Independent investigation of **Hospital bullying claims**

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Suzanne Wylie. Picture: ROB CURRIE. (34498609)

AN independent investigation is set to be launched by the government's chief executive into 'serious allegations' of bullying and misconduct within the Health Department.

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certain clinical decisions and that the bullying 'left the healthcare workforce very demoralised and, in many cases, highly experienced doctors, nurses and other staff have left'.

The JEP can confirm that government chief executive Suzanne Wylie has written to the chair of the Medical Staffing Committee confirming she is aware of the contents of the anonymous letter and that she will be 'seeking an independent investigation into the allegations made within the letter to assure me, and the minister, of the facts'.

In the letter, leaked to this newspaper, Mrs Wylie said: 'These are very serious allegations and as professionals I would anticipate you would respect the right for all named within the letter to have a response. This means, your members should not be discussing this or sharing the contents or the anonymous letter beyond those it was copied to.

'I will report back to the minister once the findings have been presented to me.'

The JEP has requested to speak to Health Minister Karen Wilson but was told that no interview or comment would be provided on this matter while the allegations were being investigated internally.

The allegations come off the back of a damning report on clinical governance at the Hospital released in August which found that the Health Department lacked openness, transparency and internal and external accountability.

The report, written by Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor, who conducted 77 anonymous interviews with 53 people during seven visits to Jersey, also found that some groups of staff would reject any changes 'noisily and angrily' because they believe effective governance amounted to an 'unnecessary, interfering and bureaucratic' approach 'not required in Jersey' and said that the culture was 'highly problematic and exposing patients to unquantified risk and staff to poor behaviour'.

He also said that several interviewees had described clinical situations in which 'bullying, dismissive behaviours had occurred'.

Deputy Wilson accepted the 61 recommendations made by Professor Mascie-Taylor and committed to making radical changes at the Hospital.

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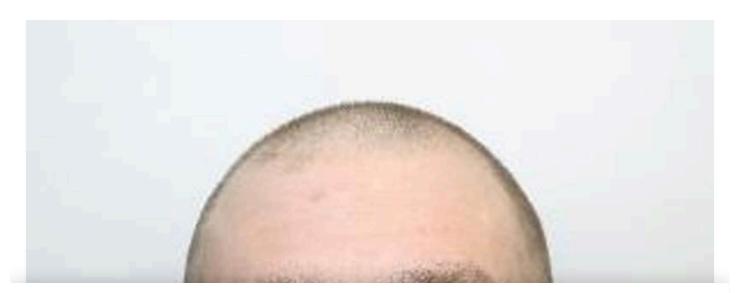
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