



**CLARION  
HOUSING**

**Clarion Housing**

Reed House  
Peachman Way  
Broadland Business Park  
Norwich NR7 0WF

South London Coroner's Court  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Davis House  
Robert Street  
Croydon  
CR0 1QQ

5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Sir,

**Response to Regulation 28 report arising in the inquest of Samuel Pearson**

I write in response on behalf of Clarion Housing Group to your Regulation 28 report dated 10 November 2022 which is addressed to the London Borough of Bromley Council (LBB), Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust and Clarion Housing Group (CHG).

I would firstly like to offer my condolences to Mr Pearson's family on behalf of CHG.

*Background*

As you know CHG are a provider of social housing and were pleased to be able to provide Samuel with accommodation in the form of an Assured Lifetime tenancy from the Spring of 2021. In the months following the move, CHG were liaising with the LBB's occupational health team around the need for some further adaptations to the property.

Whilst at a relatively early stage there was recognition that Samuel would need to move out for a short period in order for this work to be undertaken. As I understand it from the inquest, Samuel's mental health at this time was relatively stable and he had been discharged from the caseload of the mental health team, which was provided by Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.

On 20 June 2021 matters were overtaken by a van that crashed into the front of Samuel's property making it immediately uninhabitable. Information regarding this was received promptly from Samuel's occupational therapist at LBB whose hope it was that some of the types of property that had been considered as part of the planned move could be available, noting he was residing with his mother at this point. It was quickly established with LBB that these properties (available through LBB) were not ready for occupation.

This notwithstanding CHG instigated an urgent assessment of need with Samuel and his mum and through a separate and specialist property search agency, located properties capable of meeting his needs, which was primarily for wheelchair access. At the time of the accident CHG assessed Samuel's needs with his mum and were not given to think (having asked a direct question) that any other agency or professional needed to be immediately involved at that stage, noting that as part of the process CHG keep matters under close review.

As the inquest heard, the properties initially located were situated in South London approximately an hour away from his Bromley home and Samuel and his mum's preference was to remain close to Bromley and familiar surroundings where possible. As such and following a further property search Clarion were able to locate wheelchair accessible hotel accommodation in Bromley which Samuel and his mum preferred. Clarion therefore took steps to arrange this, and Samuel moved in on 28 June 2021.

Following the move our team took steps to check in with Samuel and his mum as to the suitability of the accommodation during the following week and were given no reason for concern.

This emergency provision ran alongside an urgent structural review of the damaged property in which it was coming to be understood how long remedial work would take, against which Clarion could keep under review with Samuel his family and others concerned the suitability of the temporary arrangement.

On 6 July 2021 CHG received an email from the LBB occupational therapist (who we understand had not at that point met with Samuel or his mother) querying the choice of accommodation, in response to which CHG took immediate steps to begin a process of review. Sadly, it was only a very short time later that Clarion came to be informed of Samuel's death on that same day.

#### *Review*

Since the inquest CHG have been reviewing its alternative accommodation and related assessment process to see what more if anything can reasonably be done to improve the system.

As part of the review and in line with our ongoing commitment to service improvement, CHG are considering how, if at all, good interagency working can be further embedded into the processes underpinning the provision of alternative accommodation in circumstances such as this.

This review remains ongoing at present and is expected to complete by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

I hope this is of assistance and assurance that the concerns raised are being considered and, where the need for improvement is identified, I can give you my assurance that it will be implemented.

Yours sincerely



Director of Customer Services  
Clarion Housing Group