



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Neil O'Brien MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Primary Care and Public Health  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
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Maria Eileen Voisin  
Senior Coroner for Area of Avon  
The Coroner's Court  
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04 October 2023

Dear Ms Voisin,

Thank you for your letter of 21 November 2022 to the Department of Health and Social Care about the death of Celia Marsh. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for Primary Care and Public Health, and I thank you for the additional time allowed.

Firstly, I would like to say how deeply saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Ms Marsh's death. I can appreciate how distressing her death must be for her family and others who knew and loved her, and I offer my heartfelt condolences. It is vital that we take the learnings from what happened to Ms Marsh in order to prevent future deaths. 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 the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as well as the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

### **Capturing and recording cases of anaphylaxis**

As articulated in your report, these recommendations refer to establishing a robust system of capturing and recording cases of food-related anaphylaxis cases.

The Department of Health and Social Care notes the recommendation and concurs that it is essential we learn from tragedies such as Ms Marsh. Data regarding all anaphylaxis-related deaths in England and Wales are documented by the Office for National Statistics. The British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology also holds a register to capture

and learn fatal cases of anaphylaxis which has been operational since 1992 – the UK Fatal Anaphylaxis Register. A link to the Register follows.

<https://www.bsaci.org/professional-resources/bsaci-registries/ukfar/>

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

Yours sincerely,



**NEIL O'BRIEN MP**