

Fife NHS Board

Hayfield House
Hayfield Road
Kirkcaldy
Fife KY2 5AH
Telephone: 01592 643355
Fax: 01592 648142
www.show.scot.nhs.uk

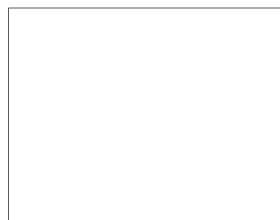


The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP



Date 7 June 2012
Your Ref
Our Ref JW/VM/letters/0607brown

Enquiries to
Extension
Direct Line
Fax No
Email



Dear Mr Brown

I refer to our conversations last year and earlier this year regarding the circumstances under which your son, Fraser's, medical condition became public knowledge. This was investigated at the time and I have more recently had a further opportunity to review this.

Any breach of confidentiality in the NHS is unacceptable. We now accept that it is highly likely that, sometime in 2006, a member of staff in NHS Fife spoke, without authorisation, about the medical condition of your son, Fraser. With the passage of time it has not been possible to identify all the circumstances but while we believe that there was no inappropriate access to the child's medical records, we are clear that conversations about patients are just as much a breach of confidentiality as looking into their medical records.

In the six years which have passed, NHS Fife has tightened up its procedures on patient confidentiality, and staff have had appropriate training.

I am sorry about what appears to have happened and apologise to you and your wife and family. I would assure you that all steps have been taken to ensure that this does not happen again.

Yours sincerely



John Wilson
Chief Executive



Chair Professor James McGoldrick
Chief Executive John Wilson
Fife NHS Board is the common name of Fife Health Board