



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From [REDACTED]  
Minister of State for Care

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Mr Peter Straker  
North London Coroners Court  
29 Wood Street  
Barnet  
EN5 4BE

24 April 2024

Dear Mr Straker,

Thank you for your report of 6 February 2024 to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care about the death of O'Shea Dover. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for urgent and emergency care. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to this matter. I would like to assure you that the department is mindful of the statutory responsibilities in relation to prevention of future deaths reports and we are prioritising responses as a matter of urgency.

Firstly, I would like to say how deeply saddened I was to read of the circumstances of O'Shea's death and I offer my sincere condolences to their family. I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention.

The report raises concerns about ambulance service response and the guidance provided on conveying patients to hospital where a pre-term delivery is not progressing. You asked for consideration to be given to the national Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee (JRCALC) guidance that where a delivery is not progressing, patients should be conveyed to an obstetrics unit, which is the approach the London Ambulance Service has taken in their 'JRCALC Plus' guidance.

My officials have raised these concerns with NHS England (NHSE) as the body responsible for the oversight of the operational delivery of ambulance services nationally. NHS England have responded to confirm that they are working with the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) to support their review of the concerns you have raised. I understand that AACE will be responding to you shortly on the action being taken.

Thank you once again for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

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