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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dr Russell,

I am writing to you regarding the individual review of the clinical work of Professor Sam Eljamel, a Consultant Neurosurgeon Surgeon at NHS Tayside. As you are aware the review visit took place on 16 and 17 September, with the review team providing initial feedback to you and Dr Phillip McLoughlin, Clinical Director for Specialist Services. Following the interview with Professor Eljamel, which was held on 2 October 2013, the review team would like to convey the following points.

Based on all of the information provided to the team, there are concerns about Professor Eljamel's clinical practice with regards to spinal surgery. A number of wrong site surgeries have been carried out, which raise concerns about Professor Eljamel's approach to pre-operative marking and post-operative care. In addition, for a number of cases where wrong level surgery had been performed Professor Eljamel acknowledged that he may not have been absolutely open with his colleagues about the outcomes of these operations. Additionally, the review team could not be sure if he had been open with patients who had undergone wrong site procedures.

The Trust will need to consider whether it feels further action should be taken to review Professor Eljamel's spinal surgery cases to ensure there are no wrong site surgeries that have gone unaddressed.

The review team has been informed that supervision of Professor Eljamel is in place. In order to ensure that spinal surgery is undertaken safely it would be appropriate for this supervision to ensure that; Professor Eljamel follows departmental guidelines for pre-operative marking, that all of Professor Eljamel's spinal cases receive post-operative

imaging to ensure the procedure has been performed successfully and at the right level and that Professor Eljamel's cases are subsequently audited.

We will now prepare the review report, which it is anticipated will be completed within six to eight weeks. If at any time you would like to contact me about the production of the report, please do not hesitate to do so.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Steven Wakeling.

Steven Wakeling
IRM Manager