

Indian Workers Association (G.B.)

Hindustani Mazdoor Sabha Estd 1938

Coventry Branch

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7th October 2005

Mr Bob Ainsworth MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Ainsworth,

The Indian Workers Association asks why Dr Raj Mattu is still being prevented by the Chairman and Chief Executive of Coventry's NHS Trust from caring for our city's patients. Why does he remain suspended 4 years after he blew the whistle on the Trust Management's overcrowding practice that endangered patient safety and deaths.

The truth finally surfaced on BBC Midlands Today on 28th September 2005 - at least 11 deaths occurred of 5th patients squeezed into four bed bays. Although two were originally revealed by Dr Mattu on the BBC in September 2001, Bryan Stoten, Trust Chairman, has always denied evidence for any second death, losing his temper and banging tables at a Trust Board meeting in July 2003 when questioned about it. He demanded that Dr Peter Mulrooney produce the evidence of a second death if it existed. Dr Mulrooney twice provided this to Mr Stoten and resigned in disgust at the Management's response.

Trust Managers have now had to admit that documentary evidence for the second death always existed. Yet they blame the previous management for the problems. This is not good enough. Mr Stoten must be held responsible and account for his repeated denials and protracted concealment of the serious incident report of the second death, which continued long after the previous management had been removed.

Dr Mattu is clearly vindicated in raising his concerns, but his suspension that followed from his brave actions continues. We call for his immediate reinstatement so that he be allowed back to our Hospital to continue caring for Coventry's patients. We ask for an independent inquiry into this disgraceful matter, particularly the smear campaign against Dr Mattu and the colour prejudice.

Mr Mansworth, you have strongly supported Mr Stoten and the Walsgrave Trust management's suspension of Dr Mattu since 2002 and described their actions as good. In light of the exposure of the Trust concerning misleading claims, concealment of documents, deaths of many patients, and the announcement of cutbacks, ward closures and a freeze on jobs amongst other measures to rectify a £7.8 million overspend, what are you going to do to end the waste of money and NHS resource that is being spent by Trust Manager's in pursuing Dr Mattu and his suspension?

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dilbagh Singh Gill
Secretary, Indian Workers Association

CC: Coventry Evening Telegraph, Coventry Observer, Labour