

Medical chief 'should quit over training shambles'

By Nic Fleming
Medical Correspondent

SENIOR doctors will tomorrow call for the resignation of Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), over the "shambolic" introduction of changes to junior doctor training.

Patricia Hewitt, the Health Secretary, has already apologised over security breaches and other flaws in the online recruitment system called Medical Training Application Service (MTAS). However, many doctors blame Sir Liam for wider concerns they have over Modernising Medical Careers – the new scheme for postgraduate medical training up to consultant level.

A motion to be debated at the British Medical Association's consultants' conference tomorrow states: "This conference has no confidence in a CMO that will not listen to the voice of his own profession and calls for his immediate resignation."

A spokesman for the BMA said: "From what I have seen so far I would say it is likely that it will be passed. People are so angry about the whole shambles. We have had the apology from the Secretary of State and there has been a reorganisation of the MMC team, but there is a feeling that people further up should fall." Some 30,000 junior doctors are chasing around 23,000 posts because applicants who have come through two years of training under MMC are competing for the same jobs as those who started training under the old system three or four years ago.

An editorial published in *The Lancet* in March said the new MMC scheme and the EU Working Time directive preventing junior doctors from working more than 48 hours per week would reduce the training time before surgeons became consultants from 30,000 hours to 6,000.

Prof Alan Crockard, who helped set up MMC, resigned. In his resignation letter he said: "From my point of view this project has lacked clear leadership from the top for a very long time."



Ben Morphey faces up to 10 years in jail over the car crash deaths of sisters Jennifer and Claire Stoddart. They were returning home from a Red Hot Chili Peppers' concert



Father's heart-rending blog of life after drink driver killed his daughters

By Nick Britten

A FATHER'S emotional blog on *The Daily Telegraph's* website has described how he coped with the death of his two daughters who were killed in a car crash by a drunk soldier.

Claire and Jennifer Stoddart were among five people who died when Cpl Ben Morphey ploughed head-on into their car. Morphey faces up to 10 years in jail after last week admitting causing death by careless driving while unfit through drink.

In a remarkable internet diary for *my.telegraph.co.uk*, Phil Stoddart discloses how he often thinks of Morphey and what he must be going through. He writes how he and his wife, Heather, rushed to the hospital after the accident to see Jennifer, 15, slip away and how his Christian faith has helped them.

Claire, 18, Jennifer, 15, and their friend, Carla Took, 18, were on their way home to Lowestoft, Suffolk, last July from a Red Hot Chili Peppers concert in Ipswich when Morphey crashed into their Vauxhall Astra on the brow of a hill on the A12 at Blythburgh, near Southwold, Suffolk.

Ipswich Crown Court heard that Morphey, 22, who had spent the night at a club and had drunk a "considerable amount" earlier in the

Online diary: 'I wonder how troubled you are and how you feel'

Posted on May 15, 2007, about returning home after the accident: "And then I close my eyes and see Him, his clothes are so white, his presence so comforting, I'm not left like an orphan; he is with me and so strong. I am wailing away, there is no strength in my being but He is here, a mighty captain standing over a wounded soldier, his presence radiating almost gesturing defiance to the situation. I'm utterly in his hands and He knows it and accepts it."

Posted May 21, 2007: "I was praying this morning and as so often happens

nowadays I was by a stream sitting with Jesus in some place with fields and strong daylight. This time He allowed me to see further on and I saw a group of people having a real laugh. Jen and Claire were there, giggling uncontrollably, carefree. I was absorbed by the image.

READ
Grieving father's blog on My Telegraph <http://my.telegraph.co.uk/Phil-Stod>

When I started to focus back on normal life I opened my eyes and they were streaming but these were tears of joy," **Posted May 22, 2007:** "Dear Ben [Morphey], I think about you often and what you must be going through. I wonder how troubled you are and how you feel." He said he too had "lived recklessly" as a young man and added: "The extent of your recklessness will be made known soon, but we are all guilty to some extent. Your crime will be greater than some, it will certainly be less than others."

evening, was on the wrong side of the road travelling at around 55mph. The three girls died alongside Morphey's passengers, Simon Bonner, 40, and Kim Abbott, 41.

