



**The report of the investigation
into matters relating to
Savile's association with the
ambulance services in Yorkshire**

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Contents	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
FOREWORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
1. INTRODUCTION	7
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	8
2.1 Terms of Reference	8
2.2 Limitation of the investigation	9
3. ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT	9
4. APPROACH TO THE INVESTIGATION	10
4.1 Governance	10
4.2 Communication and engagement with staff	11
4.2.1 YAS wide	11
4.2.2 West Yorkshire	11
4.2.3 Ambulance stations on the North Yorkshire coast	11
4.3 Archive evidence	12
4.4 Interviews with staff	12
5. FINDINGS – SAVILE’S ASSOCIATION WITH THE AMBULANCE SERVICES IN YORKSHIRE	13
5.1 Witness accounts and evidence	13
5.2 Basis of Savile’s association with the ambulance service	14
5.3 Witness perceptions	14
5.4 Access to ambulance stations and security	15
5.5 Access to patients	16
5.6 Access to staff	18
5.7 The benevolent society	18
5.8 WYMAS Awards Event in 1994	20
5.9 Visit to Leeds Central Ambulance Station in 2008	21
5.10 Archive findings	22
5.11 Policy and procedures	22

6.	CURRENT ASSURANCES	23
7.	GOVERNANCE	24
8.	CONCLUSIONS	24
9.	RECOMMENDATIONS AND LEARNING FROM THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED SAVILE REPORTS	25
	9.1 YAS internal review	25
	9.2 Next steps	25
	Appendix 1 - Initial letter to all Yorkshire Ambulance Service staff	26

Executive Summary

Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust was formed on 1 July 2006 following the merger of three former ambulance service trusts; those being the majority of Tees, East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service (TENYAS); South Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service (SYMAS) and West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service (WYMAS).

James Wilson Vincent Savile (“Savile”) was a Leeds born media personality. He was well known across the country, including the Yorkshire region, having been a regular celebrity on both television and radio. Savile was also renowned for being a charitable fundraiser and was knighted in 1990. Savile died in October 2011 and less than a year later, in October 2012, allegations of a sexual nature were made against him by numerous individuals. “Operation Yewtree” was established by the Metropolitan Police, to investigate the allegations made against Savile. As a result of those investigations we now know that Savile was a prolific sexual predator, paedophile and rapist.

In April 2013 NHS Trusts were invited by the Department of Health to disclose any known associations with Savile. In June 2014, a number of reports were published by healthcare organisations, some of which found that Savile had abused patients and staff within their premises. Following publication of the reports, in August 2014, the NHS Savile Legacy Unit (“SLU”), authorised by the Department of Health, wrote to Yorkshire Ambulance Service in the light of associations disclosed to the Department of Health in response to the April 2013 request. YAS was subsequently asked to undertake an investigation to understand the association Savile had had with the ambulance services in Yorkshire. It was known that Savile sometimes visited Leeds Central Ambulance Station, and did have access to staff and patients as he accompanied staff during their shifts and went out on ambulance vehicles between 1974 and the mid-1980’s.

An investigation was completed under the direction of Steve Page, Executive Director for Standards and Compliance at YAS. Terms of reference were approved which focussed the investigation to identify and examine, as far as possible, the association and relationship Savile had with the ambulance services in Yorkshire between 1975 and 1995, specifically in relation to the former West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service (WYMAS).

The investigation made direct communication with all existing staff, sought retired staff where appropriate, conducted interviews and searched archived documents.

Seventeen witnesses were interviewed, including both existing and retired staff, from a range of roles. These included front line ambulance staff to former Chief Officers.

The investigation found that that Savile did have an association with WYMAS and this was established through his friendship with a former ambulance man, now deceased. Savile made a number of visits to Leeds Central Ambulance Station between 1974 and 1984, and during the same period of time, he occasionally accompanied ambulance staff in their vehicles, as an observer when staff responded to emergency calls. Witnesses confirmed that Savile was never left

unaccompanied with patients and his presence did not obstruct the provision of care. We have found no evidence regarding the authorisation or governance of these visits.

We found Savile was also connected to the National Ambulance Service Society ("NASS") which is no longer in operation. Savile attended the NASS Annual General Meetings (AGM) which were hosted by WYMAS and held in Garforth, Leeds. Savile attended award ceremonies and would speak to staff on such occasions.

We found that Savile was also asked to present awards on two further occasions after 1984; once in 1994 and again in 2008

There have been no allegations of any sexual abuse by Savile during his association with the ambulance services in Yorkshire from staff or the public. However, it was entirely inappropriate for Savile to have had such access to ambulance service staff and patients.

As part of this investigation, we undertook a review of relevant current policies and practice. The Trust Board at YAS is satisfied that the current policies in place are robust and that they have taken all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risk of this happening again in the future.

Foreword from the Chief Executive

The publication of the Yorkshire Ambulance Service report into matters relating to Savile describes the Trust investigation into the association Savile had with the ambulance service in Yorkshire between 1975 and 1995.

The investigation has found that Savile did have an association with the ambulance services, and did have contact with both staff and patients on his visits to Leeds Central ambulance station and during his presence on ambulances when staff responded to incidents.

It is deeply regrettable that this level of access was available to Savile, and we fully recognise the potential increased risk to patients and staff during this time.

On completion of our investigation, however, I am satisfied that we have found no evidence that Savile committed any acts of sexual abuse during his visits to the ambulance service.

The investigation focused on historical events and associations, most of which were with ambulance service organisations which no longer exist. It is important, however, that we learn the lessons of the past to ensure that they are not repeated in our current service. The ambulance service today is fundamentally different to that in operation during Savile's association and our governance is significantly more robust. Nevertheless, we have carefully considered the learning from our own and previously published reports into Savile, and have reviewed our policies and procedures in the light of this learning.

I am confident that the Trust has completed a rigorous investigation drawing on all information available to us at this time. I am also assured that the governance arrangements, safeguarding practices and internal security arrangements ensure that such an association could not happen in the Yorkshire Ambulance Service today.

