

## PRESS STATEMENT

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### STATEMENT RE CONCERNS FROM FAMILIES

Dr David Walker, Medical Director, UHMBT, said: “We feel deeply sorry for Mr Erhart, and for the family of Mr Read and want to apologise to, and reassure them and your readers, that we take every case where a patient dies extremely seriously and that safety for our patients is our primary aim as a healthcare organisation.

“Because of that over-riding concern with safety, and in the light of a number of concerns raised about the Urology Department, including these cases from 2011 and 2015, we invited a review of the department by the Royal College of Surgeons in 2016. We have additionally carried out a huge amount of work to ensure the culture in the department continues to improve to ensure the best care for our patients and that our staff are well supported at work.

“In the autumn we will be undertaking a peer review of the department by expert clinicians from another Trust to ensure that the actions arising out of the Royal College Review have been fully embedded and ensure there are no further actions required.

“In terms of the cases referred to, we have fully co-operated with the coroner in both cases at the time and ensured the coroner was satisfied we had taken all actions that we should. We appreciate that this is very traumatic for Mrs Erhart’s husband and Mr Read’s family and in Mr Read’s case have met with the family. We would also be pleased to meet with Mr Erhart and discuss any aspect of the case with him. We want to assure them that our investigations have

been thorough, we have learned lessons and of course if Mr Duffy has any further information we'd be grateful to hear from him. Mr Duffy did describe his concerns to the Coroner in both inquest proceedings and these were taken into account by the Coroner at the time. In addition, we did carry out a full investigation into Mr Read's case (called a root cause analysis). This root cause analysis was supplied under the Freedom of Information Act but had to be redacted to comply with the Data Protection Act."

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

1. For further information, please contact the communications team on the above email as indicated above.
2. Bay Health and Care Partners is made up of the following organisations: University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group, GP Provider Alliance, Lancashire County Council, Cumbria County Council, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, NWAS and Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.