

██████████
Associate Director of Legal Affairs
Trust Headquarters
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London E1 8DE
████████████████████

18th September 2020

Assistant Coroner Jonathan Stevens
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
London
N1C 4PP

Dear Sir

Inquest touching upon the death of Pauline Oakley

I am writing following the Inquest touching the death of Ms Oakley which took place on 10 September 2020.

During the inquest, you raised your concern that no environmental risk assessment appeared to have been undertaken, particularly with regards to fire hazards, taking into account Ms Oakley's vulnerabilities.

I am writing to clarify responsibility for environmental risk assessments as this was a point of discussion at the Inquest.

██████████, Legal Affairs Manager was present at the Inquest and informed you that it was her understanding that responsibility for environmental risk assessment following Ms Oakley's discharge from hospital, would lie with the Reablement Team. The Reablement Team falls within the remit of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The Trust understands that the Reablement Team were providing Ms Oakley with regular support following her discharge in order to help her with everyday tasks and ensure that she could live as independently as possible.

Our Lead Nurse for community nursing in Tower Hamlets has confirmed that it would not be part of the scope of the district nursing team to undertake an environmental risk assessment. Their role in Ms Oakley's case was to provide wound care and to manage any clinical issues arising. Having said that should any of the nurses have observed anything that posed an obvious health and safety risk, that would have been addressed. However, you will be aware from Nurse ██████████ evidence at the Inquest, that she did not identify any such concerns and specifically she did not see an electric heater when she visited Ms Oakley.

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To conclude, whilst responsibility for the environmental risk assessment lay outside the responsibility of the district nursing team, to ensure that lessons can be learned from this tragic case, it will be the subject of discussion with staff within their regular team meetings.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

██████████
Associate Director of Legal Affairs

Chair: ██████████
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