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By Email:

In addition to this, the Mental Health Bill will be introduced in this Parliamentary session. The Bill sets out vital reforms to support people with severe mental illness in the criminal justice

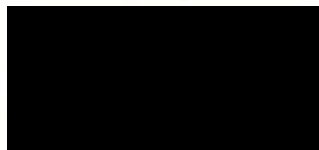
system with the aim of speeding up access to specialist inpatient care and ensuring that offenders and defendants with severe mental health needs are able to access appropriate and timely support in the most appropriate setting.

The reforms proposed in the Bill will speed up access to specialist inpatient care and treatment by introducing a new statutory time limit of 28 days for the transfer of patients from prison and other places of detention to hospital. This mirrors the time limit set out in the NHS England good practice guide published in 2021: *Guidance for the Transfer and Remission of Adult Prisoners and Immigration Removal Centre Detainees under the Mental Health Act 1983*. I hope that these reforms will help to reduce the likelihood of the issues outlined in your report from being repeated.

With regard to the other concerns you have raised around a lack of national guidance relating to a range of healthcare issues in prison settings; operational issues regarding the ACCT process and engagement with prisoners' family members, I would expect the other recipients of your report to address these in their responses, as they are responsible for matters relating to day to day operations within prison settings. I look forward to seeing their responses and working with them where appropriate, to avoid a repetition of the horrific events of this case.

I hope this response is helpful in setting out how we plan to address some of the issues you have raised. Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

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