



Dear Chief Executive

I am writing to urge you to sign up our organisation to support the Nursing Times Speak Out Safely campaign, which aims to make it safe for NHS staff to raise concerns about patient care and safety. The campaign has been endorsed by health minister Dr Dan Poulter, who believes all NHS organisations should support it.

I want our organisation to support this campaign because I think it is vital that we create a culture in which staff will be supported if they speak up about genuine concerns, and patients need to know that you and the board will act on these concerns. Pledging support for Speak Out Safely enables healthcare providers to reassure both staff and patients by making a public commitment to creating this kind of culture.

In the wake of the Francis report, I believe our organisation has to sign up to Speak Out Safely and encourage everyone working here to speak out when they see poor practice or poor standards of care. It is the only way we can be sure our organisation will be one providing safe, high-quality care – and will not be the next Mid Staffs.

#### **Why sign up?**

If we sign up, our support will be acknowledged in the SOS section of the Nursing Times website ([www.nursingtimes.net/SOS](http://www.nursingtimes.net/SOS)), which has over 270,000 registered users, and publicised via social media to over 50,000 followers.

#### **What does signing up involve?**

If you do wish to sign up to the campaign Nursing Times asks you to take a few simple steps, such as displaying the SOS logo and pledge (or an abridged version) prominently on our website; ensuring our whistleblowing policy makes explicit that staff will be supported if they raise concerns and that all staff know where they can find the policy; making the policy publicly available rather than just on the trust intranet; and including a link to the SOS petition on our website: [tinyurl.com/NTSOS-petition](http://tinyurl.com/NTSOS-petition)

I do hope you will support Speak Out Safely. This is important to me as one of your staff. For information on how to sign up to the campaign please contact [fran.entwistle@emap.com](mailto:fran.entwistle@emap.com). To read more about the campaign visit [www.nursingtimes.net/SOS](http://www.nursingtimes.net/SOS)

Signed