



SPAT Siddiq and Laing

## Pregnant MP slammed for getting snack

BY **BEN GLAZE**  
Political Correspondent

AN MP mum-to-be was allegedly told not to "play the pregnancy card" after leaving a Commons debate to eat.

Deputy Speaker Eleanor Laing is said to have torn into Tulip Siddiq, saying she "made women look bad".

Ms Siddiq, who is seven months pregnant, spoke in a debate on Tory benefit cuts then left to get a snack. Rules say an MP should stay to listen to the next speaker.

When the Labour MP for Hampstead and Kilburn returned, she apologised.

But a Commons witness said: "Madame Deputy Speaker was annoyed and said 'Don't play the pregnancy card with me'".

Ms Siddiq said: "It shows the conventions of the House are outdated for anyone, let alone pregnant women."

Mrs Laing did not respond to a request for comment.



OFF COURSE The missile

## Riddle of U.S. Hellfire being sent to Cuba

BY **CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN**  
US Editor

ONE of America's most sophisticated weapons has mistakenly been delivered to Cuba - and the communists won't give it back.

The air-to-ground Hellfire missile - of the type used to kill Jihadi John - did not have an explosive warhead or complete guidance system.

But Pentagon chiefs fear it could be "reverse-engineered" by Russian or Iranian experts to see how it works.

And they're worried the episode may be due to espionage rather than error.

The missile had been sent by its maker, Lockheed Martin, from the US to Spain for a Nato exercise. It was due to be flown back to Florida but instead went to Havana where it was seized.

The US has been trying to persuade the Cubans to return it for 18 months, it was revealed yesterday.

# NHS whistleblower tsar only working for 2 days a week

## And she's kept £174,000-a-year job at top hospital



**SPLIT ROLES**  
Dame Eileen keeps £174k main job



HONOUR Eileen is made a Dame by Wills last year



REUNITED Dame Eileen with 7/7 survivor Gill Hicks

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY **ANDREW GREGORY**  
Health Editor



**THE new NHS whistleblowing tsar will work part time, two days a week - and keep her £174,000 job at a busy hospital trust.**

Dame Eileen Sills was this week unveiled in the role dedicated to preventing another Mid Staffs scandal which cost up to 1,400 lives.

The job was a key demand by Sir Robert Francis, who led the inquiry into the deaths, to stop staff being bullied for reporting poor patient care.

But Dame Eileen will work just two days a week on this enormous challenge - while staying as Chief Nurse and Director of Patient Experience and Infection Control at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, which handles two million patients a year.

She also remains on the trust's board.

Health policy analyst and former NHS trust chairman Roy Lilley said the part-time approach was "an affront to anyone suffering merely because they wanted to tell the truth about where they work".

He added: "It waves two fingers at anyone reduced to tears by a thug of a boss, a shift from hell or has the misfortune to witness malpractice."

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said on

**“It waves two fingers at anyone reduced to tears by a boss”**  
ROY LILLEY HEALTH POLICY ANALYST

Thursday Dame Eileen would "inspire the NHS to go even further in improving how staff can raise concerns".

Dame Eileen will be based at the offices of NHS watchdog the Care Quality Commission. The only role she has stepped down from at the London trust is executive lead for Speaking Up Safely to prevent any conflict of interest.

The CQC will reimburse Guy's and St Thomas' £56,800 a year for their lost time. Her duties will include supporting whistleblower guardians in 155 trusts.

Julie Bailey, who helped expose the neglect at Mid Staffs, raised concerns that Dame Eileen, who has advised the Tories on dementia, was an "insider".

She added: "Someone independent who would challenge and expose NHS bullies was what I had in mind."

Dame Eileen has been a registered nurse for more than 30 years and helped treat victims of the 7/7 London terror attacks. She was made a Dame last year.

Guy's and St Thomas' said last night: "We have every confidence in Eileen's ability to balance the various demands of these two important roles."

