



**Department
of Health &
Social Care**

*From Lord Markham
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

[REDACTED]

HM Assistant Coroner
Keith Morton KC
Area of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Lawrence Court
Princess Street
Huntington
PE29 3PA

24 July 2023

Dear Mr Morton,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2022, to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Steve Barclay, about the death of Karen Starling and Anne Martinez I am replying as Minister with responsibility for the NHS capital, land and estates.

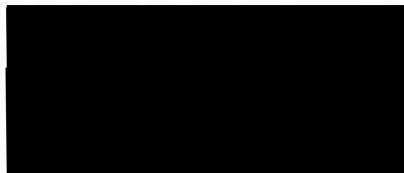
Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Mrs Starling and Ms Martinez's death and I offer my sincere condolences to their family and loved ones. The circumstances your report describes are very concerning and I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my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

As you set out in your report, the guidance available to those responsible for the design, construction and operation of hospitals, including hospital water systems is Health Technical Memorandum 04-01¹.

Health Technical Memorandums are owned by NHS England (NHSE) and they are the correct organisation to respond to the concerns you raised in your report.

I note that NHSE wrote to you on 6 February 2023, setting out their response to each of your concerns. The Department of Health and Social Care does not have additional detail or information to add further to NHSE's letter.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.



LORD MARKHAM CBE

¹ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/safe-water-in-healthcare-premises-htm-04-01/>