

NHS will face probe over rogue surgeon

By **Sophie Borland, Stephen Wright, Liz Hull and Sian Boyle**

JEREMY Hunt will launch a major inquiry into why the NHS failed to stop a rogue breast cancer surgeon maiming hundreds of women.

The Health Secretary wants to establish how Ian Paterson was allowed to carry out botched operations for 15 years.

Paterson, 59, who was said to have a 'God complex', was convicted last week of harming ten patients he conned into having surgery. Lawyers believe he could have had more than 1,000 victims.

NHS bosses face questioning over why they ignored the concerns of whistleblowers and failed to carry out a thorough investigation.

Mr Hunt's intervention is a huge victory for the Mail, which campaigned for all staff involved to be held fully to account. However, victims are dismayed that he has refused to hold a public inquiry.

Mr Hunt said: 'The conviction of Ian Paterson, and recent disclosures about the seriousness and extent of his malpractice, are profoundly shocking. A highly qualified medical professional, with a duty of care for his patients, totally neglected that duty and instead performed unnecessary procedures on a huge number of women.'

'If returned to government [in June's election], we will hold a comprehensive and focused inquiry to ensure that any lessons are learnt in the interests of ensuring patients are protected in future.'

Susan Everett, who was given a false cancer diagnosis, said the inquiry was 'excellent news'.

But Barbara Lewis, 62, who has terminal breast cancer after undergoing a 'cleavage sparing' mastectomy said: 'The victims and families will only get satisfaction if it's out in the open. If its behind closed doors, it's the old boys' act again. We won't get to the truth.'

Gillian Dallow, 54, who almost

Waiting lists to double for hip and knee ops

THE number of patients enduring long waits for routine surgery will double over the next two years, NHS bosses admit.

They predict that by 2019 up to 800,000 patients will have to wait 18 weeks or longer for hip, knee and similar operations. Overall there will be 5.5million patients on waiting lists, up from the current 4 million, projections show.

The figures are in a document from the watchdog NHS Improvement obtained by the Health Service Journal. They are based

WHY DID NHS FAIL TO STOP BUTCHER SURGEON?

How Saturday's Mail reported Paterson's conviction

DOCTOR WHO LOVED TO PLAY GOD

died after Paterson botched an exploratory operation 20 years ago, said it was 'a half-hearted attempt by the Government to say, "Look, we are doing something".'

Kashmir Uppal, a solicitor for several of the victims, said: 'While an independent inquiry is a step in the right direction, only a public inquiry will truly get to the bottom of Paterson's conduct.'

Paterson, who faces a jail sentence, worked at hospitals run by the Heart of England Foundation Trust in Birmingham and at private hospitals in Solihull and Sutton Coldfield. He was suspended by the General Medical Council in 2012 for carrying out needless operations on hundreds of women.

He could have been struck off after almost killing Mrs Dallow. Instead he was allowed to reinvent himself as a breast cancer specialist. In 2002-03, two cancer experts raised concerns about Paterson to his boss but were not taken seriously.

The trust eventually launched a confidential inquiry in 2007 but failed to report Paterson to the General Medical Council.

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on a 'do nothing' scenario where officials prioritise other services. Six weeks ago Simon Stevens, the head of the NHS, warned patients to expect longer waits for routine surgery as a result of prioritising areas such as cancer, GP surgeries and mental health.

NHS officials claimed last night that the delays would not be as bad as the projections suggest. Waiting times are already at their worst in seven years, with one operation in ten missing the 18-week target.

From Daniel Bates in New York

BRAD Pitt has admitted he was drinking too much in the run-up to his 'self-inflicted' divorce from Angelina Jolie - and claims their split felt like a death.

In his first interview about the Hollywood couple's break-up last September, the actor said that his family had been 'ripped apart' and it was 'very jarring' for the couple's six children.

Pitt described himself as 'very retarded' emotionally and admitted that he had been using alcohol and marijuana to blunt his feelings for years.

His break-up from Miss Jolie, 41, came after allegations that he had attacked their 15-year-old son Maddox, whom the actress adopted from Cambodia when he was seven months old.

Miss Jolie filed for divorce five days later, ending two years of marriage and 12 years together. In the aftermath there were angry public comments from both camps, with Pitt accused of drinking and smoking marijuana too much.

The 53-year-old, who has since been seeing a therapist, says the six months since have been 'weird' but the split was a 'generator for change'.

He said he had been boozing so much during their relationship that he could 'drink a Russian under the table with his own vodka'.

Speaking about parenting, Pitt claimed he had grown up believing fathers were 'all-powerful, super-strong' figures who do not recognise self-doubt or struggles.

