

20 December 2012

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NHS Foundation Trusts in England (Chief Executives)

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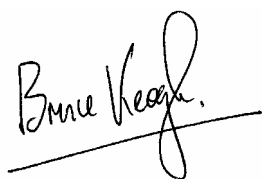
Dear Colleague

Further to my letter of 8 October 2012 regarding the issues highlighted at Kingsmill Hospital in relation to pathology services, I am writing to advise you that a review into pathology quality assurance will take place.

The review will explore the overarching quality and risk management systems in NHS Pathology services, to identify whether improvements to process and systems might be required. I have asked Dr Ian Barnes, National Clinical Director for Pathology, to lead the review.

We do not anticipate that the Review will require the involvement of any particular Trust, but I would be grateful if you could extend your cooperation to Dr Barnes as and when required.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Sir Bruce Keogh
NHS Medical Director**