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Media Statement

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Inquest into the death of Kathleen Haines

Our staff were extremely sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Haines, and appreciate that she, along with her family, went through a very distressing experience when a fire broke out in the Intensive Care Unit in November 2011.

This was understandably also a deeply upsetting incident for our staff, who bravely tackled the fire and removed Mrs Haines from her bed as quickly as possible, preventing her injuries from being more severe, and starting immediate treatment for her burns. They also evacuated other patients from the department extremely quickly.

The inquest heard that the Health and Safety Executive had investigated the incident and said that a fire started in the valve part of an oxygen cylinder before spreading to the bed space. Since the incident we have implemented a range of extra safety precautions, such as storing cylinders in brackets at the end of beds, and carrying out daily checks on them to ensure they are all turned off when in storage.

We have implemented these measures not just in our Intensive Care Unit, but across the hospital, and have shared our learning from the fire nationally.

Ends