**Williams Review into Gross Negligence Manslaughter in Healthcare: Terms of Reference**

1. **Background/Context**

* The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced on 6 February that he was asking Professor Sir Norman Williams to conduct a rapid policy review into the issues pertaining to gross negligence manslaughter in healthcare. This will not consider any changes to the law of gross negligence manslaughter or the autonomy of the decision making of the Crown Prosecution Service or the courts.

1. **Purpose of the Review**

* Working with stakeholders, the Review will consider:

1. how we ensure healthcare professionals are adequately informed about:
   * + where and how the line is drawn between gross negligence manslaughter (GNM) and negligence;
     + what processes are gone through before initiating a prosecution for GNM;
   * In addition, provide any further relevant information gained from engagement with stakeholders through this review about the processes used in cases of gross negligence manslaughter**;**
2. how we ensure the vital role of reflective learning, openness and transparency is protected where the healthcare professional believes that a mistake has been made to ensure that lessons are learned and mistakes not covered up;
3. lessons that need to be learned by the General Medical Council (GMC) and other healthcare professionals’ regulators in relation to how they deal with professionals following a criminal process for gross negligence manslaughter.

* The Review will not be commenting on the specifics of any particular case although it will consider questions raised by such cases and whether lessons may be learned.

1. **Timeline**

* The Review will aim to report in Spring 2018.

1. **Advisory panel**

* Professor Sir Norman Williams, Chair of the Review, will be taking advice from a core panel comprising:
* Ian Stern QC - Vice Chair of the Review
* Martin Bromiley (Chair, Clinical Human Factors Group) / Dr Nick Toff (Principal National Clinical Investigator, Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch) - Member
* Harry Cayton (CEO, Professional Standards Authority) - Member
* Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent (Head of Maternity, Children and Young People, NHS England) - Member
* Professor Carrie MacEwen (Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges) – Member
* Lesley Watts (Chief Executive, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust) - Member

1. **Evidence gathering**

* Professor Sir Norman Williams and the panel will invite evidence on the main themes of the Review from a range of key stakeholders.
* Any additional evidence relevant to the themes of the Review can be provided by e-mail to [Williamsreview@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Williamsreview@dh.gsi.gov.uk).