

## **Information regarding the Somerset Medical Examiner Service**

If you have been given this letter, you have experienced the death of someone close to you. On behalf of Somerset Medical Examiner Service, we would like to extend our sincere condolences.

Somerset Medical Examiner Service (SMES) is a nationally mandated system for providing an independent review of deaths that occur in hospital and in our community. The Medical Examiner is a senior doctor, who has not been involved in the person's care. With the assistance of trained Medical Examiner Officers and, in collaboration with the doctor over-seeing your loved one's care, they aim to review all deaths not under the coroner's jurisdiction, to agree an accurate cause of death prior to the issuing of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD).

Following the death of your loved one, SMES will be informed by the doctor who will be completing the MCCD. The duty Medical Examiner will review your loved one's records and they, or one of their officers, will then contact you. This will be a routine call which will give you the opportunity to discuss the care and treatment your loved one has received and share any feedback you may have.

This is a new step in the certification of deaths which will ensure the accuracy of the cause of death and discuss the care that was provided. Whilst we endeavor to review each case as soon as possible, some unavoidable delays may occur. In some cases, the responsible doctor may need to speak to the Coroner before the MCCD can be issued and you will be informed if this is the case.