

Email 21 June 2018 from Communications and Engagement Manager,  
National Guardian's Office to media

On 21 June 2018 at 10:38 "Rogers, Gavin"  
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

It has been interesting to note that while much of the coverage about Gosport has included references to 'whistleblowers' – and indeed quotes from whistleblowers – as yet we have not received an approach about the work of the National Guardian's Office and the Freedom to Speak Up Guardians that are now in every trust in the country. Last year those guardians handled over 6,700 cases of NHS workers speaking up about a range of issues including patient safety, quality of care, bullying and harassment and much more besides.

The endorsement of what we are doing to embed speaking up processes in the NHS in the wake of the Francis Report was underlined at our conference earlier this year at which both Jeremy Hunt and Simon Stevens spoke – the latter pledging to treble the funding he provides to increase Freedom to Speak Up across Primary Care, given the success of the Guardian model in secondary care. Further information is available on our webpages: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/national-guardians-office/content/national-guardians-office>

**Dr Henrietta Hughes, National Guardian for the NHS, is available for interview** about the lessons we can learn from Gosport and how Freedom to Speak Up Guardians are making a difference in the NHS. Do please contact me at this email or on the phone number below to arrange an interview and please find a quote from Dr Hughes:

"Freedom to Speak Up – freedom is when the environment supports speaking up, with the right actions being taken as a result. Without this freedom workers are enslaved in a culture of fear

"It is an insult to everyone that spoke up about the issues at Gosport War Memorial Hospital to say that staff should have raised concerns. It is clear that the reason why dangerous practice persisted was due to the lack of decisive actions by leaders, in many parts of health but also the wider system

"Once again it is the persistence of elected politicians which has shone the disinfectant of sunlight onto the inadequate response to speaking up from workers and families.

“Leaders in all parts of the health system need to take heed from this report – to be aware that individuals in their organisations know about issues about which they do not feel safe to speak up. The call to action is for everyone to listen hard, take the right actions and ignore speaking up at your peril.”

**Dr Henrietta Hughes, National Guardian for the NHS**

Kind regards

Gavin

Gavin Rogers

Communications and Engagement Manager

National Guardian’s Office

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