

# Freedom to speak up

An independent review into creating an open  
and honest reporting culture in the NHS

Room 305A, Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London  
SE1 6LH

Secretariat@freedomtospeakup.org.uk  
0207 972 2182

By email only

7<sup>th</sup> August 2014

To all Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords,

I am writing to let you know that I have today launched the website to support my review of how to create an open and safe reporting culture in the NHS. The address is [www.freedomtospeakup.org.uk](http://www.freedomtospeakup.org.uk).

I have issued an invitation to all NHS workers, employers and other organisations to share with me their experiences, both good and bad, of raising concerns in the NHS, or supporting others who have done so. I am keen to understand all aspects of the issue, and to hear suggestions and ideas on what would make a difference. I am hoping to meet with a limited number of people who contact me where I think it would be useful to learn more about the issues they raise. The closing date for submitting contributions is Wednesday 10 September.

I will also be gathering evidence through independent research. This will include a survey of all NHS workers, employers, trades unions, regulators and professional bodies to help to understand whether people feel able to speak up when they have concerns and why they might feel they are prevented from doing so. There will also be a desktop study of NHS whistleblowing policies and a comparison with international benchmark standards and other sectors, and in-depth structured interviews with a representative sample of interested parties to seek views and attitudes to raising concerns and perceived barriers in the NHS. And I will be holding seminars with different representative groups to hear their views on measures that will improve the culture of the health service.

It is a great privilege to be asked to chair this review. I hope that you will support the work we are doing in this important area, and will encourage others to do so.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Francis', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sir Robert Francis QC