Rod Barnes

Interim Chief Executive Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2014, 28 individual reports were published detailing the relationship Jimmy Savile had with a number of healthcare organisations. Those reports collectively described the extent to which Savile abused his presence and position in those organisations. This included accounts of verbal, physical and sexual abuse of both staff and patients over many years of unrestricted access to healthcare premises, personnel and patients. It is important to note that governance in the period covered by this report, (1975 to 1995), was significantly less robust than the governance requirements and arrangements in today's NHS.
- 1.2 It is now known that Savile was a prolific sexual predator, paedophile and rapist. He operated across the country, through his work at the BBC and his association with various NHS hospitals, including those in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Some of the abuse happened in and around the Leeds General Infirmary, from the 1960s through to 2009 (Proctor *et al*, 2014).
- 1.3 In April 2013, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust ("YAS") was invited by the Department of Health to disclose any association Savile had historically with the ambulance services in Yorkshire. Additionally, assurance was requested that all associated current policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding, volunteers and access afforded to visitors and celebrities were robust and in line with current regulatory and statutory requirements. YAS responded to this request describing the limited and largely anecdotal evidence available at the time, which was that Savile had occasional contact with staff members of West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service (WYMAS), a predecessor organisation, particularly between 1979 and 1984. During this period Savile was the President of the National Ambulance Service Society ("NASS") and, occasionally would act as an observer on ambulances, working out of Leeds Central Ambulance Station.
- 1.4 As a result of early enquiries with staff, it became evident that on occasion, Savile had contact with ambulance service personnel specifically in the Leeds area. This involved Savile visiting Leeds Central ambulance station between 1975 and 1995. These visits also led to Savile accompanying ambulance service staff on vehicles when they responded to patients. This, with hindsight afforded Savile the opportunity to offend, given the governance arrangements at that time. Savile had a friendship with a member of WYMAS staff (now deceased) which, it is now understood to be the basis for his association with the ambulance service. This friendship also gave him the connection to the National Ambulance Service Society (NASS). Staff also recounted that Savile was sometimes sighted at the Leeds General Infirmary (LGI), within the Emergency Department and other areas of the hospital.
- 1.5 This information was disclosed to The Department of Health in August 2013, and YAS was subsequently contacted by the NHS Savile Legacy Unit ("SLU") in August 2014.
- 1.6 The SLU was established in July 2014 as an independent national unit to provide guidance to any new NHS investigations into matters relating to Jimmy Savile, and to quality assure the investigation and any written reports of this work.

- 1.7 This report presents the findings of an investigation which has been conducted, with direction from the SLU. The aim of the investigation was to determine the extent of Savile's association with the ambulance service in Yorkshire. The terms of reference for this investigation are set out in section 2.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 2.1
1. Report on awareness raising activity which encourages any staff within the Trust to come forward and contribute to the investigation in confidence;
 2. Develop a process through which all relevant evidence from YAS employees will be heard and reviewed;
 3. Provide support mechanisms for any staff affected by Savile's actions during his period of contact with the ambulance service in Yorkshire through the YAS staff welfare processes and in liaison with the Savile Legacy Unit;
 4. Identify and examine, as far as possible, the association and relationship Savile had with the former ambulance services in Yorkshire, specifically West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service (WYMAS), including the extent of both formal and informal contact;
 5. Consider whether Savile was awarded any special access or privileges which resulted from his celebrity status;
 6. Review the relevant policies, procedures and practices throughout the time of Savile's association with YAS and its predecessor bodies. This will include safeguarding, access to patients, and fundraising;
 7. Review existing current policies, procedures and practices to ensure patients and staff are safeguarded. This will include reference to and learning from the published reports on matters relating to Savile. It will also include the Terms of Reference for the Charitable Funds Committee and the status of celebrities in relation to access to patients during fundraising activity;
 8. Review past and current complaints and incidents concerning Savile's behaviour with YAS or its predecessor organisations;
 9. Identify any available corporate communications which publicised any association Savile had with YAS;
 10. Manage any current or identified safeguarding issues/risks through safeguarding mechanisms;
 11. Report any potential criminal activity relating to living persons other than Savile to the police;
 12. Identify recommendations for further action; and
 13. To report on the above to the Trust Board and general public through the Trust's website.

2.2 Limitations of the investigation

It was recognised at the outset of the investigation that there would be challenges in relation to:

1. Availability of documents going back over decades to the 1970s, including staff and patient records and also records of meetings in which Savile was present.
2. Significant cultural and behavioural differences in relation to governance, recording and reporting in today's healthcare. Governance, recording and reporting requirements have increased during the past decade and in current healthcare practice, there are more transparent governance arrangements in place to ensure best practice, policy documents and guidelines have been followed. In the time period in which Savile was associated with the ambulance services in Yorkshire these requirements were less robust and transparent.
3. The availability of people who may be able to contribute to the investigation. Staff who remained employed by YAS were readily available to contribute to the investigation. Retired staff or staff who have left YAS would be more challenging to contact; however, YAS endeavoured to trace and contact as many potential witnesses as possible through the Human Resources department and also the Pensions Agency.

3. ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 YAS was established in July 2006 when the county's three former ambulance services merged.
- 3.2 This included West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service (WYMAS), South Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service (SYMAS) and the majority of Tees, East and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (TENYAS). YAS is one of the successor organisations to WYMAS and inherited some of its roles and responsibilities. Other functions have passed to other bodies including the Secretary of State.
- 3.3 YAS's main roles include:
 - Managing 999 calls in our virtual emergency operations centre, based on two sites in Wakefield and York
 - Providing an emergency response to 999 calls to meet patients' needs
 - Transporting patients to and from their hospital appointments with our non-emergency Patient Transport Service
 - Providing the region's NHS 111 urgent medical help and advice line.
- 3.4 YAS is led by a Trust Board which meets in public every two months and comprises a non-executive chairman, five non-executive directors, a non-executive director (designate), a Chief Executive and five executive directors (four voting and one non-voting).

