

PRESS STATEMENT

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RESPONSE TO THE HSJ RE ALLEGATIONS MADE AT EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

David Walker, Medical Director, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (UHMBT), said: “We are disappointed and saddened that Mr Duffy’s contractual dispute with the Trust ended with legal proceedings and that he chose not to work with the Trust to resolve his concerns with us informally.

“The issues referred to in Mr Duffy’s employment tribunal regarding the three doctors, still employed by the Trust, were withdrawn by him at the outset of proceedings and were not tested by the tribunal. The Trust disputed the assertions made by Mr Duffy and had spent considerable time preparing a case which would have robustly disputed these claims.

“We continue to employ the doctors referred to in the allegations – all of whom are valued members of the Trust.

“We continue to work hard to ensure that we have a supportive culture for our staff – one where staff are able to raise concerns without any fear, and one where safety – both for our patients and our staff – is paramount, and we are pleased that the extensive judgement in this case has recognised this.

“It is important to note that all the clinical concerns raised by Mr Duffy were appropriately investigated at the time. We would like to reiterate that the tribunal found there was no evidence to support the claim that Mr Duffy was ill-treated or suffered a detriment for raising his concerns.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. For further information, please contact the communications team on 01539 716 675 or by email as indicated above.