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Birmingham B4 6AR

[REDACTED]

4th March 2024

[REDACTED]

James Bennett
Area Coroner for Birmingham and Solihull
The Birmingham and Solihull Coroner's Court
Steelhouse Lane
Birmingham
B4 6BJ

Dear Mr Bennett

Re: Prevention of Future Deaths - Philip Laurence Justin Malone

I am writing in response to your Prevention of Future Deaths report dated 23rd November 2023, in relation to the recent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Philip Laurence Justin Malone. We note the response to you from Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (BSMHFT) dated 10th January 2024.

Firstly, may I apologise for the delay in our response; we have now been able to review a business case prepared by BSMHFT to increase their bed capacity with a proposed new build at the Highcroft site at the Birmingham and Solihull ICS System Investment Committee.

Alongside the improvements BSMHFT set out in their response to you, in relation to managing demand and admission and improving overall patient flow, we are working collaboratively with BSMHFT to increase the mental health inpatient bed capacity. In March 2023, to increase capacity, an additional 20 mental health beds were commissioned in the independent sector within the Birmingham and Solihull geographic area. As per the response by BSMHFT, we continue to work with the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Provider Collaborative, with BSMHFT as the lead provider, to commission more local independent sector provision.

The business case for additional mental health inpatient bed capacity has been supported in principle by the Investment Committee and we are working alongside BSMHFT to ensure that the case addresses actions raised by the Committee to allow it to progress to full support. We are, however, concerned as to whether the system will be able to raise the necessary capital to facilitate delivery because of the constraints placed upon NHS capital availability.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Chief Executive

Cc [REDACTED] ICB Chief Medical Officer