

BY EMAIL

Dido Harding
Chair NHS Improvement

26 October 2020

Dear Dido,

Andrew Morris' role as Chair of the National Guardian's Accountability & Liaison Board

I am aware that Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, of which Andrew Morris was CEO until 2018, has victimised a number of whistleblowers, not all in the public domain.

However, it is on the public record that the trust victimised a whistleblower with retaliatory disciplinary action, suspension and removal of role, in the form of findings of fact by the Employment Tribunal.

The disciplinary action and suspension took place in 2017 shortly after the whistleblower, Donna Simmonds NHS administrator raised patient safety concerns, when Andrew Morris was CEO of Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Please see the ET judgment of 28 May 2020:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ef1d7a6d3bf7f6c03ed25c9/Ms_D_Simmonds_v_Frimley_Health_NHS_Foundation_Trust_-_3329309-2017-FMH-Reserved.pdf

NHS Improvement previously agreed to my request that it should review ET findings as part of gathering intelligence, so I imagine NHSI is already aware of this judgment.

I would be grateful if NHS Improvement could field an alternative candidate for the National Guardian's Accountability and Liaison board.

This is not least because Andrew Morris currently adjudicates complaints against the National Guardian herself. He is due to shortly adjudicate a complaint about her breaching a whistleblower's confidentiality.

I have informed NHS Improvement previously of my concerns and objected to Mr Morris' adjudication of complaints against the National Guardian, but my concerns were rejected.

I hope in the face of legal findings of fact that NHS Improvement will now take the concerns on board.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Minh

Dr Minh Alexander

Cc Tom Grimes NHSE/I Head of Whistleblowing

