

21 Portland Place
London
W1B 1PY
Tel: 020 7631 8819
Fax: 020 7631 4352
Email: pics@aagbi.org



Dr Kent Thorburn, Clinical Director
& Ms Alison Fellowes, Matron
PICU
Alder Hey Children's Hospital,
Eaton Road,
Liverpool L12 2AP

Dear Kent & Alison,

I am writing to you on behalf of PICS council (and I'm sure the entire membership of PICS). We felt that, in the midst of the current media storm surrounding the care of Alfie Evans, it is extremely important that this council issue a statement providing a view on recent events.

PICS Council and your fellow professionals recognise the outstanding quality of care delivered by you and your team to hundreds of children each year. We empathise with the difficult process you have gone through to reach the conclusion that ongoing advanced support is no longer in Alfie's interest. Sadly, many of us are also becoming increasingly familiar with the need to engage with the courts where we are unable to reach a consensus with children's families in similar scenarios. We know that all the professionals that have been involved in this particular case will have given their opinions in good faith. Every child that we care for presents us with unique challenges, but the burden we feel when decisions become a matter of life and death cannot be underestimated.

The PIC community is deeply saddened by many of the comments and accusations that have surfaced through social media. They manifest themselves in a manner that cannot be discussed and challenged in a professional and dignified way. Undoubtedly, they would have added further stresses to that already described.

Please share this letter with your team and know that your fellow professionals, together with many others, recognise the amazing care that your team provide to critically ill children on a daily basis. We know that everything you do, you do in good faith in pursuit of the best interests of your patients. Stay strong for them and for one another.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter-Marc Fortune', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Peter-Marc Fortune
President

Council Officers

Peter-Marc Fortune – President, James Fraser – Honorary Secretary, Adrian Humphry – Treasurer.
Jeff Perring - Vice President, Yvonne Heward – Non Medical Vice President
Registered as a Charity in England & Wales No. 1146515