



BRITISH CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTION SOCIETY

President

Prof Adrian Banning
Department of Cardiology
John Radcliffe Hospital
Headington
Oxford
OX3 9DU

Honorary Secretary

Department of Cardiology
Leeds General Infirmary
Great George Street
Leeds
LS1 3EX

Treasurer

Manchester Heart Centre
Manchester Royal Infirmary
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9WL

Ms Rachel Galloway
H.M Assistant Coroner
H.M Coroner's Office
Manchester City Area
Exchange Floor
The Royal Exchange
Cross Street
Manchester, M2 7EF

12 December 2019

Dear Ms Galloway

Regulation 28 report (re: Stuart Clarke, deceased)

Thank you for contacting the British Cardiovascular Intervention Society (BCIS) about the outcome of this recent inquest. We note that the patient presented with symptoms of breathlessness in Feb 2018 and sadly died two days after a TAVI procedure in June 2019. We agree that this represents a clinically unacceptable delay (18 months) before the TAVI procedure was performed.

Transcatheter Aortic Valve Intervention (TAVI) is a transformative technology which is much less invasive than conventional open heart surgery. Large international clinical trials have shown that patient outcomes are better than conventional surgery for patients who are 'high risk' (Euroscore II >8%) or 'intermediate risk' (Euroscore II >4%) surgical candidates. As the evidence base increases it is likely that the use of TAVI internationally will grow.

Our professional society has published an updated service specification for TAVI this year (enclosed). In this document we outline the essential criteria for hospitals to provide a high quality TAVI service. These include detailed recommendations about training, hospital volumes, length of stay and national data collection. In particular we recommend a maximum waiting time of 18 weeks between initial referral and treatment and local audit of waiting times.

BCIS would support the Department of Health and NHS England in moves to ensure that there is adequate capacity for TAVI candidates to be seen, investigated and treated without undue delay. In addition, we will contact our members to ask them to review local referral pathways to expedite treatment and prevent delays.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Clesham". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Gerald Clesham
Chairman, Clinical Standards Group, British Cardiovascular Intervention Society