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14 July 2020

Chris O'Brian

Chairman

Laura Fergusson Charitable Trust

224 Great South Road

Greenlane

Dear Chris

I am writing to you to express my disquiet and concern at the manner of the closure of the Laura Fergusson Trust, particularly because, as the parent of a man who has lived at the Trust for 27 of his 45 years, I have received no communication whatsoever from your Trust Board or management giving notification of the closure or any explanations of the sudden cessation of services. In all the time since we were kindly rung late last year by [REDACTED] Social Worker, with the news that our family members were potentially without a home, we have been faced with a time of anxiety and stress to find alternative accommodation. I commend the work of [REDACTED] and her team and their commitment to the task of finding new homes for so many persons through this difficult period.

I remain amazed and mystified that your Board has never thought to make any written contact with the families who have been part of the LFT community for so long. It has been apparent that the buildings have been declining noticeably and that services for those long term clients like my son have dwindled to next to nothing. People have asked me why I did not fight your closure. Frankly I decided that to leave my son in such a deteriorating and increasingly depressing institutional environment was not going to be in his best interests and I would rather use my time to ensure that my energies went to finding something that offered him more in the way of an uplifting life. I now wish I had done that sooner. The decline in the residential area services and commitment to those individuals over at least the last five years has been noticeable as the rehabilitation area has increased in scope and size. The words mismanagement and neglect have entered my thoughts on many occasions.

I am surprised that there seemed to be nothing to farewell any of those moving out.....not even a small verbal acknowledgement of how many years they had been there. I understand there was no farewell for many staff either. It all felt like a fait accompli where we were to be excluded and needed to be moved on as quietly as possible. I will be interested to learn what you, as a Charitable Trust Board, plan to do with the proceeds from selling the property.....hopefully something exciting for the community?? We await with interest. It is so sad to see the innovative Trust that it once was turn from something dynamic and positive for people with disabilities into a shabby and depressing

holding tank. I am appreciative for a roof over my son's head for so long and for the companionship he had there. I am aware that funding issues and Covid 19 must have made your task difficult. But those of us who have a long history of involvement with the Laura Fergusson Trust in its various incarnations over the years feel that we would like to have been informed and are entitled to some explanation of your actions.

Yours sincerely

Josephine Cliffe

Cc: Heather McLeish CEO