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Thank you for meeting with me on the 26th May to discuss the further inquiry relating to the events at Mid-Staffordshire.

At the meeting, you indicated you would be willing and able to lead the Public Inquiry, under the Inquiries Act 2005 into the role of the commissioning, supervisory and regulatory bodies in the monitoring of Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. I am writing to you today to appoint you as the Chair for the Inquiry.

I understand that you have had the opportunity to comment on the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, as agreed at the meeting, and you are content with their drafting. As discussed, the timeframe the Inquiry will consider has not changed and the details of the scope of the Inquiry, as well as the location for, are matters for you to determine. A copy of the Terms of Reference is attached.

I am grateful that you have agreed to chair the Inquiry and in particular, that you understand and appreciate the need to progress with speed to ensure that the lessons learned can inform the changes that need to be made in the wider system, as soon as possible. I am very grateful that you will undertake best endeavours to report your findings by March 2011.

I also appreciate your understanding of the need for sensitivity in conducting your investigations with regard to Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust and the importance of minimising any interference the Inquiry could have on the work the Trust is undertaking to improve its service to patients.



ANDREW LANSLEY CBE