

Coventry

29th September 2005

The Letters Editor
Coventry Evening Telegraph
Corporation Street
Coventry
CV1 1FP

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would be grateful if you would consider the following for your letters page:

On 28th September 2005 I watched the local news with alarm when multiple deaths of fifth patients at Walsgrave hospital were exposed relating to the managers at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust overcrowding wards by cramming 5 patients into bays designed for 4.

Dr Raj Mattu spoke out about this disgraceful practice in 2001, highlighting 2 deaths. He was suspended shortly afterwards. Both the previous and current Trust Management have denied receiving evidence of patient deaths following this practice. Yesterday they were forced to backtrack and admit that evidence of extra deaths existed, even though the current Chairman Mr Stoten has repeatedly been adamant that he has never had any evidence that more than one fifth patient had died.

Dr Mattu remains suspended after speaking out against this practice in the interests of patient safety for the people of Coventry. It is time that justice is done, and that the Trust managers responsible for this whole mess be held accountable for their waste of NHS resources in pursuing Dr Mattu for courageously blowing the whistle on these deaths. Dr Mattu should be reinstated immediately and allowed to get on with looking after the patients of Coventry and Warwickshire.

Yours faithfully,

Mr H Pannu