The actor, also father to Pax, 13, Zahara, 12, Shiloh, ten, and eight-year-old twins Vivienne and Knox, said his divorce had made him realise that he has 'gotta be more' for his children.

He said his new mantra was 'family first', adding: 'I have to show them. And I haven't been great at it.'

PITT, who fell for Miss Jolie during their filming for Mr & Mrs Smith while he was married to Jennifer Aniston, also described himself as a man who had 'hit the lottery' - but said that he would still waste time on 'hollywood pursuits'.

But Pitt - who has now taken up making sculptures - claimed that he did not even think of himself as an actor any more as making films 'takes up so little of my year and my focus'.

He said that he wished he could 'just change my name' and become anonymous.

After the break-up he slept on a friend's floor for six weeks because he was 'too sad' to return to the house Miss Jolie and their children had moved out of.

Speaking at the home in Los Angeles where the family used to live - which still has the children's bikes on a rack and inflatable toys in the swimming pool - he told GQ Style magazine: 'This house was always chaotic and crazy, voices and bangs coming from everywhere, and then as you see there are days like this, very very solemn.'

'I was boozing too much. It's just become a problem.'

'And I'm really happy it's been half a year now [sober], which is bittersweet.'

Asked whether he missed alcohol, he pointed out that he and Miss Jolie owned a winery and he enjoys wine 'very, very much', but added: 'I had to step away for a minute and truthfully I could drink a Russian under the table with his own vodka. I was a professional. I was good.'

'This period has really been about looking at my own weaknesses and failures and owning my side of the street.'

'I can't remember a day since I got out of college when I wasn't



Therapy: Brad Pitt poses for the GQ Style interview and above with ex Angelina Jolie in 2009

His new love for sculpting

SINCE his divorce, Brad Pitt has led a solitary life spending hours each day making sculptures in an LA studio.

For the six weeks after divorce he was 'squatting', sleeping on the floor at studio of his friend, British sculptor Thomas Houseago, because he did not want to remain at his home where he would be haunted by memories of his family.

The actor said that sculpting with clay and plaster had helped him to 'find a voice that I need' and that his creations have been 'chaotic' but therapeutic.

The actor, 53, has previously

boozing or had a spill, or something. Something. And you realise that a lot of it is, um - cigarettes, you know, pacifiers. And I'm running from feelings.'

'I'm really, really happy to be done with all of that... I've got my feelings in my fingertips again.'

He said that he now drinks cranberry juice, fizzy water or matcha green tea.

The FBI and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services had investigated Pitt following an anonymous tip-off over the incident

with Maddox on a private plane as they flew back from France, but both closed their inquiries.

The public fighting between Pitt and Miss Jolie appears to have stopped, with both parties moving towards a resolution after sealing the court documents. Pitt said that he was 'really on my back and chained to a system' when child services was called.

But he said a court case would have been an 'investment in vitriolic hatred' and he did not want to be 'bitterly dedicating years to destroying each other'.

Pitt said: 'I heard one lawyer say, "No one wins in court" - fortunately my partner in this agrees. It's just very jarring for the kids, to suddenly have their family ripped apart.'

Pitt, who has twice been nominated for an Oscar for best actor, denied that he had been going through a mid-life crisis in recent months - and said that he was finally addressing issues that he had avoided facing for decades.

He visited two therapists before choosing one that he liked and says that he loves it when he goes for a session with them.

As well as his new-found love for sculpting, Pitt said he has also been working on his new film War



Brad: My years of hard drinking - and how splitting from Angie was like a death

Pitt gives extraordinary soul baring interview and calls himself an 'emotional retard'

Machine based on the firing of General Stanley McChrystal, the former commander of US forces in Afghanistan, which is set for release later this month.

And he also revealed he has been listening to singer Marvin Gaye's album Here, My Dear, written about his divorce from his first wife Anna Gordy Gaye. Pitt said: 'There's no love without loss. It's a package deal.'

The actor said that, growing up in rural Missouri, he came from a place where when you cut yourself you just 'dealt with it' and got on with life - but he had tried to cope with his emotions in the same way.

He said: 'It brings up a lot of issues from the past that we haven't talked about. So our focus is that everyone comes out stronger and better people - there is no other outcome.'

Miss Jolie, who has married three times, has already spoken out about the divorce and told the

BBC that 'we are a family and we will get through this'.

The actress has also said that Pitt was a 'wonderful father' and she had split up with him for the 'health' of their family.

GQ Style editor Will Welch told US TV station NBC's Today show that Pitt was a man who was 'stripped down to the foundations and is looking to build it back'.

The American magazine photographed Pitt in three national parks across the US. In the picture s he appears to have lost a lot of weight.

One photo shows the actor tumbling down a sand dune, while another depicts him with tears in his eyes.

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