INTRODUCTION
The day to day role of a microbiologist in the hospital setting includes communicating positive microbiology specimens and providing advice to health professionals of all grades from a range of specialties in both primary and secondary care settings. Most of these communications are done via telephone and the outcome of the telephone consultations is not always known.

RESULTS
67 Telephone consultations were carried out over the 2 month period. All calls were done within sociable working hours.

17/67 patients were not known to the health professional they were discussed with.

DISCUSSION
Given movement of patients across wards and ongoing ward rounds, doctors may not have been familiar with the patients that were being discussed by the microbiologist. The audit was started during the first rotation of jobs and therefore junior doctors may not have been familiar with such discussions, prescribing and documentation. Pitfalls in following up discussions may have been less if there was more communication with senior colleagues and better education for junior doctors. It is important not to assume the information being communicated is being understood as each health professional will have different levels of knowledge. It is appreciated that at the 24 hour review, patients could have changed clinically impacting on the initial decision made on antimicrobial treatment.

RECOMMENDATIONS
• Education and simulated sessions to microbiologists in how to conduct telephone consultations at a local and national level.
• Increase microbiology teaching sessions incorporated into the junior doctor curriculum at a local and national level.
• Communications between ward pharmacists and microbiologists could occur on a daily basis electronically informing them of positive specimens and the antibiotics advised.
• Microbiology led ward rounds could reinforce advice from telephone consultations and encourage antimicrobial stewardship.
• A generic sticker for blood culture specimens could be piloted in patients notes to highlight a bacteraemia and encourage better documentation.