

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Jael Hepworth-Etherington
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Date: 27 March 2023

Dear Jael

Thank you for your letter and the enclosed copy of the Regulation 28 Report for Ms Mollie Stansfield by HM Senior Coroner, Professor Paul Marks. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Firstly, I would wish to place on record my sincere condolences to Ms Stansfield's family following this very tragic incident.

I have noted the findings of the coroner's report, and in particular the concerns raised around the implementation of Section 5(2) of the Mental Health Act 1983. The equivalent Northern Ireland legislation is the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, and the equivalent Articles within the 1986 Order to sections 5(2) and 5(4) of the 1983 Act are Articles 7(2) and 7(3) respectively.

Having considered the findings of the report, I agree with the importance of ensuring that Health and Social Care Trusts and relevant health practitioners here should be reminded of the powers under the Mental Health Order for the detention of patients. I am therefore taking steps to raise this issue with HSC Trust Chief Executives and relevant professional bodies, in order to ensure that the appropriate action is taken to address this point.

Yours sincerely

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