**Q4. Who is an external expert and what is their role?**

An external expert is a person who is external to the service /hospital/NAS Operational Area within which the incident occurred.

External experts can therefore be;

1. External to the service/hospital but internal to the CHO/ Hospital Group/NAS Corporate Area
2. External to the CHO/Hospital Group/NAS Directorate

The need to include external experts is often dependant on the prevalent culture within the service where the incident occurred and/or the level of trust established/maintained with those on whom the incident has impacted.

Some circumstances where this input might be needed are:

 The Review Team has specific clinical/technical question(s) that they need answered and where the expertise needed to answer the question is not available locally.

 The expertise is available locally but all of the local subject experts have some level of involvement in the events being reviewed.

The role of the external expert may be different in different scenarios and can extend from provision of a healthcare record review, validation of the technical aspects of the review report to full membership of the Review Team/Panel.