**For immediate release – Tuesday 13th August**

**Foundation trust under investigation because of repeated breaches of A&E target**

Health sector regulator Monitor has launched an investigation into Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust following repeated breaches of its A&E four hour waiting time target.

The Trust, which provides a range of services to patients at hospitals in Reading, Windsor and Henley, has breached the national A&E quarterly target three times in a 21 month period.

Monitor is concerned that persistent failure to meet the A&E target may signal wider governance problems at the Trust.

The regulator has therefore opened a formal investigation into whether the Trust has breached the conditions of its licence to provide healthcare services.

Paul Streat, Regional Director at Monitor, said: “Patients rightly expect the highest possible standards of care, that’s why we have launched this investigation. We want to make sure that the Trust has not breached the terms of its licence.”

No decision has been taken about whether regulatory action is required and an announcement about the outcome of the investigation will be made in due course.

**Ends**

**Notes to editors**

* For media enquiries please contact Kirk Ward, Media Relations officer, on 0203 7470208 or (kirk.ward@monitor.gov.uk).
* Monitor is the sector regulator of NHS funded health care services. Under the Health and Social Care 2012 Act its main duty is to protect and promote the interests of patients.
* Information about Monitor's role can be found [here](http://www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/about-monitor/what-we-do-0)
* The notification of decision to open a formal investigation into compliance with the Trust's Licence can be found [here](http://www.monitor.gov.uk/sites/all/modules/fckeditor/plugins/ktbrowser/_openTKFile.php?id=38534)
* Monitor's Enforcement Guidance sets out the procedure we will follow when we become aware of a potential breach of the licence. When we decide to begin an investigation, we will notify the provider, set out what we are investigating, the key contacts at Monitor and the expected timetable. The provider will be given the opportunity to make representations. Monitor's Enforcement Guidance press release can be found [here](http://www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/home/news-events-publications/latest-press-releases/monitor-sets-out-new-enforcement-powers)
* NHS foundation trusts with known or potential breaches of the provider licence can be found [here](http://www.monitor.gov.uk/about-your-local-nhs-foundation-trust/regulatory-action/nhs-foundation-trusts-known-or-potential-bre)
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