

4 March 2024

Laurinda Bower
H.M. Coroner's Office
The Council House
Market Square
Nottingham
NG1 2DT

Dear Miss Bower,

I write in response to your regulation 28 report regarding the very sad death of Carianne Franks. I would like to express my sincerest condolences to her family.

We have considered the circumstances surrounding Ms Franks' death and I have addressed below the matters of concern raised.

In the NICE guideline on tuberculosis [NG33] we have made recommendations on contact tracing (see section 1.6.1) and define 'close contacts' as people who have had prolonged, frequent or intense contact with a person with infectious TB.

When developing the guideline, the committee felt that the studies they considered did not give a clear definition of close contacts and it was therefore difficult to give guidance on whom to trace.

They acknowledged that it would be useful to give an objective definition of close contacts, but there was insufficient evidence to make a recommendation on factors such as length of time spent in the same room without ventilation before 'close contact' is deemed to have occurred.

Your report has been shared with our guideline surveillance team to see if there is new evidence relating to contact tracing for TB. We also plan to meet with colleagues from the UK Health Security Agency to further consider your report and how we can jointly address the concerns raised.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Chief executive