Monica English Head of Clinical Governance

"We fully apologised to the patient and the patient's family for this unforeseen incident. At St Just we have a great safety track record and we are disappointed that the urology department has failed to live up to our exacting governance and safety standards.

We pride ourselves on being very safety conscious. We were one of the first hospitals to introduce the safer surgery checklist, and we have a 100% compliance with this in our theatres. Obviously in this case, the surgeon in question did not carry out the mandated checks and so a never event occurred. It would appear that the surgeon did not take part in the time out despite being required to do so, and this was why the wrong site surgery occurred.

We await the results of your investigation, and need to take steps to ensure that the surgeon in question causes no further patient safety incidents"