

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Inquiry appoints new independent expert assessors to review final recommendations

As the writing of the Inquiry report moves into its final stages, the Chairman has sought and received approval from DHSSPS to engage two experts to assist him by assessing his recommendations for future practice. An equivalent step was taken by Robert Francis QC as he finalised the recommendations in his recent report into events at the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Neither expert will have any input into the Chairman's findings on what happened in the past. They will advise him on whether his draft recommendations are realistic, practical and achievable, where appropriate refining elements of them in order that they might be readily implemented.

One of the two experts is Professor Gabriel Scally who has already provided expert reports on historic issues and has given evidence during the course of the oral hearings. The other is Dr Tracey Cooper who is the Chief Executive of the Health Information and Quality Authority in Ireland. One of her previous roles was as Deputy Head and Director of Operations for the NHS Clinical Governance Support Team in the UK.

The Chairman is grateful to both Professor Scally and Dr Cooper for their agreement to assist him.

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