

Dear Mr Harrison

I hope you are well.

Thank you for reaching out on behalf of Mr Leighton. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify the concerns he has raised about our contact with the police.

In assessing the complaint, we carefully considered all the information provided to us. Mr Leighton informed us that he had reported his concerns to the police, therefore, we considered it necessary in this case to contact them to confirm whether they were investigating the matter. This was a key factor in determining our next steps, as any ongoing police investigation, charges, or findings could have had a bearing on our decision about whether to proceed further. This is not something we do in every case but rather a decision made on an individual basis, taking into account the specific circumstances of the complaint.

We do not require a complainant's permission before making such enquiries, nor are we obligated to notify them in advance. While we appreciate that Mr Leighton would have preferred to be consulted before we contacted the police, his views on this matter were not required. Even if he had objected, this would not have changed our approach, as we are obligated to carry out our regulatory remit independently. Our role is not to follow the direction of complainants but to take whatever steps we deem necessary to assess risks to patient safety and public confidence in the medical profession.

That said, our records show that Mr Leighton was aware that we had contacted the police. As per the attached email dated 03/01/2025, he was informed during the course of our consideration. Following this, we received further correspondence in which he acknowledged and expressed approval that we were looking into his concerns.

Ultimately, after reviewing all available information, including the evidence provided by Mr Leighton, we concluded that no further action was necessary. While we understand that he is dissatisfied with this outcome, our decision was made in line with our regulatory framework and responsibilities.

I hope this response clarifies our approach. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any further information.

Kind regards