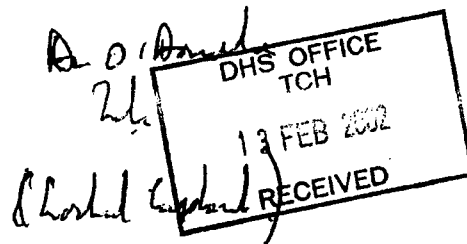


7 February, 2002

Dr Patricia Hamilton FRCP FRCPC
Honorary Secretary
Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health
50 Hallum Street
LONDON
W1N 6DE



Dear Dr Hamilton

I am contacting you again in relation to the professional competency of one of our Consultant Paediatricians, Dr O'Donohoe.

You may recall previous contact in December 2000 where, through your good offices, we were able to engage the Local Regional Advisor Dr Moira Stewart in a review of some casenotes that had been highlighted as adverse clinical incidents and possible under-performance. The outcome from the review was that they contained a combination of system failures, some failure to follow best practice guidelines but nothing of sufficient concern that would warrant referral to GMC or direct intervention such as temporary suspension.

It was hoped last summer that we could achieve some form of closure, expand the number of consultants within the department and clearly define which paediatricians were taking leads on child protection, diabetes, asthma, etc. Sadly to date we have been unable to recruit an additional paediatrician.

There have been ongoing concerns in relation to the performance of Dr O'Donohoe. These concerns, while primarily raised by the same staff grade, involve a wider range of cases and some of the concerns have been endorsed by other staff. Dr O'Donohoe sees the matter as part of the ongoing personality clash rather than any competency issue and while none of the clinical team views the matter as one warranting referral to the GMC, there is clearly a need to define the level of under-performance if any.

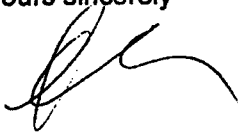
I would therefore wish to formally request, through your good offices at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, assistance with providing an external professional competency review of the practice of Dr O'Donohoe and I would ask that this should involve a visiting paediatrician reviewing aspects of workload, clinical management of patients including outcomes and performance within the team. I would ask that any such visiting paediatrician would avail of the opportunity to discuss issues with the wider clinical team.

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7 February, 2002

Thank you again for your help with this delicate matter. As in the past, all expenses will be met by the Trust and any indemnity forms required will be provided.

Yours sincerely



Dr J Kelly
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

cc Mr Mills, Chief Executive
Mr E Fee, Director of Acute Services
Dr Anderson, Clinical Director