



**Belfast Health and
Social Care Trust**
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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Ms. Christina McLaughlin
C/o Mr. Edward Conway

GRO-C
LONDONDERRY

GRO-C

Dear Ms McLaughlin,

I apologise for the delay in you receiving this response to your letter from 28th October 2021, due to the enormous pressures on the NHS at present.

I have been advised that you contacted the RVH Liver Unit Office and Corporate Communications to ask for a follow-up appointment for your brother, Mr Edward Conway with Dr McDougall. I also note that Mr Conway has requested that you should deal with all correspondence relating to his liver condition. Dr McDougall last wrote to Mr Conway on 14th October to answer questions that you had asked and to explain the appropriate plans for his follow up by a gastroenterologist in Altnagelvin Hospital, close to his home. Dr McDougall also emailed the gastroenterologist to make sure he would offer Mr Conway an appointment for scan and clinic review. Dr C Ferguson has agreed to take over further care of Mr Conway at Altnagelvin Hospital. It has been confirmed in several previous letters to your brother (21st June 2019, 26th September 2019 and 3rd January 2020) that he did not want to return to the Liver Unit Clinic in Belfast. Although I note that you state that Mr Conway now says that he would prefer to come to Belfast.

As Medical Director for the Belfast Trust, I am fully aware of the complaint that you sent to the GMC making allegations about the care Dr McDougall had provided for Mr Conway. The GMC concluded that the concerns that you had raised about the care provided by Dr McDougall did not raise questions about Dr McDougall's fitness to practice and the complaint was therefore closed with no further action. However, the complaint that you made to the GMC about Dr McDougall unfortunately demonstrated a clear breakdown in trust between doctor and patient (or patient's representative in your case) that makes it very difficult for Dr McDougall to continue to provide care for your brother. In such circumstances, the GMC accepts that a doctor is not required to continue to provide care as long as appropriate arrangements are made to continue care with another doctor.

*im not
his
patient*

Dr McDougall has therefore made safe and appropriate arrangements for Mr Conway to be followed up by a new consultant, Dr Ferguson at his local hospital as he does not currently require any treatment in the regional RVH Liver Unit.



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