



IBMS response to publication of the Francis Report

The Francis Report into NHS regulatory and monitoring organisations and their failure to identify serious problems at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust will be published at around 11:30am today on the Mid Staffordshire public inquiry website.

Press coverage suggests the Report is likely to be critical of managers, health professionals and regulators for their role in Mid Staffs scandal and recommend strengthening regulatory oversight of the NHS.

The IBMS is committed to supporting our members in providing safe, high quality care and reporting any concerns around inappropriate or negative practice to the appropriate individuals and bodies. Last year we updated our [Code of Conduct](#) and guide to [Good Professional Practice in Biomedical Science](#) to strengthen the expert guidance we provide on decision making, leadership, safe effective practice and our members' duty of care to patients.

We have also been working with organisations including NHS Employers and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to ensure that we offer appropriate support when our members raise safety concerns at work. The IBMS is a signatory to NHS Employer's ["Speaking Up"](#) charter, which formalises our commitment to work together with regulators, professional regulatory bodies, health unions and professional associations to support staff when raising a safety concern or issue at work.

We will examine the Report's findings and the impact of any recommendations on our members. Once we have decided how best to support our members in relation to the Francis Report's recommendations, we will publish a response to the Report on the IBMS website.

About the Francis Report

Following the unnecessary deaths of between 400 and 1,200 patients as a result of their treatments at Stafford Hospital between 2005 and 2009, a full public inquiry was announced in 2010 by Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley.

The inquiry was chaired by Robert Francis QC and set out to examine the role of commissioning, supervisory and regulatory organisations in their monitoring role at Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust between 2005 and early 2009.

The Francis Report will consider why the serious problems at the Trust were not identified and acted on sooner, and will identify important lessons to be learnt for the future of patient care. The Report will make recommendations for the improvement of patient care to the current Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, based on lesson learnt during the course of the inquiry.

You will be able to view a copy of the Francis Report at
<http://www.midstaffpublicinquiry.com/>