

PRESS STATEMENT

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RESPONSE TO THE MAIL RE ALLEGATIONS MADE AT EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

David Walker, Medical Director, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (UHMBT), said: “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issues referred to in Mr Duffy’s employment tribunal regarding the three doctors, still employed by the Trust, were withdrawn by him at the outset of proceedings and were not tested by the tribunal.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 had spent considerable time preparing a case which would have 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.

“We were aware of interpersonal relationship and behaviour issues between members of the Urology team, including Mr Duffy, and took appropriate action to remedy concerns and ensure a safe working environment.

“The Trust has at all times been open and honest with the Coroner. In the case of patient A, clinical evidence from the Trust was provided at the inquest by Mr Duffy himself and an independent root cause analysis investigation of the case was subsequently conducted with the agreement of the Coroner.

“We would reiterate that the majority of the issues raised by Mr Duffy were withdrawn at the beginning of the tribunal process and the judgement of the tribunal was that he suffered no detriment as a result of his raising of concerns. The judgement purely related to contractual issues.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

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