

Hospital 'cover-up' after two killed by psychotic patient

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A hospital has been accused of covering up an incident in which two patients died shortly after they were attacked by a third whose anti-psychotic medication had been stopped by medical staff.

A report into the attack on a medical ward at St James's University Hospital in Leeds in 2015 was not published but has been leaked to the *Health Service Journal (HSJ)*.

NHS England is investigating the incident in which Harry Bosomworth, 70, who had been treated for paranoid schizophrenia since 1980, beat Ken Godward, 76 and Roger Lamb, 79, with a walking stick. Both died days later. More than three years after the attack there have been no inquests.

Medical staff had needed help from security to sedate Mr Bosomworth in the early hours, the report said, after he was aggressive and abusive, including kicking and punching those trying to treat him. Clinicians had stopped his antipsychotic medication, olanzapine, despite warnings from his family.

After the attack, Bosomworth was sectioned under the Mental Health Act. He died from oesophageal cancer, for which he had been admitted to the ward, four months later.

The report did not identify "a single

root cause" for the incident, but found contributing factors, including not listening properly to Mr Bosomworth's family. It also said that medical staff did not know how to deal with mentally ill patients. However, it said it was not predictable that Bosomworth's paranoid schizophrenia would have resulted in an assault on fellow patients.

Andrew Dixon, Mr Godward's stepson, told the *HSJ*: "The report was basically about Harry — Ken and Roger were just initials. The trust is trying to forget about this. I think they are hoping this doesn't get out."

The report lists more than 40 incidents of violent behaviour on the ward. from April 2014 to March 2015.

Yvette Oade, chief medical officer at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "I would like to reiterate my sincere apologies to all the families involved in this tragic incident. We understand that this has been an extremely difficult and upsetting time for everyone involved and we are sorry that we let these patients down. At all stages of the investigations... the trust has been open and co-operative, sharing information with partners and the families involved."

In 2015 West Yorkshire police found no criminal culpability by the hospital and passed a file to the coroner.