

Correspondence from the Public Audit Committee to NHS Lothian, dated 19 February

AUDITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (AGS) REPORT NHS FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2012/13” AND “MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS ON NHS WAITING LISTS – AUDIT UPDATE”

The Public Audit Committee took oral evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing and Scottish Government officials on the above reports at its meeting on 19 February 2014.

You will note from the attached Official Report ([link Cols 2138-2141](#)) the Committee discussed the sequence of events which led to the discovery of the “deliberate manipulation” of waiting time statistics at NHS Lothian and those involved. The Committee was informed that NHS Lothian would hold a record of these events. We would therefore welcome a timeline from you detailing the sequence of events leading up to and following discovery of the manipulation of waiting time statistics at NHS Lothian, until May 2012 when the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing asked each board to carry out an internal audit of how it complies with the national guidelines.

John Connaghan confirmed at the Committee meeting that he was the “whistleblower” which identified the manipulation of waiting time statistics at NHS Lothian. Therefore, in providing the timeline requested above, can you confirm that this was the case and at which point his action took place. It would also be helpful if you could confirm that you have no record of anyone else whistleblowing in connection with this sequence of events.

I would welcome a response to this letter by close on 24 March. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerks on 0131 348 5236 or by email at: pa.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

Yours sincerely

Hugh Henry MSP
Public Audit Committee Convener