- 3.5 We are the only NHS trust that covers the whole of Yorkshire and the Humber and we work closely with our health and social care partners including hospitals, health trusts, primary care services, commissioners and other emergency services.
- 3.6 Since the Trust's formation in 2006, we have demonstrated a strong track record of improving patient services through the adoption and implementation of innovative clinical practices, equipment and technology.
- 3.7 YAS serves a population of more than five million people across very diverse areas, from the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and the major cities of Bradford, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield and York to the busy East Coast tourist resorts which create seasonal demands upon our services. The catchment area for our NHS 111 service also includes North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Bassetlaw.
- 3.8 We employ 4,679 staff, who together with 1,055 volunteers enables us to provide a vital 24-hour emergency and healthcare service. The largest proportion of staff, over 62%, are employed in operational patient-facing roles including Accident and Emergency, Patient Transport Service, NHS 111, Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), Yorkshire Air Ambulance paramedics, Emergency Operations Centre, Resilience and Special Services, Private and Events, Resource and the Embrace paediatric and neonatal transport service

4. APPROACH TO THE INVESTIGATION

4.1 Governance

- 4.1.1 The Executive Director of Standards and Compliance, Steve Page, was the executive lead for the investigation, with the management of the investigation process led by the Associate Director of Quality and Nursing, Karen Warner. Guidance and support was provided by the SLU.
- 4.1.2 The purpose and nature of the investigation, including the terms of reference, were reported to the Trust Quality Committee in September 2014, and the final draft report was presented confidentially to the Trust Board in December 2014 for review prior to submission to the SLU.
- 4.1.3 We were supported in this investigation by Capsticks Solicitors LLP, who provided legal advice and assurance.
- 4.1.4 The investigation was not initiated as a result of any allegations of sexual abuse by Savile during the time period he was associated with the ambulance services in Yorkshire, but with regard to the risk of abuse because of his access to the organisation during the 1970s-1990s. Therefore the investigation sought to identify witnesses, review available archive evidence and target an appeal to existing staff to come forward with information.
- 4.1.5 The investigation consisted of 3 key elements:
- Direct communication with Trust employees
 - Review of available archive evidence

- Targeted interviews with key current and former staff.

Sections 4.2 – 4.4 below outline these processes in greater detail.

4.2 Communication and engagement with staff

4.2.1 YAS wide

4.2.1.1 The “Staff Notice” is a regular communication, sent by email, which is used to communicate key messages to all YAS staff. This was used as a vehicle, to share the information regarding the investigation. It was accompanied by a letter to all staff from the Executive Director of Standards and Compliance. The letter also invited any staff who felt they had any relevant information relating to Savile’s contact with WYMAS or YAS to come forward in confidence. A copy of the letter is attached as Appendix 1.

4.2.1.2 The information was also reinforced and distributed via the regular weekly staff bulletin “Operational Update”. This bulletin is again shared electronically with every member of staff, to individual email accounts.

4.2.1.3 Both of these communications were initially distributed to all staff in August 2014, and repeated in September. The email communications were supported by management briefings to ensure that the messages could be reinforced in local meetings and other communication.

4.2.2 West Yorkshire

There is a proportion of staff within YAS, who previously worked for WYMAS who had some awareness of the visits Savile made to Leeds Central Ambulance Station. This anecdotal information provided the investigation with a basis for the initial interviews, which subsequently identified timeframes and additional witnesses. In addition, supplementary communication was sent to current YAS staff in West Yorkshire. With the exception of a single visit in 2008, all Savile’s recorded contacts with the ambulance service were between 1975 and 1995; therefore the investigation focussed on the period 1975-1995. The Trust Human Resources team identified those staff who had been employed by YAS between 1975 and 1995 and were still in post. These 57 staff each received an additional letter to their home address inviting them to come forward with any information which they felt may benefit the investigation. Two members of staff came forward with information following the communications.

4.2.3 Ambulance stations on the North Yorkshire coast

4.2.3.1 Media coverage following Savile’s death, highlighted that Savile had a residence on the North Yorkshire coast, therefore the approach which was taken with West Yorkshire staff, was also taken with staff employed between 1975 and 1995 and still in post, who were based at ambulance stations on the North Yorkshire coast.

4.2.3.2 Care was taken in all communication with staff to reassure anyone wishing to come forward that their information would be handled sensitively and confidentially.

4.3 Archive evidence

4.3.1 YAS has some archive material, specifically historical documents which are legally required to be stored securely, for example Board minutes, in secure accommodation; however the amount of archive evidence dating back to the period 1975 – 1995 was limited. The reasons for this were that the archived material was in relation to an organisation which no longer existed, and also that the requirement to retain and store records was not as stringent as in today's practice. There is now clear national guidance and information governance is regulated to ensure more robust management processes.

4.3.2 A search was conducted of the whole of the archive databases for any material or records initially covering the period 1975 – 1995, relating particularly to WYMAS. At that time, the governance requirements for record keeping, maintaining records for meetings held and storage of such records was limited compared to today's information governance requirements.

4.3.3 Archived boxes with any of the following key words on the label were searched:

- WYMAS
- Savile
- Leeds Central Ambulance Station
- Benevolent Society / Fund
- Policy documents 1975 – 1995
- Presentation events 1975 – 1995
- Annual reports 1975 – 1995
- Complaints records 1975 – 1995

In addition any records relating to organisational history were sought.

4.3.4 A total of 200 boxes of archived material were identified and examined. 16 boxes were unavailable due to them being previously destroyed as part of the scheduled destructions. These destroyed boxes contained Patient Transport Service records, signing in books and accident reports for the Leeds area.

4.4 Interviews with staff

4.4.1 We interviewed a total of seventeen witnesses. This included two witnesses who came forward as a result of the corporate communications and fifteen who were identified through archive material or reference by other witnesses.

4.4.2 The witnesses were a combination of existing and retired staff. Prior to the 1992 formation of the NHS ambulance trusts, the management ("rank") system was structured differently to how it is today. Two witnesses held Chief Executive status and another two were designated as Assistant Chief Officers during their service with WYMAS. Prior to the changes in 1992, there were four assistant chief officers under one chief officer who together made up the senior management team. Amongst those interviewed were an Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer of WYMAS 1980 – 1988; an Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer of WYMAS 1981 – 1983; the former Chief Executive of WYMAS 1989 – 2004 and the former Chief Executive of Yorkshire Ambulance Service 2008 – 2010.

- 4.4.3 The NHS Pensions Agency was used to trace witnesses who were identified as retired. We successfully traced all those we had identified.
- 4.4.4 Interviews involved open questions allowing witnesses to talk freely about their experiences and awareness of Savile's association with the ambulance services in Yorkshire. However, the interviewers were able to draw upon a list of pre-determined questions, which allowed them to challenge and question witnesses specifically around authority and permissions for Savile to be on YAS premises and to enable us to understand the systems and processes in place at the time.
- 4.4.5 All interviews were recorded with consent, transcripts were produced and witnesses were asked to validate the transcript. All witnesses have validated the transcript of their interview.
- 4.4.6 As part of the terms of reference for this investigation, had we discovered evidence of any actual or potential criminal activity, we would have reported the same to the police. We did not identify any such matters. Neither did we identify any disciplinary matters. Whilst it was, with the benefit of hindsight, unacceptable to allow Savile into the ambulance stations and to accompany staff as an observer on the ambulances, this was always conducted in a supervised way. In the absence of any evidence which confirmed a clear policy or procedure for managing observers and celebrities, or a clear understanding of who was directly responsible for allowing such access, we found it was not reasonable to consider any disciplinary action against existing staff.

