

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE MID STAFFORDSHIRE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST PUBLIC INQUIRY – THE “FRANCIS REPORT”

COMMENTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS
OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND (AAGBI)

FEBRUARY 2013





THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS

of Great Britain & Ireland

The Final Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry – the “Francis Report”

Comments from the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland (AAGBI)

The AAGBI is greatly concerned by the Francis Report and acknowledges that the harm done to those who were failed by the NHS and its staff is unacceptable. The AAGBI believes that what happened in Mid Staffordshire can be prevented in the future, but that this will need an ongoing commitment to patient safety at all levels of the NHS, including clinicians, managers, the Departments of Health and politicians.

The efficiency savings demanded of the NHS are placing significant pressure on hospitals to deliver a greater volume of clinical services with fewer resources. The risks of clinical care are increased considerably if resources are inadequate. Patient safety must be the first priority in healthcare, an approach that the AAGBI has championed for 80 years.

Anaesthetists are patient advocates in every NHS hospital, and they are committed to providing the very best care wherever they work, whether in the operating theatres, Intensive Care Units, maternity units, pain clinics, Accident & Emergency Departments or on the wards.

The AAGBI will continue to encourage its members to speak out whenever they are concerned that patient safety may be compromised:

- Using reporting systems to make sure that safety incidents are identified, recorded and acted upon.
- Ensuring that concerns are communicated effectively to colleagues and to others responsible for patient care, and working with hospital managers to put things right.
- Making patient safety a key item in the agenda of every meeting of every Department of Anaesthesia.
- Ensuring that patients’ voices, views and concerns are heard and responded to.
- Pursuing the very best care for their patients with absolute determination, and not giving up until patient safety is assured.

The AAGBI believes that for these measures to be effective, those in management roles must listen and act, and that those in senior NHS and political positions must engage with the realities of clinical service provision. Inspection and legal action will not automatically result in a safety culture change - this must be driven centrally but lead and developed locally.

The Council of the AAGBI believes that the question that every healthcare professional should ask themselves is: *“Would I want this sort of care for my family?”*