Morphey, an Army helicopter mechanic in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, originally denied five charges of causing death by dangerous driving but on Friday he changed his plea and admitted the lesser charges. Reporting restrictions were lifted yesterday.

Judge John Holt warned him that a prison sentence was "inevitable". He bailed Morphey, from Yoxford,

Suffolk, on condition that he continues to live at Wattisham airfield, where he is attached to 4 Regiment Army Air Corps.

Claire and Carla, students at the Benjamin Britten High School in Lowestoft, had gone to the concert to celebrate the end of their A-levels. It was disclosed after their deaths that their grades had made them the best performing girls in their year, with Claire intending to study pharmacy at Nottingham University and Carla planning to study media at Lincoln University.

In one his entries at [http://my.tele-](http://my.telegraph.co.uk/Phil-Stod)

[graph.co.uk/Phil-Stod](http://my.telegraph.co.uk/Phil-Stod), posted last month, Mr Stoddart, 43, talks of how they were told about the crash and even came across the scene on their way to Ipswich Hospital.

He wrote: "They had Jenny breathing but only artificially. They'd let us know more shortly and left us with a cup of tea. We knew in our hearts that Claire was dead and I sensed that Jenny was gone too."

"I found it hard to sit down, it was too oppressive and confined so I wandered out for a few moments in the fresh daylight air. Lord I so need you. I went back in quickly and sat

with Heather who could barely move and we prayed.

"This was it, this was the moment God met with us in that little room. We prayed and spoke to him and for my part I knew then for sure that they were both gone to be with him and I think Heather knew as well.

"How did we feel? Well, calm and peace came to us. We were assured they were with Him and a strong conviction of this was upon us. A strength came into me and focus and purpose. The nurse returned with the verdict [from a brain scan] from Addenbrookes: they said she was brain dead and took us to see her.

"When we got to the bed there was a curtain around it. We asked to be alone because I wanted to pray over her with no interference. Finally we stood either side of the bed and looked on her face.

"There was a swollen look to her but peaceful as though sleeping. I prayed because I knew God could bring her back if he wanted. We prayed, I heard his calm, reassuring voice again, 'no, she's home with me'.

"We said goodbye and looked at the bed again. She was no longer there, the body is a tent and she had left it. We knew that. We left the bedside and asked the nurse not to keep the life support on for our sake."

Suicide leap teenager 'was victim of a sex attack'

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A TEENAGER who plunged to her death from a motorway bridge had been the victim of a sex attack only days before, police said yesterday.

Sara Clark, 18, was found by a lorry driver beneath a bridge on the M27 near Southampton in the early hours of Saturday.

Her family claimed that she killed herself because she felt police did not believe the attack took place and had not visited her the day after the assault as they promised.

Hampshire police said the matter had been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) as a matter of routine because Miss Clark had been seen by officers in the days before her death.

They said they had done everything according to professional guidelines after Miss Clark had called them and were in the process of "thoroughly investigating this allegation".

Miss Clark's mother, Amanda, told the *Southern Daily Echo*: "They promised to come back to her the next day. They didn't. If only they spoke to her she would be alive today."

She said that her daughter had been waiting around for a call from police.

"She was getting so depressed and low," she explained.

Police confirmed that Miss Clark had reported the assault close to her home, near Southampton, on May 30.

She was interviewed by detectives after alerting them at the scene and was taken to a sexual assault referral centre for medical tests and more interviews.

She was then taken to hospital and interviewed again at home by detectives.

The family said that Miss Clark had suffered from depression following a split from a boyfriend.

Hampshire police said that because the IPCC was now involved it could not comment further.

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