



Department of Health

POC5 952833

Mr R Brittain
HM Senior Coroner – Inner North London
Poplar Coroners Court
127 Poplar High Street
London
E14 0AE

From Ben Gummer MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Quality



Richmond House
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22nd October 2015

Thank you for your letter about the death of Oliver Asante-Yeboah.

I was saddened to hear of this case. I would be grateful if you could please pass my condolences to baby Oliver's family.

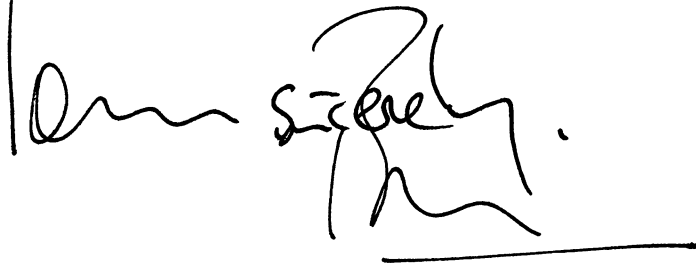
Your report detailed the circumstances surrounding Oliver's death and specifically raised the question of legislation regulating non-medical settings.

As you are aware, male circumcision, where it is carried out by a healthcare professional, is regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), included under the regulated activity of 'surgical procedures'. The NHS normally only performs male circumcision where medically indicated.

A change in legislation as suggested would require considerable consultation with all interested parties (including the CQC). Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are responsible for commissioning services to meet the health needs of local communities. In some areas, particularly where they feel children are at risk of unsafe procedures, CCGs can work with local providers and communities to ensure that a safe and affordable service is available. I will be copying this letter to the clinical lead of each CCG in England to highlight this case and reiterate this point.

This is a complex issue for CCGs, for the CQC and for the Department. Our advice for parents is to ensure that circumcision, where necessary, is only carried out by a regulated healthcare professional.

I hope that this information is useful. Thank you for bringing the circumstances of Oliver's death to my attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Gummer", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B' and 'G'.

BEN GUMMER