



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

[REDACTED]

Catherine McKenna
HM Coroner's Court
Floors 2 and 3
Newgate House
Newgate
Rochdale OL16 1AT

27 June 2023

Dear Ms McKenna,

Thank you for your letter of 14th February 2023 about the death of John (Jack) Abrahams.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Jack's death, and I offer my sincere condolences to Jack's 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. I am aware that [REDACTED], the Chief Executive of the Medicines and Health Care products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), has responded in detail to the serious concerns you have raised.

I do hope that, as an Executive Agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, [REDACTED] response has addressed your concerns. I would also add that, since your original letter, the Isotretinoin Implementation Working Group mentioned in [REDACTED] letter has met three times, with the third meeting occurring on 12 May 2023. I understand that the Group is now drafting a report for the Commission for Human Medicines, with the aim of presenting their advice in July this year. When the advice is finalised, it will be published and healthcare professionals will be made aware of changes soon after.

I hope this response is helpful and further reassures you of the work being undertaken. Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**