Brave Jules believes NHS chiefs are to blame for her brain op nightmare and insists 'it is time they were held to account'

A VICTIM of disgraced BY VIVIENNE AITKEN surgeon Sam Eljamel has Health Editor launched a bid to have the to the law and that's not the case. health board who employed No individual or organisation is, him charged with criminal and it is time they were held to offences.

Jules Rose, 55, handed a dossier to police yesterday detailing why Matheson recently confirmed she believes NHS Tayside was there would be a public inquiry criminally responsible.

Eljamel worked for the health surgeries. board as a neurosurgeon from 1995 until his suspension in 2013 investigating Eljamel for years after a probe into dozens of but now Jules has presented botched operations.

Jules was operated on by NHS Tayside who she Eljamel, who removed her tear believes are equally duct instead of a brain tumour responsible for in 2013.

By the time he performed a to patients. second operation, he was supposed to be under supervision "He was but was allowed to carry out the overseeing procedure without oversight.

Last night, Jules said: "Over the review and years I've collated a significant there could amount of evidence from various have been sources that I feel evidences the a different lack of clinical oversight with outcome had he Tayside and reaching the not been. That needs threshold of criminality.

"I had written a 20-page statement with the evidence that I'm have been learned and they have going to submit in this folder done X,Y,Z but they obviously today, so I'm going to present haven't because they are still not that to Police Scotland - that, I being transparent. feel, is my evidence that reaches the threshold of criminality.

warnings, the whistleblowers, serious misdemeanours which the reviews of the board, the have not been put in? SAERs (serious adverse event

account."

Health Secretary Michael held into more than 100 botched

Police Scotland have been them with evidence into

what happened

She said:

"NHS Tayside said lessons

"They have a duty of candour but how robust is the due "I feel, despite complaints, diligence review if there has been

way we can get the changes is letters: "The indirect nature of through the law and hold them the supervision was inadequate to account."

about Eljamel with the police in his clinical practice. 2018 but claims she now has evidence of wrongdoing by his of 111 patients were NHS Tayside bosses.

She said: "I believe there is a possible harm." significant amount of evidence which demonstrates NHS Tayside's health spokes woman lack of clinical oversight which Jackie Baillie said: breaches the threshold of "The Eljamel criminality."

involved.

The Eljamel scandal has damaged trust in NHS Tayside **JACKIE BAILLIE** ON IMPACT OF their opera-

recently.

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING SAM ELJAMEL investigating.

> Eljamel was allowed to operate on 111 patients when he should have been under supervision after there were concerns raised about previous surgeries.

In the letter of apology, the health board admitted Eljamel was placed under clinical supervision on June 21, 2013, but "They are being economical he was not supervised directly reviews) presented to Tayside, with the truth, choosing and in the operating theatre by Tayside said: "It would not be

diligence review. It seems the only Tayside told patients in the when there was a known Jules first lodged a complaint concern over some aspects of

> "Therefore, the group potentially exposed to

Last night, Labour's scandal has Jules said Police damaged trust in Scotland's Major NHS Tayside and Investigation caused serious Team are harm to scores of patients.

Many "It is only right patients Police Scotland of the consider taking disgraced action to deliver surgeon justice to those only learned affected."

Tory MSP Liz Smith tions were said: "Jules Rose speaks unsupervised after for so many former NHS Tayside sent patients of Professor them letters of apology Eljamel when she says that lives have been ruined.

> "This is not just because of the medical malpractice of the neurosurgeon himself but because of the complete lack of oversight of his medical practices."

> A Police Scotland spokesperson said: "Inquiries are ongoing and we continue to work alongside partner agencies."

A spokesperson for NHS they believe they are impervious picking what goes into the due another neurosurgeon. NHS appropriate for us to comment."

Investigation is the least victims of medic deserve

ANALYSIS

BY VIVIENNE AITKEN
HEALTH EDITOR

Sam Eljamel are as angry at NHS Tayside as they are at the rogue surgeon. The health board is

understood to have received complaints about his botched operations as early as 2009 four years before he was put under supervision and then suspended.

We spoke to some Eljamel victims who did not realise their surgery had been performed when he was supposed to be under supervision. For many it had taken 10 years for the truth to emerge.

NHS Tayside sent out 111 letters of apology for this in August.

VICTIM Jules

Rose, above,

after having

tear duct

removed.

Main, with dossier

Many told us how, when they complained about their treatment, the health board did not respond to their questions and, exhausted and frustrated from battling for answers, they

eventually gave up. There is also evidence Eljamel was allowed to sit in on his own Serious Adverse Event Reviews possibly affecting the outcome and conclusions.

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It is a scandal the health board allowed this to happen.

The secrecy and cover-ups involved in the many failures should be a cause of shame and concern.

It is not for newspapers to pre-judge a police investigation nor can we say, without having access to every piece of evidence, whether NHS Tayside has behaved in a criminal manner.

But there are certainly matters worthy of a police investigation and Jules Rose should be applauded for continuing her fight for justice for herself and the many others whose lives have been ruined because of treatment at Eljamel's hands.



1995: Libyan-born and trained Prof Sam Eljamel is appointed as head of neurosurgery at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. 2011: The first records of complaints about Eljamel's surgery are filed. JUNE 2013: It is agreed an

external review would be conducted by the Royal College of Surgeons and he is placed under clinical supervision with restrictions on his practice. AUG 2013: Patient Jules Rose who was operated on by Eljamel for the removal of a brain tumour, sends letters of apology to 111 has a tear duct removed instead. DEC 2013: Report from the Royal College of Surgeons highlights Eljamel's failings and comes out with 18 key areas of improvement for NHS Tayside to act on as Eljamel is suspended.

MAY 2014: Eljamel retires from

GMC register. He is believed to

NHS Tayside and voluntarily

removes himself from the

have moved back to Libya. 2018: Patients tell stories of their botched surgeries and contact Police Scotland. 2021: Eljamel is ordered to pay one victim £2.8million in compensation after leaving her with life-changing disabilities. 2022: NHS Tayside apologises to former patients of surgeon and remains committed to do what is required to support the independent commission being set up by Scottish Government. AUGUST 2023: NHS Tayside patients operated on by Eljamel when he was supposed to be under supervision. SEPTEMBER 2023: Health

Secretary Michael Matheson announces a public inquiry. NOVEMBER 2023: Jules hands a dossier to Police Scotland claiming "criminality" by NHS Tayside in their handling of the scandal.