmed he was happy with this approach.
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**  
Deborah Lee met and briefed Dr Graham Rich, Chief Executive, UHB re Dr Tomson's correspondence and allegations.
  - **15<sup>th</sup> October 2008**  
DL sent Letter (in Deborah Evans name) to Graham Rich raising concerns that three weeks had elapsed with no sign of Terms of Reference.
  - **16<sup>th</sup> October 2008**  
Lisa Manson requested sight of Terms of Reference
  - **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008**  
Terms of Reference for external review of lung pathology services, to be undertaken by Royal College of Pathologists, received by PCT and copied to SHA.

- **24<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

Email to Jonathan Sheffield (copied to Dr Martin Morse) from DL raising concerns about the limited scope of the review and advising that NBT would be required to confirm they no longer had concerns about breast and gynaecology pathology for PCT to sign off Terms of Reference which limited review to lung only.

Email from Martin Morse expressing his concerns that the Terms of reference were developed without collaboration with NBT despite this having been the agreement.

No response to DL re scope of Terms of Reference.

- **4<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

Email from Jonathan Sheffield to Martin Morse saying that Terms of reference were submitted as joint review (despite NBT not having discussion of prior sight of them before submission).

- **5<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

Email from DL to Jonathan Sheffield enquiring about outcomes from review

- **6<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

Email from Jonathan Sheffield advising that they are still awaiting NBT's agreement on whether review should include breast and/or gynaecology and whether lung review should extend to both Trusts or solely focus on UHB. This email however noted that *The Royal College felt that the cases originally reflected difference of opinion which are in keeping with the accepted variations of pathology reporting*. It is not clear how this view was reached as it appears the review has still not taken place.

DL emailed Martin Morse asking him what was holding up clarification of Terms of Reference for the review. No reply received.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009**

DL admits defeat and escalates to Chief Executives