



**Craig Whittaker MP**

**CALDER VALLEY**

[www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk](http://www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk)

### **Suspension of Dr Hadiza Bawa-Garba**

Thank you for contacting me about the case of Dr Bawa-Garba.

Our first thoughts must be with the parents of Jack, who have had to endure not just the loss of their son, but also the subsequent criminal and regulatory hearings.

A doctor and a nurse have also had their professional careers ruined.

As I understand, there may be further legal proceedings and I cannot comment further on individual cases; but everyone with an interest in patient safety will be concerned at the effect that these events could have on the development of a culture of openness and candour in the way we learn from tragedy. I echo the Secretary of State in saying that I hope all doctors feel able to admit mistakes if they arise, and learn from them together.

I know that the Department of Health and Social Care will be working with patient organisations and the relevant professional, regulatory and legal bodies to learn the lessons highlighted by this case and take the action need to promote a just culture in our country's healthcare. You may be encouraged to know that the Health Secretary has recently appointed Professor Sir Norman Williams to conduct a review into the handling of medical negligence cases, with a view to maintaining an open and honest culture of learning in the NHS, and assessing what professional regulators like the General Medical Council can learn from this affair. This report will be due by the end of April 2018.

I am aware that the prosecution of doctors and nurses for medical manslaughter is rare and the threshold for criminal prosecution is high. The overwhelming majority of cases are not taken to court. The Crown Prosecution Service carefully considers criminal charges in cases of manslaughter referred by the police, based on rigorous analysis of the evidence using the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP