

Anger at award for exposé of NHS scandal

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The woman who helped to expose the scandal at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust has faced abuse from some residents of Stafford after she was appointed CBE in the New Year's Honours list.

Julie Bailey was praised by Jeremy Hunt, the Health Secretary, who said that her courage in standing up to managers at Stafford Hospital had made the NHS safer.

However, campaigners fighting a downgrade of the hospital claimed that the honour was an insult, with many abusing Ms Bailey on Twitter. @HannahA1995 tweeted: "Julie Bailey gets a CBE for shutting down services at Stafford hospital meaning ill patients have to travel further. well f***ing done. If I were Julie Bailey I'd never step foot anywhere near the hospital again, I reckon someone would kill her lol."

Ms Bailey began campaigning against poor standards at the hospital after her mother, Bella, died there in 2007. Her efforts resulted in a public inquiry which found that appalling care had been allowed to continue by failings at every level of the NHS.

Ms Bailey told in the summer how she had been forced to leave Stafford because of a local campaign against her.

Yesterday she said: "I am deeply honoured to receive this award as an important acknowledgement of our struggle for a better NHS."