5. FINDINGS

SAVILE'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE AMBULANCE SERVICES IN YORKSHIRE

5.1 Witness accounts and evidence

- 5.1.1 During this investigation, we did not hear any accounts, from either current or former employees, or members of the public, of any abuse carried out by Savile. We found that Savile did have inappropriate and unacceptable levels of access to patients and staff, but there have been no specific allegations of abuse arising from Savile's involvement with the ambulance service in Yorkshire.
- 5.1.2 Two members of staff came forward following YAS's West Yorkshire communications between August 2014 and November 2014. None of the witnesses made any claims of inappropriate behaviour or abuse by Savile during his association with YAS or its predecessor organisations.

5.2 Basis of Savile's association with the ambulance service

- 5.2.1 Witnesses were consistent in their views that Savile had a close relationship with a former Ambulanceman who retired in the 1980's and is now deceased. Witnesses reported that Savile's friendship with the former Ambulanceman was the basis for his association with WYMAS, and particularly Leeds Central Ambulance Station and the Benevolent Society. Exact dates remain

unconfirmed despite extensive review of documents and interviews with relevant witnesses.

5.2.2 Witnesses believed that the friendship between Savile and the former Ambulanceman originated from their days working together in the mining industry. Witnesses consistently reported that it was the former Ambulanceman who would invite Savile to visit Leeds Central Ambulance Service.

5.2.3 Savile's friendship with the former Ambulanceman is also believed to be the basis for his connection to NASS.

5.3 Witness perceptions

5.3.1 The perceptions of those interviewed portrayed Savile as a person keenly interested in the ambulance service as he would join members of staff in the "mess room" when at Leeds Central ambulance station and would join in with their conversations. Some of the witnesses thought that Savile's interest might have originated because of the care provided to Savile's mother by the ambulance service historically.

5.3.2 Savile however was observed to be a man who behaved differently when female members of staff were present, one witness recalling: *'he told dirty stories with the men around, blue jokes, that kind of thing'* (Ambulanceman 2) and another witness remarking *'he would latch on to the ladies....stroking their hands'* (Paramedic 2). One witness remarked that Savile used to tell him stories about his celebrity life.

5.3.3 One witness reported that on one occasion he went to Savile's flat with the former Ambulanceman who was Savile's friend. The nature of the visit was described as being in relation to the NASS (National Ambulance Service Society, which is dealt with in detail in section 5.4.4). Whilst in Savile's flat, Savile picked up a portfolio and showed it to the witness, which contained photographs of a young woman in her underwear. The witness remarked that the photographs appeared to be of a professional nature. Savile then asked the witness and the former Ambulanceman how old they thought the young woman was in the photograph – to which the witness began to laugh and remarked that he did not know. Both the witness and the former Ambulanceman then gave ages of seventeen and eighteen respectively to which Savile then declared *"you're both lying – you both think she's younger than that"*. The witness remarked that he just laughed in response to which Savile responded with *"in actual fact, she's eighteen and that's her portfolio"* and explained that *'she was trying to get some work somewhere'* (Paramedic 2)

5.3.4 All of the witnesses said that there wasn't anything which Savile did or said that gave them cause for concern at the time and when the allegations against Savile were made public in 2012 a sense of shock was the most common reaction felt by the witnesses. Other witnesses remarked on his eccentric nature, that he was known to take women's hands and kiss the back of them, this was described by one witness as being one of his 'quirks' and part of his 'MO' [*modus operandum*] (Paramedic 2). Others have described Savile as being *'full of himself'* and *"You wouldn't get a look in – it was all to*

do with Jim. Jim was the organiser, Jim wanted things the way Jim wanted them". (Ambulanceman 2)

This was particularly in relation to photographs, Savile would arrange the line-up of individuals and would not permit any photographs to be taken unless he was content with the arrangements and had managed where people stood.

5.3.5 Witnesses interviewed described the access Savile had to the stations and the accessibility of ambulance stations in the absence of today's lockdown procedures. None of the witnesses explicitly said that Savile's presence had felt inappropriate at the time; however such access was clearly inappropriate by today's standards and would not be acceptable in the current ambulance service. There are now clear policies and procedures which are adhered to in the event of a celebrity or observer requesting to spend time on an ambulance.

5.4 Access to ambulance stations and security

5.4.1 There was a consistent view amongst the witnesses that Savile had access to Leeds Central Ambulance Station as a visitor, although very little information has emerged through the investigation as to how the visits were arranged or who authorised them. During some of these visits Savile would also accompany ambulance staff on vehicles whilst they responded to incidents. The investigation has identified responsible senior officers at the time for WYMAS and has traced and interviewed five of these

5.4.2 Witnesses believed Savile's visits were in the main, arranged on an ad hoc basis through Savile's friendship with the former Ambulanceman and there was no a distinct pattern to his visits. One witness remarked that they *'didn't get the impression that they were arranged, felt that [Savile] just turned up – but [the visits] weren't clandestine though'* (Paramedic 2). Witnesses reported that on occasions, twenty-four hours' notice was given that Savile was visiting but this was still not a clear arrangement, staff recalled being told that *'he'll come out tomorrow, if he's got the time'* (Paramedic 2). In regards to specific authorisation regarding Savile's attendance at the station, one witness believed that the Station Officer wasn't *'officially told'* (Paramedic 2). The role of Station Officer no longer exists but the duties involved being responsible for the station and the staff working within it.

5.4.3 Whilst at Leeds Central Ambulance Station, we heard that Savile would spend time with the staff in the control room and the "mess room". The majority of the witnesses described seeing him with other members of staff. A number of witnesses drew comparisons to the amount of staff that would be visible on the station compared to today. At the time of the visits there were a number of roles within the ambulance structure, for example, Station Officer, which were based on the station. These roles are not in the current ambulance structure and means that today there is less visibility of ambulance personnel on station. At the time of Savile's visits this means that there would be increased witnesses to these and he is unlikely to have been left alone on the station. Today there is increased security on stations and visitors do not have open access.

