

Keith Conradi  
Chief Investigator  
Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch  
*Sent via email: [enquiries@hsib.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hsib.org.uk)*

30 April 2020

Dear Keith

We are writing to you on behalf of the Association of Anaesthetists, Intensive Care Society, Faculty of Intensive Care and Royal College of Anaesthetists – the professional membership bodies representing collectively over 23000 anaesthetists and 3500 intensivists in the UK and Ireland – to ask that the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) launches a national investigation into the deaths of healthcare staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although anaesthetists and intensivists have been actively involved in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to date we are not aware on any deaths in these groups. This is an interesting point requiring further scrutiny but the corollary is the need to review the demographic spread of the healthcare workers who have died.

During the Health Select Committee oral evidence session on 17 April, in response to questioning from Committee Chair Jeremy Hunt, Matt Hancock stated that he believed HSIB were to be involved in the investigation of the deaths of clinical staff (Q382-Q384). We would like to seek confirmation from you that HSIB will be the organisation responsible for the independent investigation in this area and to ask for any details around the timing of the investigation that you may have at this stage.

Dominic Raab confirmed at Prime Minister's Questions on 22 April that the Government did not believe this was a time for a public inquiry but we believe that the investigations into these deaths is not something that should wait.

We understand that the delayed Healthcare Safety Investigations Bill has yet to pass through Parliament and that the legislation – when passed – may impact on how the organisation carries out investigations but believe that the investigation into the healthcare deaths related to COVID-19 needs to be carried out as soon as possible and should not be delayed while the legislation waits for its slot in the parliamentary schedule.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Copies of this letter have been shared with Secretary of State for Health and Care Matt Hancock and Chair of the Commons Health and Social Care Committee Jeremy Hunt.

Yours sincerely



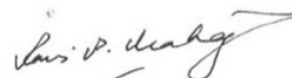
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Dr Ganesh Suntharalingam  
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