

# Doctor's ban 'threatens culture of openness'

By Camilla Turner

HUNDREDS of doctors have signed a letter to express their "deep-seated concerns" about the striking of a fellow professional from the medical register after her mistakes cost the life of a six-year-old in 2011.

Dr Hadiza Bawa-Garba was found guilty of gross negligence manslaughter in 2015 and sentenced to two years in prison suspended for two years.

The Medical Practitioners Tribunal imposed a sanction of only 12 months' suspension, but this was quashed by the High Court last week, which ruled that she should be struck off the register.

The letter, signed by over 1,500 doctors, says that the "potentially preventable" death of Jack Adcock is "heart-rending", adding that their sympathies go to his family.

It says that all doctors are "committed to understanding what happened and to righting the wrongs that so failed their son that day".

The letter went on: "Nonetheless, as fellow doctors we have deep-seated concerns about the implications that follow from Dr Bawa-Garba's manslaughter conviction and striking from the medical register."

The ruling threatens the "culture of openness" which is critical to learning from medical error, they said, adding that it will frighten doctors away from "honest self-appraisal".

Jack, from Glen Parva, Leicestershire, who had Down's syndrome and a known heart condition, died at Leicester Royal Infirmary in 2011 after he developed sepsis.

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