

Karen Henderson
HM Assistant Coroner for West Sussex
HM Coroner's Court
Station Approach
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Surrey
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[REDACTED]

2 May 2024

Dear Dr Henderson

Response to Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths

This is the UKCP's response to your report dated 15 March 2024, made under paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 5 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 following the death of Sarah Louise Sutherland.

As the Chief Executive of UKCP, I would like to express my deepest condolences to Sarah's family and friends.

Thank you for your investigation and identification of the concerns in your report set out below.

1. Guidelines for regulation and management of private psychotherapists

We thought it would be helpful if we set out our role and regulatory responsibility. We hold a national register of psychotherapists and psychotherapeutic counsellors. The main purpose of the UKCP Register is to protect the public, and to provide public confidence in the profession we regulate. Only therapists who meet our exacting standards and training requirements can be on our Register. Our Register is accredited by the Professional Standards Authority.

We have a Complaints and Conduct Process (CCP) which provides a centralised and transparent process for considering complaints or concerns by members of the public and clients about therapists in relation to their clinical practice. We will investigate cases where there is evidence that calls into question a therapist's suitability to be on our Register and indicate a breach of UKCP's code of ethics and professional practice. UKCP regularly receives complaints about UKCP registrants from the NHS and third parties (non-clients) and these are processed under the CCP. We have not received a formal complaint about Sarah's private psychotherapist. Complaints must normally be made within 3 years of the conduct complained of. The time frame for considering a complaint under the CCP varies depending on the nature of the complaint, the documentary evidence and number of witnesses. Please note that if UKCP commences an investigation pursuant to the CCP about a registrant – the investigation is confidential. However, if there is an Interim Suspension Order imposed and/or the matter is referred to an independent Adjudication Panel – this will be published on the UKCP website, and the Adjudication Panel hearing is open to the public. UKCP will publish details of any complaint upheld on its website in accordance with the UKCP Publication of Decisions Policy.

In view of the above, UKCP does not propose to take any action in relation to this concern.

2. Proactive need for co-ordination of NHS mental health services and Private Psychotherapy

We note that Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust have introduced a 'standard process for communication with private providers of psychological therapies' where client consent is obtained.

We are working closely with the Professional Standards Authority and the NHS in discussing opportunities for collaboration in support of suicide prevention strategies.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive

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