Dame Eileen declined to comment.

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**VOICE OF THE MIRROR: PAGE 8**

## Hospitals shut their doors

HOSPITALS are turning patients away as soaring winter pressures leave A&E units at breaking point.

Eight hospitals declared the highest-level black alert - meaning they are unable to cope with the numbers - and two had to close their doors to patients.

Labour said 13 hospitals had told patients to stay away unless they had life-threatening illnesses.

Shadow Health Minister Justin

Madders said hospitals were "dangerously" full, while patients were waiting hours in A&E.

Unison's Dave Prentis said: "It is outrageous that vulnerable patients are being turned away when they urgently need medical attention."

NHS England's Prof Sir Bruce Keogh said: "As expected in the first week of January, pressures have emerged in some areas. These are being effectively managed locally."



OUTRAGE Prentis

## Doc strike on amid letter row

AS negotiations failed last night and a doctors' strike was confirmed for next Tuesday, pressure grew on David Cameron to order a probe into the alleged sexing up of a key letter.

NHS medical director Sir Bruce Keogh questioned whether staff would be ready to tackle a Paris-style terror attack if walk-outs went ahead.

But it emerged a Department of Health official had encouraged him to be "hard-edged" on the risk - and

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt had final approval of his text. The Lib Dems now want Cabinet Secretary Sir Jeremy Heywood to spearhead an inquiry.

Party health spokesman Norman Lamb said: "It is crucial to establish who had involvement."

The Department of Health said: "It was right that ministers insisted on Sir Bruce giving his independent view of capacity to respond in the event of a terrorist incident."

ADMISSION  
Star Maria  
Sharapova  
yesterday

How solar  
eclipse in  
the Far  
East will  
change  
your life

BY RUSSELL GRANT

EXCLUSIVE: PAGE 12

Sharapova:  
I've failed a  
drugs test

SEE SPORT



**EXCLUSIVE: HUNT HUMILIATED**

**BETRAYAL OF  
NHS SCANDAL  
VICTIMS**

BY ANDREW GREGORY

**JEREMY Hunt was humiliated last night after the new NHS whistleblower tsar quit weeks before she was due to start.**

Dame Eileen Sills was hired to help staff expose poor treatment after the Stafford Hospital scandal.

But she admitted she cannot do the part-time post and her main job. One Stafford relative said: "This major role should not be part time. It's an insult to whistleblowers."

FULL STORY: PAGE 5

Tsar hired to help whistleblowers quits before she even starts



BLUNDERS  
Mr Hunt



ACCUSED Matilde White

## Marco's wife 'kicked her son in groin'

BY JULIA CORBETT

THE estranged wife of Michelin chef Marco Pierre White repeatedly kicked her youngest son in the groin during a fight at his home, a court heard yesterday.

Matilde White, 51, also allegedly pulled the hair of Marco Pierre White junior, 20, before attacking her eldest son, Luciano, 22.

The jobless mum-of-three denied actual bodily harm, at Uxbridge magistrates court, West London.

Katrina Rennalls, prosecuting told the court: "It is alleged she assaulted both sons. She grabbed Marco [junior] by his hair and kicked him in the groin several times."

Mrs White claims self-defence after allegedly first being attacked by her sons in Chiswick, West London last September.

A trial was set at the same court for May 17.



PROJECT JK Rowling

## JK Rowling's magic touch for America

BY HELEN PYE

JK Rowling is weaving a new kind of wizardry around the magic of North America.

The Harry Potter author says she is writing about Native American skin-walkers – who reputedly can turn into any creature they want – and the North American wizarding school.

Other topics include the Salem witch trials and The Magical Congress of the United States of America, the US equivalent of Rowling's Ministry of Magic.

A trailer warns: "These aren't myths. The history of America is more amazing than you could imagine."

It comes ahead of the November launch of the film of Rowling's *Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them*, starring Eddie Redmayne.