5.4.4 Witnesses said Savile used to arrive at Leeds Central Ambulance Station in different vehicles ranging from a minivan to sports cars, including a Ferrari

and a Lamborghini. Witnesses reported that in the main, he came alone, but was occasionally with another person, one witness thought they were 'brothers' as they looked alike (with white hair) but was understood to be a friend (Paramedic 3). The mini-van has been described as having a television and sliding door and sometimes referred to as a motorhome or campervan. When Savile was brought to the station with this other person, no one could be sure what this other person was doing when Savile went out observing on ambulances (see "Access to Patients", below). Witnesses have been quite clear that Savile was the only celebrity person who went out as an observer. Many of the witnesses could only suggest that Savile's associate either remained in the vehicle, whilst parked in the car park or sat in the mess room, awaiting Savile's return. The investigation has evidence that Savile spent time on ambulances during the period from 1974 to the mid-1980's however confirmation of exact dates has not been possible. There is no evidence that these visits continued after 1985, with the exception of the awards ceremony in 1994 detailed in section 5.5 and isolated visit in 2008 detailed in section 5.9.

5.5 Access to patients

- 5.5.1 During his visits to Leeds Central Ambulance Station between 1974 and 1984, Savile would occasionally accompany ambulance staff on vehicles when they responded to 999 calls. We heard this from a number of witnesses who were staff at the time. This clearly afforded Savile time with and access to patients. All the witnesses we interviewed were current or former ambulance personnel or chief officers. Some witnesses said Savile would sometimes spend a few hours with them or sometimes a full shift of 8 – 10 hours.
- 5.5.2 He spent time in the cab of the vehicle when responding to a 999 call, and also would be in the back of the ambulance with a patient who was being transferred to an emergency department. The witnesses interviewed confirmed that Savile only accompanied them on ambulances which were staffed by two members of staff, one to drive and one to remain with the patient in the back of the vehicle providing care. All witnesses reported that in their experience, Savile was not left alone with patients in the back of the vehicle. None of the witnesses reflected that Savile's presence was disruptive or unwelcome.
- 5.5.3 The process by which Savile was authorised to go on ambulances with WYMAS staff remains unclear despite talking to front line staff and chief officers from the time period. We were unable to establish whether or not there was any clear policy or procedure in place, covering the period 1979 to 1984, to govern either celebrity access to staff and patients or requests to accompany ambulance crews as an observer.
- 5.5.4 None of the witnesses recalled any further incidents of Savile acting in an observer role after 1984. .
- 5.5.5 In addition to his home in Leeds, Savile also had a residence in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. We have not found any evidence that Savile accessed staff or patients through contact with the North Yorkshire coastal ambulance stations.

- 5.5.6 Witnesses said that Savile accompanied staff on ambulances as they attended emergency and non-emergency calls. This enabled Savile to come into close proximity with patients at the scene of an emergency, whilst in the ambulance and until they were handed over at a hospital. Given the passage of time a number of the witnesses could not be certain about particular dates, however it is likely that this was between mid-1970's to the mid-1980's.
- 5.5.7 Taking a non-WYMAS employee out attending calls was not an unusual thing and a number of witnesses cited that it was commonplace for observers to accompany ambulance staff. These would often be nurses or trainee doctors from the emergency department of hospitals for them to experience pre hospital care. Some witnesses explained that this was in the main staff from St. James' University Hospital, a large hospital in the east of Leeds and a short distance from Leeds Central Ambulance Station. It would appear from witness testimonies that it was unusual for a celebrity to request to go out on ambulances and that Savile was the only one.
- 5.5.8 In total, six of the witnesses told us that they remember Savile coming out with them in the ambulance as an observer. However, none of the witnesses could be certain as to how this was arranged or authorised. The higher ranking officers of the senior management teams interviewed as part of the investigation all consistently said that they were not aware of Savile's visits.
- 5.5.9 One witness said that Savile's presence was sometimes useful when called to a scene of a fight or fracas; Savile's presence calmed the situation, as he was recognisable to patients and members of the public. Additionally, witnesses recalled that he was sometimes useful as an additional pair of hands, helping lift and move patients on occasions but *'didn't butt in and he would stay out of the way'* (Paramedic 2).
- 5.5.10 We heard a range of accounts from witnesses as to where Savile would sit in the ambulance. One recalled that observers would sit in the cab / front when responding on 'blue lights / sirens' for the experience. However, once the patient was in the ambulance, Savile would either continue in the front of the vehicle or he would be in the back with the patient and the member of staff.
- 5.5.11 Witnesses consistently reported that if a patient was very ill, Savile would always travel in the front but if the patient was conscious and able to talk, he would sometimes accompany the member of staff with the patient. Witnesses again consistently described that the patients appeared to enjoy this interaction with Savile, describing how he would appear to cheer patients up. Others recalled that Savile would remain in the cab at all times.
- 5.5.12 All witnesses interviewed confirmed that Savile was an observer on the ambulance and consistently reported that Savile would never be left alone with a patient. One witness explained that it wouldn't be possible for Savile to be left alone, as all ambulances at that time were staffed by two members of

staff, one to drive the other to provide care. Therefore a member of staff was with the patient at all times.

5.5.13 Although the risk of Savile being left alone with any patient at any point cannot be ruled out; witnesses consistently reported that Savile was not afforded any opportunity to be alone with any patients. We do however accept and acknowledge that, in other NHS organisations, Savile was able to abuse patients and staff, in the presence of others (Proctor *et al*, 2014). With the benefit of hindsight, we therefore accept that Savile's presence as an observer posed a significant risk to the safety of patients and staff.

5.5.14 The majority of witnesses remarked that they were not aware of a specific 'observer' policy in place around the mid-1970s to mid-1980s. One witness, who did not have any managerial responsibility, was asked if he objected to taking an observer and was informed that it was Savile only after he arrived on the station (Leeds Central Ambulance Station). Savile acted as an observer on an 'ad hoc' basis without clear organisation and communication. Witnesses consistently commented on the random ways in which Savile would arrive and be allocated to a particular crew.

5.5.15 Whilst none of the witnesses were able to explicitly state who authorised Savile's visits, one witness believed that authorisation was from the then Chief Ambulance Officer of West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service 1974 – 1986 (now deceased). Whilst witnesses reflected that permission should have been sought, none of them could offer any clarity on a visible process to do so at the time.

