

Adam Cayley
Portfolio Director
Monitor

By email only



19 November 2012

SOUTH LONDON AND MAUDSLEY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

**LETTER FROM HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE, LONDON
BOROUGH OF LAMBETH**

Dear Mr Cayley,

Recently we have exchanged correspondence about the South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Foundation Trust regarding their consultation over changes to secondary psychological therapy services.

I am pleased to say that the Trust is subsequently making more positive efforts to engage meaningfully and proactively with local stakeholders including local authorities and LINKs as both Lambeth and Southwark scrutiny committees recommended.

However another issue has arisen in relation to SLaM which Lambeth's Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee (HASSC) agreed it would be wise to keep the regulator informed.

On October 23rd 2012, HASSC was due to discuss the coroner's report into the death of Sean Rigg, a black male mental health service-user under the care of SLaM, who died at Brixton police station following arrest and prolonged restraint. As I have no doubt you are aware SLaM's care of Mr Rigg was severely criticised in the coroner's report and it was on this aspect the committee was due to examine. There was significant interest in this subject amongst local residents, particularly members of the black community, and we arranged for one of Mr Rigg's sisters and Black Mental Health UK to give evidence along with SLaM.

Before this meeting took place rumours circulated that the 'riot police' had been called to a SLaM hospital ward and there was some kind of stand-off with black patients. SLaM did not alert the committee, council or other local stakeholders of this and the committee had to ask SLaM about it during an unrelated visit. It transpired that the Metropolitan Police's Tactical Support Group attended

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the Bethlehem Hospital on October 1 when patients took staff hostage. Fortunately the incident ended peacefully but I am concerned about the fact it was deemed necessary to call police in riot gear onto a ward when in fact they were not deployed and the lack of notice given by SLaM of this incident to stakeholders.

Taken in the context of the deaths of SLaM patients Sean Rigg and Olasemi Lewis at the hands of police officers and what followed the police shooting of Mark Duggan in Tottenham last summer I regard this incident and the lack of communication with local stakeholders as a potentially grave risk to public safety.

SLaM have agreed to review their procedures for alerting stakeholders of such incidents but we would appreciate the support of the regulator in this matter as well as minimising the use of the Tactical Support Group on hospital wards and ensuring that all mental health service-users under SLaM's care are afforded the highest level of protection.

I enclose the relevant minutes extract for October 23rd HASSC meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Davie', with a small dot above the 'i'.

Cllr Ed Davie

Chair Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Sub Committee
London Borough of Lambeth

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Please copy any correspondence to

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