



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Andrew Stephenson CBE MP
Minister of State for Health and Secondary Care
Department of Health and Social Care*

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Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Laurinda Bower
The Council House
Old Market Square
Nottingham
NG1 2DT

By email: [REDACTED]

13th May 2024

Dear Ms Laurinda Bower,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths dated 13 July 2023 about the death of Mackenzie Cooper. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for defibrillators.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Mackenzie Cooper'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 delay in responding to this matter and I thank you for the additional time provided to the department to provide a response.

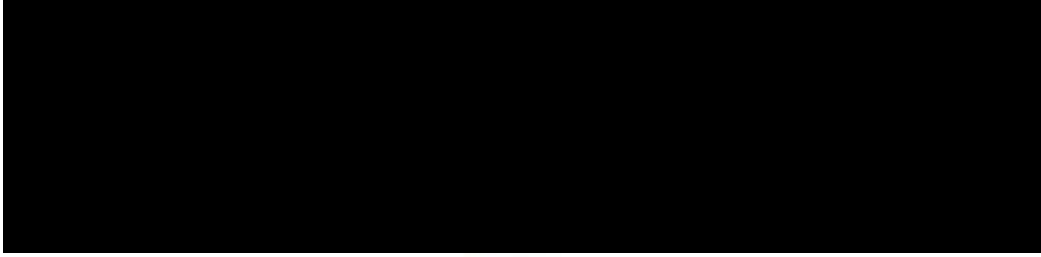
The report raises concerns over the provision of community public access defibrillators and the process for ensuring there is an appropriate system for ensuring they are maintained and that ambulance trusts/999 operatives know the status and availability of the defibrillators.

The Government has provided funding of £1m for a grant scheme to buy life-saving defibrillators for community spaces, which launched in September 2023. All Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) granted by the fund must be registered on The Circuit – The British Heart Foundation's national defibrillator database which is synchronised with the Computer Aided Dispatch systems of the 14 Ambulance Trusts in the UK and holds the location and where required access codes for defibrillators.

All AEDs detailed on The Circuit have a guardian who holds responsibility for ensuring the AED is defib ready. There is a requirement for guardians to check the AED every 90 days and confirm this on The Circuit; if an AED has not been checked and updated by the guardian on The Circuit then the AED will automatically be shown as not emergency ready. Guardians are notified via email of when a defib is taken offline either due to being deployed or not being checked. When a call handler directs a person to an AED, that specific AED is taken out of use and a request sent to the AED guardian to check it and notify The Circuit when it is operational again.

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

Yours sincerely,



MINISTER OF STATE