



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Minister Helen Whately
Minister of State for Social Care*

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[REDACTED]

Mr Peter Taheri
The Coroners Court and Offices
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[REDACTED]

17 June 2024

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 20th April 2023 about the death of Mr Joseph Willy Maunick. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for adult social care.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Joseph'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. Please accept my sincere apologies for the significant delay in responding to this matter.

I am aware that [REDACTED] the National Medical Director of NHS England, has responded in detail to the serious concerns you have raised regarding the national severe resourcing pressures in emergency departments (ED).

The report highlights pressures within EDs that continue to be monitored by the Trust. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) were also made aware of the report following the incident. Resourcing of ED services and others across the country is a known risk and is subject to ongoing monitoring through engagement with the Trust. More broadly, CQC continues to monitor waiting times and other national targets. They also carry out inspections of urgent and emergency services in trusts that are performing poorly in line with national ED targets as part of the current risk-based inspection model.

With regard to your concern about a potential national care shortage and insufficient provision of care, including residential care placements, under the Care Act, local authorities are tasked with the duty to shape their care market to ensure a diverse range of high quality, sustainable, person-centred care and support services are provided.

A duty on the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to assess LAs' delivery of their adult social care duties went live on 1 April 2023 and the roll out of formal assessments to all 153 local

authorities commenced in December 2023. If CQC identify a serious failure, new powers would allow the Secretary of State to intervene to drive improvement.

Last year, £16m was provided to partners to make support available including a focus on how local authorities commission the right kind of care to meet the needs of everyone who draws on care and support. Secretary of State powers also require adult social care providers to share their data with us to allow for more awareness and insight on what is happening locally and nationally.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.



Helen Whately