5.6 Access to staff

5.6.1 The evidence which emerged from the witness accounts suggested that Savile was a personal acquaintance of a former Ambulanceman (now deceased). This relationship appears to have allowed Savile access to staff through his visits to Leeds Central Ambulance Station, and also through his invited presence at presentations. A number of those interviewed also recalled seeing Savile within Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) when they transferred patients to the emergency department. The witnesses' understanding was that Savile was working as a volunteer porter. One witness described that a porter from the LGI had told him about an incident which he had witnessed within the hospital and the nature of this incident has been referred to the SLU and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust ("LTHT") investigation team for their attention.

5.6.2 None of those interviewed described any concerns of sexual abuse or harassment involving Savile, or of any incidents or concerns being reported to them, either during visits to Leeds Central Ambulance Station or at ambulance service presentation / social events.

5.7 The benevolent society

5.7.1 Throughout the interview stage, we heard about the existence of a benevolent society. This society raised money to provide payments to the families of

members of staff who died whilst in service. A number of different societies were referred to, some of these were described as being local organisations to Leeds Central Ambulance Station and others being for the benefit of all WYMAS staff. The witnesses identified that Savile had an acquaintance with a member of staff at Leeds Central Ambulance Station, who was an Ambulanceman (now deceased). Witnesses suggested that Savile was invited, in the main by the Ambulanceman to be President of what was initially described as a benevolent society. One member of staff believed that this friendship originated from the two men being work colleagues in a previous role outside the ambulance service.

- 5.7.2 We did not find any minutes or documents which might have established the frequency of these meetings but it is apparent that the former Ambulanceman's role as president of the benevolent society was the basis for Savile's relationship with WYMAS.
- 5.7.3 We approached the Charities Commission and asked if they could provide any information on any of the societies named by witnesses. The Charities Commission confirmed that they would not hold minutes for Charities that are registered with them but have searched archived documentation they held for ambulance charities in Yorkshire in the time period from 1975 to current. They confirmed that they would most likely only be able to locate governing documents rather than detail on membership and presidency. The Charities Commission, alongside the internal archive search, has not identified any additional information or confirmation on time periods, terms of reference or confirmation of those involved with either NASS, or any of the other societies named by witnesses.
- 5.7.4 Due to the passage of time, some witnesses were not certain of the distinctions between the different societies and there are some direct contradictions in witness evidence regarding this matter. The investigation did not find paperwork relating to any of the societies referred to by witnesses. For the sake of clarity, the society acting as a benevolent fund (providing widows / widowers of those who died whilst in active ambulance service with funds) shall be referred to as the National Ambulance Service Society ("NASS"). We believe that Savile served as the president of this society.
- 5.7.5 Witnesses described three societies, all spanning unconfirmed different periods of time:
- Leeds Central Ambulance Station Social Club
 - WYMAS Sports and Social Club
 - National Ambulance Service Society ("NASS")
- 5.7.6 NASS is the name which is now believed to have been the benevolent society, administered mainly by Savile's former Ambulanceman friend around 1972. (It has not been possible to clarify exact dates). The majority of witnesses said that Savile's involvement was limited to NASS and he was not connected to the WYMAS Sports and Social Club or the social club at Leeds Central Ambulance Station.
- 5.7.7 Witnesses believed that Savile was the president of the Leeds Central Ambulance Station Social Club, as Savile would bring down a cake and soft drinks for the crews around Christmas time. This witness said it was no secret

that Savile was the president of the social society at Leeds Central Ambulance Station and even remarked when the allegations came to light after Savile's death that he thought '*Christ Almighty – he was the president of the social club at Leeds!*' (Ambulanceman 3). This witness mentioned that meetings for the Leeds Central Ambulance Station Social Club were held at a local pub but Savile never attended any of these meetings.

- 5.7.8 Although there was some uncertainty amongst witness accounts as to the society with which Savile was involved, on the balance of probabilities, we consider it likely that Savile's involvement with any society was limited to NASS, which acted as a benevolent fund for its members. The witnesses said that NASS meetings were held in Garforth and hosted by WYMAS. It is outside the scope of this investigation to determine Savile's contact or association with other ambulance services outside of Yorkshire through his association with NASS.
- 5.7.9 One witness said that Savile did a lot of '*fundraising*' (Ambulanceman 1) for NASS and another witness said that Savile's friend who was a former Ambulanceman had secured Savile to be the president / chairman of NASS, that they believed the friendship with Savile was Savile's connection to NASS and that Savile would attend the NASS Annual General Meetings. Savile reportedly authorised NASS to 'put his name to it', and use his name on NASS letterheads, and if there was a public relations event, Savile would attend. One witness, talking about Savile's attendance at a public relations event, described Savile as being the '*chief meet-er and greet-er*' (Ambulanceman 2); another witness remarked, "*He was there as a personality – that's all it was*" (Paramedic 4)
- 5.7.10 After considering all witness evidence, it appears that, after Savile's former Ambulanceman friend ended his involvement with NASS, Savile's involvement also ended. It is not possible to confirm the exact date of this.

5.8 WYMAS Awards Event in 1994

- 5.8.1 Evidence regarding this event emerged from a search of both the local press and WYMAS communication press archives. There is evidence to indicate that WYMAS held award ceremonies, possibly annually. These ceremonies celebrated the bravery, courage and outstanding achievement of WYMAS staff. Local dignitaries and / or celebrities were sometimes invited to present the awards including cricketer Geoffrey Boycott, BBC Look North presenter Harry Gration and TV personality Carol Vorderman.
- 5.8.2 In 1994, Savile presented the awards at an event held at the then headquarters of WYMAS in Birkenshaw, near Bradford. It is understood that the awards ceremony was hosted by the former Chief Executive of WYMAS at the time. The former Chief Executive has been interviewed as part of the investigation.
- 5.8.3 The awards ceremony was reported in the WYMAS newsletter for staff members "*Insight*", and included photographs of Savile with some of the recipients of awards.
- 5.8.4 One witness, who had been an award winner, recalled the photographs being taken. The photographer was encouraging Savile to pick the witness up for

the photograph, but Savile refused, stating that it was a '*serious event*' and it '*wouldn't be appropriate*' (Paramedic 1). The witness described Savile as '*professional*' as he seemed to have respect for the occasion (Paramedic 1).

