

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
Mr Graeme Irvine
HM Coroner
The Adult College of Barking & Dagenham
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IG11 7PB

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Sent by email to:

coroners@walthamforest.gov.uk; and
[REDACTED]@walthamforest.gov.uk

5 August 2022

Your ref: G1/sc/14161785
Our ref: 1127

Dear Sir,

Re: Inquest touching upon the death of Mr Michael John Vince

I refer to your letter dated 27th June 2022 and the Regulation 28 report, detailing your concerns related to the care provided by NELFT NHS Foundation Trust ('NELFT') as follows:

1. Mr Vince was prescribed with Zopiclone for 20 years, despite the NICE guidelines indicating that Zopiclone is not suitable for long term use.
2. There was no evidence that prescription of Zopiclone was meaningfully reviewed by NELFT's Community Mental Health team or GP.
3. Evidence of Mr Vince's dependence upon Zopiclone was not shared by his GP with the Trust.
4. The frequency with which Mr Vince was administering his PRN Zopiclone was never monitored.

We have taken the concerns expressed by you very seriously and undertook further consultations with the Chief Pharmacist and other members of the MDT. On 06/07/22 we arranged a wider NELFT learning review led by our pharmacy department and developed an action plan to address the identified further learning following the Inquest. The event was attended by health care professionals at NELFT and primary care including the practice which was directly involved in the care of Mr Vince.

Chair: [REDACTED]
Acting chief executive: [REDACTED]

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The current practice at NELFT is that whoever prescribes the medication, is responsible for monitoring the compliance with medication administration regime. However, in light of learning from this inquest we have updated our practice as highlighted within the attached action plan and will monitor implementation of the updated practice jointly with the chief pharmacist.

We have agreed a number of actions to address concerns raised by you and enclose action plan detailing the Trust's efforts to improve the safety and quality of care provided by NELFT.

I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr Vince and sincerely apologise for the shortcomings in care provided by NELFT identified in our Serious Incident report as well as at the inquest hearing on 21st June 2022.

I would also like to thank you for your full and fearless investigation and for raising your concerns with the Trust, enabling us to undertake further learning from the very sad death of Mr Vince.

If you would like to discuss these actions further, please kindly feel free to contact my office on 0300 555 1298.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Chief Executive Officer (acting)

Chair: [Redacted]

Acting chief executive: [Redacted]

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