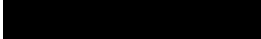




Department  
of Health &  
Social Care


  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
For Patient Safety, Women's Health  
and Mental Health.

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

Our Ref: 

Priya Malhotra  
Assistant Coroner  
Inner West London Coroner's Court  
33 Tachbrook Street  
London  
SW1V 2JR

By email: 

12 August 2024

Dear Mrs Malhotra,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths dated 11 June 2024, about the death of Juan David Martin. I am replying as the recently-appointed Minister with responsibility for mental health and patient safety.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Juan's death and I offer my sincere condolences to his family and loved ones. The circumstances your report describes are concerning and I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention.

Your report raises concerns over the adequacy of mental health bed capacity across London and I recognise the impact that a suitable bed not being available can have on patients, as exemplified in this case.

This government believes that the whole mental health system needs to work together, with efficiency, to reduce the likelihood of inpatient admission. In turn, this will improve bed availability.

I recognise how important it is that people with mental ill health get the level of care that is appropriate for their needs, and we want to ensure that people have access to the right mental health support, in the right place, and at the right time.

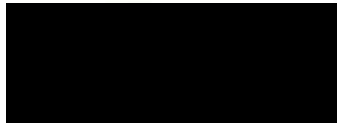
At national level, as part of our mission to build an NHS fit for the future, we will make sure mental health care is delivered in the community wherever possible - through new models of care and support available for those who are struggling - so that more people are prevented from needing to go into hospital.

The suicide prevention strategy for England, published in 2023, is a five-year strategy which sets out the national ambition for suicide prevention. As part of our commitment to reduce the lives lost to suicide, the 8,500 new mental health workers we will be recruiting across children's and adult services will be specially trained to support people at risk.

I understand that South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust and NHS South West London Integrated Care Board will respond to your concerns about local mental health bed capacity directly, reflecting their responsibility to assess bed capacity and the 'flow' of patients being discharged or moving to another setting.

I hope this response is helpful. Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

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