



Department
of Health &
Social Care

████████████████████
*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

Our Ref: PFD – 1405133

HM Senior Coroner Derek Winter
The Coroner's Office
City Hall
Plater Way
Sunderland
SR1 3AA

25 November 2022

Dear Mr Winter,

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2022 to the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid, about the death of Joan Hoggett. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for Mental Health, and thank you for the additional time allowed.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Ms Hoggett's death, and I offer my sincere condolences to her family and loved ones. The circumstances your report describes are very concerning and I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention.

In preparing this response, departmental officials have made enquiries with NHS England, as well as the relevant regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

I understand that the Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust has responded directly to you with a series of actions they will undertake to ensure that something like this will not happen again. You may wish to know that CQC continues to meet with the Trust bi-monthly and receive regular updates on staffing and any other concerns through these meetings.

You raised concerns about the capacity of the Mental Health Trust, and its workforce, to engage with the perpetrator and to meet the competing demands of the service within the resources at its disposal. Responsibility for the staffing and operations of a hospital lies with the relevant Trust. However, the Department does recognise the need to increase capacity in NHS mental health services due to the increasing demand for services.

You may wish to know that the mental health workforce increased by 5,900 full-time equivalent staff in December 2021 compared to December 2020, and by over 11,800 compared to December 2010. We know there is more to do to ensure we have sufficient numbers of healthcare staff to deliver our aims for high quality, accessible mental health services. Our aim, as set out in the Mental Health Implementation Plan, is to expand the mental health workforce by an additional 27,000 healthcare professionals by 2023/24 (compared to 2019/20).

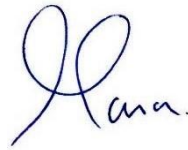
To enable this increase in workforce, through the NHS Long Term Plan, we are investing at least £2.3 billion additional funding a year from 2019/20 to expand and transform mental health services in England by 2023/24. This will enable an extra two million people to be treated by NHS mental health services by 2023/24. This includes new integrated community models for adults with severe

mental illness, so that at least 370,000 adults have greater choice and control over their care and are supported to live well in their communities by 2023/24. This additional capacity will help NHS mental health services to deliver safe care and be more able to adhere to operational processes.

We are making good progress with investment in NHS mental health services continuing to increase each year from almost £11 billion in 2015/16 to £15 billion in 2021/22.

I hope this response is helpful. Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maria'.

MARIA CAULFIELD MP