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Registered Office: 3 Lion Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1LW

12 October 2022

Dear Families

Letter from Donna Ockenden, Chair of the Independent Maternity Review

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Donna Ockenden. I am writing to introduce myself as the Chair of the independent review of maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (**'the Trust'**) which started on the 1st September this year. This letter refers to our review as the **'Independent Review'**.

I am sending this letter to you via the commissioning support unit (**'CSU'**). The CSU is an organisation that worked alongside the clinical commissioning group (**'CCG'**) in supporting the provision of local health care. As you may know, a review commissioned by the CCG into maternity services at the Trust ended in June this year and we started our new review on 1st September 2022.

The CSU currently hold the information of all the families who joined the previous maternity review which closed in June. We have been told that there may be almost 600 families who were involved in this previous review. We feel it is important to contact you to offer the opportunity to join our Independent Review if this is what you would like to do.

Please accept my apologies if my contacting you has caused you any distress or concern as this is certainly not my intention.

Would you like to join our Independent Review?

The attached letter from the CSU explains the next steps about either **joining** or **not joining** our new independent review. Different families will make different choices and it is important that you make the decision that is right for you and your family.

My team and I will make you very welcome within our review. We recognise that you may have originally contacted the 'closed' review some time ago and that there may have been a long wait to start getting some answers. We also understand that you may be satisfied with the findings of the previous review or you may prefer not to have your case reviewed by my team. This is entirely your choice and my team and I will fully respect your decision.

What will our Independent Review do and how can I find out more?

If you would like more information to learn how our Independent Review will be different to the previous review, please look at the further information which can be found on <https://www.ockendenmaternityreview.org.uk> You can also contact our review team on nottsreview@donnaockenden.com

The purpose of our Independent Review is to find out whether your case, and others like it, was adequately investigated by the Trust at the time, whether any lessons were learnt and whether any such lessons have been acted upon. The ultimate aim of our Independent Review is to make sure that the performance of the Trust's maternity service will improve.

DonnaOckenden

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In some cases we may reconsider any assessment made at the time about the quality of the care you and your baby received. Reviewing your case and whether lessons were learned at the time will help to make the Trust's maternity service better for everyone in future.

How can I contact or talk with the Independent Review team?

There will be many opportunities to engage with my review team and me. We will explain this as the review progresses. We will be visiting Nottingham on a regular basis. There will be the opportunity for group meetings and some individual private meetings both face to face and via Zoom and Teams.

We are already communicating with community groups across Nottingham and we are aiming to attend as many community events as possible. There will also be an opportunity to talk to a member of the maternity review team on the telephone and for you to send us information by email or post.

Listening to families across Nottinghamshire ensures that 'family voices' will be heard and acted upon. This will remain our focus throughout the Independent Review and, confidentially, in the final published report.

What should I do next?

You need to read the letter from the CSU and let them know your decision about joining our review (or not, if you do not wish to.) Once they receive your decision they will be able to start the next steps of sharing information with us of those families who wish to join our review.

Once we hear from the CSU we will get in touch with you to explain next steps

With all good wishes



Donna Ockenden

Chair

The Independent Review of Maternity Services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

The Maternity Review Team: Tel: 01243 786993. Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

<https://www.ockendenmaternityreview.org.uk>

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