- 5.8.5 Another witness present at the event recalled that, when Savile was presenting the awards, he talked about his experience of the ambulance service and staff. Savile said that because the ambulance service had looked after his mother, referring to her as '*the Duchess*'; that he '*spent a long time looking after them*' (Ambulanceman 4)
- 5.8.6 This witness believed that at the end of the ceremony, the host presented Savile with his own award to thank him for his time; this award was described as a wooden plaque / shield with the WYMAS crest on it.

5.9 Visit to Leeds Central Ambulance Station in 2008

- 5.9.1 By 2008, WYMAS had been absorbed into YAS and WYMAS had ceased to exist. Leeds Central Ambulance Station however remains an operational ambulance station as part of YAS.
- 5.9.2 A number of witnesses recalled that Savile attended an event at Leeds Central Ambulance Station, believed to have taken place in 2008, to recognise members of staff who were leaving YAS. Witnesses reported that photographs were taken of the event by YAS Press Office and some were displayed at Leeds Central Ambulance Station.
- 5.9.3 This event was arranged by one of the witnesses interviewed, following a chance meeting with Savile at a traffic accident in Oakwood, Leeds (near Savile's residence) when Savile was travelling in a friend's vehicle. The witness described engaging in conversation with Savile and subsequently inviting Savile to Leeds Central Ambulance Station.
- 5.9.4 This witness explained that he then, at a later date, collected Savile from his residence in a marked vehicle, and brought him to Leeds Central Ambulance Station. Once at the station, Savile mixed and shared refreshments with the staff in the "mess room". Witnesses further described how Savile posed for photographs at various locations around the station.
- 5.9.5 One witness said they made a special trip to the station on that day, even though it was their 'rest day' (a day off within a rolling shift pattern), so he could meet Savile. He took his child with him and he asked Savile for a photograph with his child. Savile vehemently refused to do so, saying '*because there are already some things in the press*' and '*I've been accused before, it's been in the papers*' (Manager 2). The photograph was then taken, and Savile stood next to the witness and his child. Another witness built upon Savile's response and recalled his response was '*If anyone gets a picture of me with a child on my knee it will be in the papers and it won't look good*' (Ambulanceman 2)
- 5.9.6 The visit has been described as being '*informal*' and '*it felt like a station visit*' (Manager 1) and didn't appear to impede the day to day running of the station.
- 5.9.7 One witness remarked that the informal nature of the visit led them to believe that '*the Trust [YAS] may not have sanctioned it as such, that Savile was not in an official capacity*' (Manager 1). One witness who had management

responsibility was asked about Savile being collected in a liveried vehicle, and they responded that this was not usual; adding that they felt an exception may have been made for Savile given his experience with the ambulance station. This witness expanded and said that Savile had been at Leeds Central Ambulance Station before and '*knew the old staff*' and '*just seemed that he was always around the medical work – seemed a cheeky fella*' (Manager 2).

5.9.8 Although there is some contradiction in regards to where authorisation was sought or given none of those interviewed remarked that they had any cause for concern regarding Savile's visit to Leeds Central Ambulance Station in 2008.

5.10 Archive findings

5.10.1 This search identified two photographs of Savile, with WYMAS ambulance personnel, presenting prizes at an awards ceremony and also a Visitors book which contains Savile's signature. No other documents with information relevant to Savile's activities were found as a result of the search.

5.10.2 The current way in which policy and procedure documents are maintained, stored and archived has been in place since 2005. Prior to 2005, in the main, YAS and WYMAS policies were only available in hard copy. The archive search for policy or procedure documents dating from 1975 has not identified any policy documents relevant to this investigation. No documents regarding national approaches to ambulances and safety were found as a result of searches made.

5.10.3 However, there was some evidence which suggested an observer's policy may have existed from at least 1996. A number of forms which indicate permission was sought to act as an observer were found which date between 1996 through to the early 2000's. These have been signed by both a member of staff from the ambulance service and also a representative of the requesting organisation. In the main, these relate to educational establishments. In the absence of locating the actual policy document, it is not possible to confirm if the policy related only to healthcare students or included celebrity and other visitors.

5.10.4 We found nothing in the archive search which suggested an observer's policy existed prior to 1996.

5.11 Policy and procedures

5.11.1 The investigation has not identified any policy or procedure documents from the 1970's or 1980's in relation to celebrity or non-essential visitors observing care in the ambulances. Neither has it been possible to establish the existence of any consistent policy or practice governing the management of visitors covering the same period in time. It is noted however that given the passage of time that policies and procedural documents from this era regarding such policies may have been destroyed. Referring to the time period of 1979 to 1984, witnesses confirmed that they were not aware of any relevant policy or procedure for them to follow in relation to visitors or observers at the relevant time.

5.11.2 Some witnesses mentioned observers who accompanied ambulance staff having to wear fluorescent jackets (although Savile never reportedly wore one). We also heard about a requirement to complete 'observer sheets' (these were a process document detailing some specific details regarding individual observers), with a witness suggesting these sheets were in existence as late as 1994, but they also stated the sheets were not around in 1987. This would correspond with the evidence we found in our archive search, of such sheets dating from 1996 onwards. When asked about current day policies, the majority of witnesses said that there were now strict policies regarding observers and that prospective observers (and most people within the Trust) would now have to be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (formerly known as CRB checks) and the majority of requests of this nature would go through Trust headquarters. The former Chief Executive of Yorkshire Ambulance Service 2008 – 2010, explained that he brought in new procedures for 'refresher' CRB checks to be introduced for existing staff and the formation of a safeguarding unit. When asked if any checks or safeguards were put in place for Savile's visits, none of the witnesses could remember or clarify. A number of witnesses believed that it was a sign of the times stating, *"at the time, it was Jimmy Savile for god's sake! He could walk on water at the time and nobody would question it"* (Paramedic 4).

5.11.3 Witnesses were confident that celebrities would not have the access Savile had, that is, open access to ambulance stations and staff, and the opportunity to have time on ambulances with patients. This is because there is clear and rigorous application and understanding of security and safeguarding policy. The observer policy clearly lays out the process to follow to visit an ambulance station and describes the level of authority required.

6. CURRENT ASSURANCE

6.1 Witnesses described the strength of security today compared to the 1970s. Today, access to ambulance stations is via a secure swipe-card system with clearly defined and access permissions to different estate. This level of security was not in place when Savile was attending at Leeds Central Ambulance Station. Then, access for vehicles would be gained after the weight of a vehicle was applied to a pressure pad in front of the garage door – *'anyone could drive over the pads and get in'* (Ambulanceman 3). There were no security codes, and additionally a witness explained that often the garage doors would be left open to facilitate a faster exit. The exact date that more robust security policy came into force is now known however, robust policy and lockdown procedures have been in place for a number of years.

