



Department  
of Health

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

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Tel: 020 7210 4850

Ms N. Mundy  
Senior Coroner  
Coroner's Court and Office,  
Crown Court  
College Road  
Doncaster  
DN1 3HS

23 SEP 2015

23/9/2015

Dear Ms Mundy,

Thank you for your letter of 16 July 2015 following the inquest into the death of Isabella Drew. I was extremely sorry to hear of baby Isabella's death and wish to extend my sincerest condolences to her family.

Your concerns in this case focus on the advice and support provided by ante-natal healthcare services, to pregnant women, regarding the whooping cough vaccination.

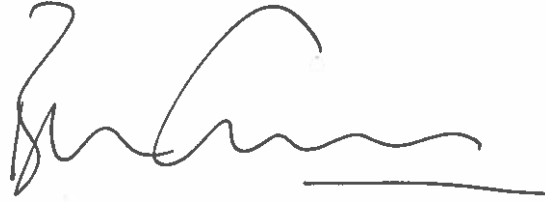
First you ask for consideration of whether there needs to be further and more explicit guidance for local healthcare providers about how to meet their responsibility to advise and offer whooping cough vaccination to pregnant women and provide auditing and follow up procedures. You also ask whether there needs to be further national guidance about the importance of effective multi-agency communication between all ante-natal healthcare providers.

Immunisation programmes are the shared responsibility of the Department of Health (DH), Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England (NHSE). All three organisations have worked together to provide you with a response to your letter.

I can advise that Sir Bruce Keogh, National Medical Director of NHS England, is responding to you on behalf of all three organisations. I have seen and agree with the reply from Sir Bruce Keogh.

I am grateful to you for bringing the circumstances of Isabella's death to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Gummer', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

**BEN GUMMER**