

Kings Court
London Road
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 2NG

September 2023

Template Letter sent to: Chairs and Chief Executives of NHS Trusts serving Hertfordshire

Dear *[Chair name]* and *[chief exec name]*,

Action following the Lucy Letby verdict

Healthwatch Hertfordshire's board has discussed the issues arising from the tragic events at the Countess of Chester hospital and has agreed that we should write to our local Trusts and to the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board. We know you will understand the need for people using health services in Hertfordshire to know how similar incidents would be prevented, identified and dealt with by your organisation, and why we decided that we should take a formal approach about this matter.

We would like to make this an agenda item for our regular meetings. Do let us know if an earlier conversation about any of the issues raised in this letter would be helpful at this stage.

We are aware that Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee will be examining the implications in relation to neonatal care. We will be collaborating with them on this specific work in addition

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to the interaction we are seeking to have with you and colleagues across the system on the wider issues raised.

We are also aware of the recent letter sent to Trusts and ICBs by NHS England (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/verdict-in-the-trial-of-lucy-letby/>) and would appreciate you letting us know how your Trust intends to act in relation to each of the issues and actions that letter covers. The NHS England letter is, however, narrow in scope and we would also like to know what further action your Trust plans to take or to consider in relation to the wider issues arising from the Letby case. This information will complement the knowledge we have from our regular involvement with Quality committees and Trust Boards.

It would also be valuable to know your thoughts about how you are planning to make the public aware of your approach and to keep people updated, including in the longer-term in the light of the pending inquiry.

Healthwatch Hertfordshire will be putting our approach to Trusts and the Integrated Care Board on our website to ensure public awareness and will keep the people we serve updated about replies.

We look forward to your initial response and to working with you to ensure that people in Hertfordshire have the necessary confidence in their NHS services.

Yours sincerely,

[Neil Tester and Geoff Brown signatures]