Dear Dr Alexander

Thank you for copying the National Guardian’s Office into your correspondence to Sir David Behan dated 5 May 2017 and for your correspondence to this office of 7 May 2017. Please accept this as our response to all of these items.

Case Reviews

In your correspondence you asked about our approach to ‘live’ cases in relation to our case review process. Firstly I should stress that our intention is to develop a case review process that supports maximum cross-system learning whilst being mindful of the most cost-effective use of the resources that we have at our disposal. Given that, during the 12-month trial of our case review process we will initially select cases for review where there are no outstanding decisions to be made. As the trial period progresses, we will review this approach and explore whether we can effectively open up the parameters within which we will be able to accept cases for review.

Freedom to Speak Up Review

You make the observation that it is not correct to assert that the principles set out in the Freedom to Speak Up Review are evidence-based. We see these principles as being based on the evidence that Sir Robert took from the submissions he considered as part of the review, from over 600 individuals and 43 organisations, as well as over 19,500 respondents to staff surveys sent out by independent researchers. I’m sorry for any confusion that our use of the term evidence-based may have resulted in and, to help clarify this point, we will amend the wording of our case review summary so that it indicates that the principles are ‘based on evidence submitted as part of the review’.

DRAFT case review summary document

You asked for a copy of the DRAFT case review summary document that was previously posted on the NGO’s web pages. This was removed and replaced with the final version in order to avoid confusion between the two, but please find a copy of the document attached to this letter. It will be re-posted to a new documents archive section of the web pages that we will be developing shortly.

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Dr Henrietta Hughes
National Guardian