

expediency. In 2020, the Court of Appeal ruled that the Secretary of State should have consulted the Children's Commissioner about extensive changes to children's services, and that the pandemic was no excuse.

In the Lincolnshire case, the court reached the same conclusion. As soon as a proposal becomes crystallised, stakeholders should have been engaged. Notwithstanding the pace of something like a pandemic, people must be given some reasonable time to digest proposals and to respond. The fact that a proposal is caveated by being temporary and/or under review, does not negate the duty to 'involve'. This is an important case, not just for hospital trusts but for public bodies everywhere.

Read the original article by Michael Imperato on www.solicitorsjournal.com



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