The stories will be released in instalments every day from today until Friday on her website, *Pottermore*.

# HUNT HUMILIATED ... NHS BETRAYED



### IN CHARGE

Mr Hunt was criticised over role

SCANDAL Our story on new job

» Whistleblower tsar quits weeks before starting

» Fiasco blamed on blundering Health Secretary

NHS whistleblower tsar only working for 2 days a week  
And she's kept £174,000-a-year job at top hospital



### ROLE

Dame Eileen has resigned already

## EXCLUSIVE

BY ANDREW GREGORY Health Editor

**JEREMY Hunt was last night accused of betraying NHS whistleblowers after the tsar appointed to protect them quit before she even started.**

And key figures said the blundering Health Secretary put patient safety at risk by hiring nurse Dame Eileen Sills on a part-time basis instead of a full-time, independent chief as National Guardian.

She resigned after admitting she could not combine her £174,000-a-year job at one of Britain's busiest hospital trusts with her new two-day role encouraging staff to lift the lid on appalling treatment in the NHS without fear of recrimination.

Dame Eileen was appointed in the wake of the inquiry into 1,400 patient deaths at scandal-hit Stafford Hospital.

Julie Bailey, who helped expose the horrific neglect there following the death of her mother, said: "This shows that such an enormous position of great responsibility

should never have been allowed to be diluted to a part-time job. There is no way this is a part-time role and such a suggestion is an insult to whistleblowers."

Dr Minh Alexander, who was forced to quit after she exposed suicides and abuse at a mental health trust in Cambridgeshire, blamed Mr Hunt for the shambles. She said: "The Health Secretary bears responsibility.

"The design and establishment of the office has been flawed. Patients will suffer if the Government continues to insist upon flawed half-measures."

Former NHS trust chairman Roy Lilley said the decision to make the job part-time "says we are doing this but not taking it seriously". He added: "Given the tensions and worries that surround whistleblowing issues it was an affront to frontline staff.

The next person should come from outside the NHS and be given a full-time job.

"In a high-pressure, high-risk environment like the NHS it is essential staff are encouraged and feel free to speak up if they see something is not right." One senior NHS source called the decision to employ a part-time National Guardian a "horrendous joke".

Dame Eileen, who is Director of Patient Experience and Infection Control at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in South London, was due to officially begin her new job on April 1.

Mr Hunt had praised her January appointment, declaring that he was "confident" she would "inspire" staff to speak out about treatment.

But in a statement, Dame Eileen, a nurse for more than 30 years, said "increasing

challenges NHS providers face" meant she could not do "justice to both roles".

The creation of a National Guardian post was a key demand of Sir Robert Francis who led the Stafford inquiry. He warned patients were at risk of harm because vital information about mistakes and concerns was not routinely being raised by staff.

Mr Hunt eventually confirmed last July he would act on the recommendation but then palmed off the post to health regulator the Care Quality Commission.

Its chief executive David Behan said he was "disappointed" Dame Eileen quit. But he added: "I respect her honesty in making this difficult decision. A new appointment process will begin immediately."

Mr Hunt last night refused to comment. But a Department of Health source insisted the decision to appoint Dame Eileen on a part-time basis had been taken by the CQC and claimed the Health Secretary could not have intervened to make it full time.

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VOICE OF THE MIRROR: PAGE 12

## High price of speaking out

WHISTLEBLOWERS who exposed failings suffered as a result.

Dr Raj Mattu, a cardiologist at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, revealed how two patients had died in overcrowded bays where staff had difficulty reaching vital equipment.

Suspended for seven years after being accused of bullying, he was sacked in 2010 and won £1.22million

damages. Gary Walker, chief executive of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, voiced concerns that targets were a higher priority than safety. Fired, he had to sign a £500,000 gagging contract.

Dr Kim Holt, a paediatrician at St Ann's Clinic in Tottenham, North London, warned of safety risks. She faced bullying and had depression.