6.2 Despite the relatively low level of security during the 1970's and early 1980's, witnesses did describe how strangers would be challenged if they were seen on the station. The Station Manager or a "Leading Hand" (also referred to as a 'Leading Ambulance man', similar to the Clinical Supervisor role of today) would be based on the station permanently. One witness described how this presence offered reassurance on security issues at that time.

6.3 YAS now has robust policy regarding security for stations. Each station is subject to "lockdown" procedures and access is restricted. This is detailed in the Trust "Safety & Security policy" and staff are empowered and encouraged to challenge unexpected visitors or anyone without appropriate identification. Today, visitors would be unable to enter a station without pre-arrangement

and compliance to the Trust “Observer & Placement policy” which includes a clear understanding on the purpose of the visit and being accompanied by a YAS member of staff.

7 GOVERNANCE

- 7.1 Given the witness evidence, our investigation focused upon a time frame of 1979 to 1995. During this period of time and certainly in the 1970s and 1980s, the governance requirements for celebrity visitors, access, security and safeguarding were less understood and generally not visible in WYMAS. Governance knowledge and application has developed considerably in the health sector in the last 15 years, and today the ambulance sector is now accountable for maintaining a high standard of governance arrangements in line with other NHS Trusts. This is not out of step with the wider ambulance sector.
- 7.2 The current Board at YAS is assured and confident that security arrangements for stations and across the YAS estate are significantly stronger with clear policy documents and guidance for all staff. In addition the observer, safeguarding and volunteer policy have all been reviewed in light of the already published Savile reports. The volunteer policy has been reviewed and is now an overarching policy with associated procedures for specific service lines for the areas of the service where volunteers are part of the workforce, for example, Patient Transport Service.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 It is evident that Savile did have access to WYMAS staff and patients and YAS staff, through his connection to NASS and the former Ambulanceman who was his personal friend. This conclusion has been reached through witness evidence and the photographic evidence of Savile at WYMAS and NASS presentation events.
- 8.2 Savile visited Leeds Central Ambulance Station, on a number of occasions at least between 1979 and 1984, and also went out as an observer during the same timeframe. During these visits Savile had accompanied access to patients during his time spent with ambulance staff responding to 999 calls. There were then two additional visits identified, 1994 and 2008.
- 8.3 We received no reports from former patients, their relatives or from staff to suggest that Savile took advantage of his relationship with WYMAS and YAS as a means to abuse patients or staff. However, his access to patients and staff was inappropriate and, with the benefit of hindsight, placed both patients and staff at risk of abuse.
- 8.4 The governance arrangements in the period 1975-1995, particularly arrangements during the 1970s and 1980s, were inadequate, but consistent with other contemporaneous arrangements at the time across the NHS, and compare poorly to those in place today. Current policy and practice is significantly more robust and the YAS Trust Board is assured of the rigour of current safeguarding, volunteer and observer; and security policy.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS AND LEARNING FROM THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED SAVILE REPORTS

9.1 YAS internal review

9.1.1 The recommendations of the Savile reports and the internal YAS investigation have been subject to review and scrutiny by the Trust Quality Committee and Board.

9.1.2 The Trust is satisfied that its arrangements are robust in relation to the key areas of governance, including:

- Leadership, organisational values and executive accountability
- Safeguarding all patients
- Security and controls on physical access to healthcare premises
- Policy development and implementation
- Recruitment policy, practice and governance of volunteers
- Fundraising and celebrities

9.1.3 Whilst the Trust is confident that robust arrangements are in place, as a result of internal Trust reviews reported to the Trust Quality Committee and Trust Board, a small number of actions were highlighted through the investigation to further strengthen Trust arrangements. These relate specifically to strengthening the policy and procedure documents relating to volunteers and observers. Ongoing application of these policies and procedures in practice will be closely monitored by the Quality Committee.

10.2 Next steps

This report will be made available to the public via the Trust's website and nationally via the Department of Health, to provide assurance that an appropriate level of investigation has been undertaken in relation to Savile's activities in the former West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service.

END OF REPORT

29 January 2015

Appendix 1 – Initial letter to all Yorkshire Ambulance Service staff

Dear colleague,

Jimmy Savile

I am writing to seek your support for a Trust review of activities involving Jimmy Savile in relation to the ambulance service in Yorkshire.

You will be aware that towards the end of June there was significant media coverage relating to the publication of the findings and recommendations of the two independent investigations into Savile, at Leeds General Infirmary and Broadmoor Hospital. At the same time a number of other, smaller investigations undertaken by Trusts around the country were published. All of the reports are now publicly available and can be accessed via the Department of Health website.

Following these key publications, the Secretary of State for Health established a Department of Health Savile Legacy Unit to co-ordinate any outstanding or newly emerging NHS related allegations with regard to the activities of Savile, and to work with other NHS Trusts to complete and report on their own internal reviews of related issues.

As part of this process, the Trust is completing a review of any involvement of Savile in the organisations in existence before YAS in the years 1979-1984 and in particular the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service, where we are aware of regular contact.

To-date we are unaware of any allegations or concerns about sexual or any other form of abuse relating to Jimmy Savile, which are connected to the ambulance service. However, we are keen to ensure that no information is overlooked before we complete our final report for the Savile Legacy Unit and I am therefore writing as part of our review, to invite any member of staff with information that may be relevant to come forward.

If you feel that you have relevant information which relates to Savile's contacts with the service, and in particular if you have any concerns about his behaviour or that of individuals associated with him during these contacts, I would be grateful if you would share this with us in confidence between now and 15 September 2014 when we will be completing our review.

I have nominated Karen Warner, Associate Director of Quality and Nursing to lead the Trust review. If you wish to pass on any information, or raise a concern, please contact Karen by email at [REDACTED].

Your contact and any information you provide will be handled sensitively and in confidence, and Karen will be happy to discuss with you how best to handle this and to ensure that you are supported if you have any specific concerns about coming forward.

The activities of Jimmy Savile are a significant matter of individual distress and wider public concern and I look forward to your support with our own review into this difficult issue.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Page
Executive Director of Standards and Compliance