

Dear Board Member,

The Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham are carrying out research funded by the NIHR HS&DR programme to explore the relationship between Trust Board governance and patient safety in NHS Hospital Trusts.

Your organisation has provisionally agreed to participate as a case study in examining the types of governance activities undertaken by the Board with regard to ensuring safe care.

A key aspect of this research is to invite all board members (executive and non-executive) to participate in a semi-structured interview. The interview will ask board members about their experience of corporate governance but particularly the governance of patient safety. It aims to cover a variety of themes related to internal governance relationships and processes but also external governance requirements and demands. Ideally, these interviews will take place between April and June 2013. We envisage that they will last no longer than 45 minutes.

Taking part in the study is entirely voluntary and you are free to decline to participate or withdraw at any time. All information that is collected during the course of the study will be kept strictly confidential with individuals and the organisation remaining anonymous throughout.

If you would like to any further details about the interviews please contact me (XXXX) or my colleagues Dr Tim Freeman (XXXX) or Dr Ross Millar (XXXX) for further information.

We look forward to hearing you.

Yours faithfully

Russell Mannion