



Role of the Nominated Lead Governor

Introduction

Foundation Trusts may choose whether or not to have a Lead Governor. Where the Foundation Trust elects to adopt the role, the Lead Governor should be selected by the Council of Governors. The purpose of the Lead Governor is to provide a conduit for direct communication between Monitor and the Council of Governors. Monitor does not anticipate regular contact between itself and the Council of Governors; however, in the limited number of circumstances in which it may not be appropriate to communicate through the normal channels of Trust Chair and Trust Secretary, Monitor will contact the Lead Governor.

The Role of the Nominated Lead Governor

The principle duty of the Lead Governor is to lead the Council of Governors where it is not considered appropriate for the Chair or another one of the Non-Executive Directors to do so and to provide a point of contact for Monitor in circumstances where it would not be appropriate for the Chair to contact Monitor, or Monitor to contact the Chair. These occasions are likely to be infrequent and may include:

1. Where there are concerns about the leadership of the Board of Directors which could potentially lead to Monitor using its formal powers to remove the Chair or Non-Executive Directors (NEDs). Given that the Council of Governors is responsible for appointing the Chair and NEDs Monitor is likely to wish to discuss such action with the Governors.
2. Where there is a real risk that the Foundation Trust may be in significant breach of its terms of authorisation. Should individual Governors wish to contact Monitor with such concerns Monitor expects this to be through the Lead Governor.
3. Where there is evidence that the process for the appointment of the Chair or other members of the Board; elections for Governors or other material decisions may not have complied with the Foundation Trust's Constitution or alternatively, whilst complying with the Trust's Constitution, may be inappropriate. Should the Chair, Trust Secretary or other members of the Board have been involved in the process by which these appointments or decisions have been made, a Lead Governor may provide a point of contact for Monitor.

In summary

The role of Lead Governor is to act as a point of contact between Monitor and the wider Council of Governors should a particular issue in respect of the Foundation Trust's governance arise. In the normal course of events contact between Monitor and the Lead Governor is unlikely to arise.

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