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[redacted]

NHS Tayside

Mrs Audrey Warden
General Manager

Mr Philip McLoughlin
Clinical Director

Date 20 June 2013
Your Ref
Our Ref AR/SW

Enquiries to Mrs Susan Wilson
Extension [redacted]
Direct Line [redacted]
Email [redacted]

Dear Phil / Audrey

Thank you for meeting with me today to share concerns with regard to Professor Eljamel. During the conversation I shared with you a letter from [redacted] dated 6 June 13 in which she indicates that she is aware of another patient who has undergone wrong level surgery under Professor Eljamel's care and has asked that we consider a full audit of the care of all the patients who have undergone spinal surgery between 2010 – 2013.

You brought to my attention the case of [redacted] and expressed concern that this had not been escalated appropriately despite a second opinion from an external neurosurgeon suggesting that there were significant concerns with the surgical practice.

You also shared with me an itemised list of complaints that focus on poor communication between Mr Eljamel, his patients and colleagues.

You did not express concern with regard to any current patient safety issues but clearly were worried about a pattern of practice and behaviour that has resulted in significant concern being raised by patients and colleagues.

Given the level of concern I believe it is appropriate that we commission an external review into Professor Eljamel's practice. I will seek to commission the review through this office and will do so in conjunction with yourselves. I will, in the first instance, seek to do this through the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

I would ask you to meet with Professor Eljamel and discuss this decision with him and the reasons behind it. I will leave you to determine the range of restrictions that you feel should be placed upon his clinical practice during the period of the investigation and its subsequent report. I would hope and anticipate that Professor Eljamel understands the significance of what is a supportive action. Should he not wish to comply with what you believe to be reasonable restrictions, I would ask you to seek further guidance from myself.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Dr Andrew Russell
Medical Director

Copied To

Dr John Colvin

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