

Mr Gavin Brown
Consultant Urologist and Clinical Lead for Urology

“Obviously our first thoughts go out to the patient and his family in the face of this devastating medical error. We have reassured them that there will be a swift and thorough investigation followed by equally swift disciplinary action if required.

As urologists we are all acutely aware of the dangers of wrong site surgery, and that is why we have the surgical checklist. We know that the checklist prevents these kinds of errors. For some reason on that day Mr Black decided not to follow the standard protocol, and did not do the checklist.

We need to make the practice of surgery as safe as possible, and there is no place in today’s health service for someone who flouts mandatory rules and regulations. Mr Black seems to have exhibited a blatant disregard for these rules on that day, and his behaviour seems to amount to recklessness.

I don’t think we can continue to have him working in the department at present until a full investigation has been carried out and appropriate action taken.”