**Statement by Professor Sir Norman Williams**

On 6th February 2018 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that a rapid review would take place in relation to gross negligence manslaughter and healthcare professionals. Having been appointed Chair of this Review I, together with a Panel, will look at the processes that are involved in an individual coming to face such an allegation in the criminal courts and/or before their professional regulatory body. We will also be considering how reflective learning, openness and transparency can be properly sustained to ensure that there is a robust learning process when errors are made. There may be lessons to learn for regulators in how to approach all of the above.

In order to carry out our task we will receive written submissions and oral evidence from the bodies and individuals involved in the entirety of the process. If you think you or your organisation might have something to contribute to this important topic, please contact the review secretariat at WilliamsReview@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

It is also important to realise that we will not be reviewing whether the law relating to gross negligence manslaughter should be changed or altered in any way – that is outside our remit. However, we will be looking at the application of the legal principles to such cases and seeking to understand where the bar is and might be set for pursuing such cases.