

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/three-ambulance-workers-dead-amid-claims-of-bullying-zwcwfwm7j>

Three dead amid claims of bullying at East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Tom Ball

November 25 2019, 12:01am, The Times

- [Cricket](#)
- [Health](#)
- [NHS](#)



A whistleblower had warned the head of the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust of the possibility of suicides SALAMY

Share

Save

An NHS ambulance trust is facing calls for an investigation after the suspected suicides of three workers who died shortly after a whistleblower made claims to bosses of psychological abuse within the service.

Luke Wright, an ambulance dispatcher, and Christopher Gill and Richard Grimes, both paramedics, were found dead over the course of a fortnight between November 11 and November 21.

Shortly before their deaths, a whistleblower had written to the boss of East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust complaining about bullying and warning of suicides if nothing was done.

Norman Lamb, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman and MP for North Norfolk before the election was called, also received the letter and is calling for an independent investigation into the deaths.

His former seat is covered by East of England Ambulance Service and he has had concerns about its management style.

“For three people working on the front line to lose their lives within such a short space of time is deeply shocking,” he said. “It does raise a question as to whether there needs to be a thorough internal investigation.

“I am conscious that people have complained about a toxic culture in this trust. I’ve been appalled by some of the behaviours that I’ve seen in the organisation.”

Mr Wright, a 24-year-old father of one, lived in Norwich, Mr Gill was from Welwyn Garden City and Mr Grimes from Luton.

Mr Wright’s brother, Daniel, who also works for the ambulance service, said: “We need to highlight that it is OK not to be OK. People need to talk to get help.”

The whistleblower’s letter, which was uncovered by the Ambulance News Desk website, claimed that bullying behaviour was undermining staff confidence.

It said: “If this situation continues, the risk of suicide and increased risk to patients will result in reputational damage to the NHS and potential loss of life.”

Tom Davis, medical director of the service, said: “We will not be commenting on the unfortunate and tragic loss of our colleagues recently as we need to be sympathetic. But we encourage staff to seek support when they need it and to speak up if they are suffering with mental health.”