

I have read the report from Mr Justice O'Hara.

Given that there have been significant issues since then in neurology, urology & other disciplines, alongside all the COVID related pressures, the system is in an even worse place. The public have more cause for concern.

I strongly believe that there should be a statutory duty of candour, with criminal sanctions, applied to both individuals and organisations.

HSC organisations should actively support cultures of openness & accountability and not just mention it on leaflets. All staff should have training & guidance in supporting others, challenging others where appropriate, & talking honestly to families & loved ones.

I understand that professions already have standards. O'Hara clearly demonstrated that those are not sufficient to protect patients, no matter how good a job they do at protecting individuals.

DoH in NI should be proud to take a lead in the 4 nations in stepping up to build trust & improve patient care.

Again, I support O'Hara's recommendations for a statutory duty of candour with criminal sanctions for individuals & organisations. Anything less would be a slap in the face to all patients & an appalling insult to the bereaved.