WARNINGS Raj Mattu

## Fear that keeps staff silent

NINE in 10 patient safety blunders go unreported because staff fear they will get the blame, studies showed.

They found the NHS system for reporting errors was not sensitive enough and needed an overhaul.

Whistleblowers and those involved in incidents lacked confidence they would be treated fairly, according to research led by

former health minister Lord Ara Darzi. It said: "Health organisations must prioritise quality and safety through positive reinforcement, not blame and punishment."

Patients were at increasing risk of harm, with older people suffering more complex illnesses, while budget cuts could drive up the number of errors, it said.



**TRAFFIC** Accident hit the flow on Interstate 15

## Plane prang kills woman

A LIGHT aircraft thought to have been trying an emergency landing on a road ploughed into a car, killing one of its passengers.

The Lancair IV hit the Nissan on Interstate 15, 57 miles north of San Diego in California.

Victim Antoinette Frances Isbelle, 38, was in the rear seat. Another woman and two men in the car were injured. Police said pilot Dennis Hogge, 62, suffered "life-threatening head trauma" and a probe is under way.



**VICTIM** Antoinette was in car

## Overworked sirs want out

EIGHT out of 10 teachers feel so overworked they are thinking of quitting, a survey reveals today.

Nine in 10 said the workload not only ruined home lives but was also driving away potential recruits, while one in four said they did not envisage teaching for more than two years.

Dr Mary Bousted, leader of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, which polled 900 members, said: "It's a vicious circle. Remaining teachers have unmanageable workloads, making more want to quit."

The DoE said it is "investing hundreds of millions in recruitment".

## Airport boost for Brussels

BRUSSELS Airport reopened yesterday, 12 days after the Islamic State bombing that destroyed its departure hall and killed 16 people.

Only three flights were scheduled and passengers were fed through a temporary marquee housing security and check-in facilities.

The first plane left for Faro, Portugal, at 11:40am.

Flights had been re-routed to Belgium's regional airports or to Amsterdam and Paris.

More services will be added from today but the airport will not be fully operational until July.

A metro station was also hit in the attacks last month which killed 32 in all.



**WRECKAGE** Investigators at smash north of San Diego



**EXIT** Deputy David Bell

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY ANDREW GREGORY  
Health Editor

**HEALTH secretary Jeremy Hunt's plan to protect medics who expose patient safety fears is in disarray.**

David Bell, the UK's deputy NHS whistleblowing tsar, has left the role after less than six weeks to return to his old job. His departure follows the resignation last month of his boss Dame Eileen Sills.

Campaigners say the latest exit is a sign the new Office of the National Guardian, due to open last Friday, is in "crisis" and means patients "will suffer".

It was to be a centrepiece of Mr Hunt's pledge to protect whistleblowers following the Stafford Hospital scandal.

Dr Minh Alexander, who was forced to quit after she exposed suicides and abuse at a



**NHS whistleblower tsar only working for 2 days a week**

**RESIGNED** Dame Eileen quit after the Daily Mirror report

# Second NHS whistleblow tsar departs

### Plan to reveal patient safety fears is failing

mental health trust in Cambridge-shire, said of Mr Bell's departure: "This shows the Office of the National Guardian is in crisis.

I'm not surprised, the design of the office has been flawed. What is needed is a truly independent body. "It is patients who will suffer if the Government continues to insist upon flawed half measures."

The national office and a network of local Guardians based in every NHS trust were key demands of Sir Robert Francis's review in February 2015 into NHS whistleblowing.

The Care Quality Commission, the health watchdog involved in

setting up the national office, declined to say if Mr Bell had quit or been pushed to return to his job at the NHS South East Commissioning Support Unit.

Dame Eileen quit in March, nine weeks after the Daily Mirror exposed how she would work only two days a week and would keep her £174,000-a-year job as chief nurse at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London.

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## DEADLINE?

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