

[REDACTED]
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a'r Blynyddoedd Cynnar
Minister for Mental Health & Early Years



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: [REDACTED]

Ein cyf/Our ref: [REDACTED]

David Regan
Assistant Coroner for South Wales Central Coroner Area
Coroner's Office
The Old Courthouse Street
Pontypridd
CF37 1JW

[REDACTED]

14 August 2024

Dear David Regan,

Thank you for your letter and the accompanying Regulation 28 report following the investigation into the death of Isobel Lilian Stapleton. My immediate thoughts are with Ms Stapleton's family and friends.

I am committed to ensuring that our services continue to learn from incidents like this, with the view to delivering safe and person-centred services, in line with the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 and our Health and Quality Care Standards.

In relation to the first three matters of concern in your report, I wish to highlight that a business case is being developed by Digital Health and Care Wales for the introduction and deployment of mental health systems across health boards in NHS Wales. Once a timetable for deployment has been agreed, this will be communicated. However, it is anticipated that this will be a phased approach over a number of years. This will align work to improve digital and data service provision in mental health. It will be based on the principle of parity with physical health and will deliver on key areas including electronic records, data sharing, use of digital across services, and improved mental health data. Officials are working with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to accelerate the implementation of electronic patient records for mental health, ahead of the all-Wales system.

We have also provided dedicated support in the NHS Wales Executive to support health boards to improve the quality and safety of mental health services. This includes through a Strategic Mental Health Programme and a Mental Health Patient Safety Programme. A key focus of this work will be to improve discharge arrangements and to drive improvements in the quality of care and treatment planning. I am committed to ensuring a person-centred

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

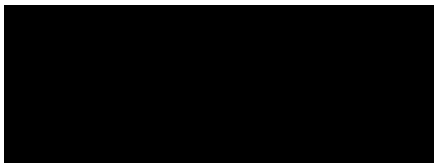
approach to improve services – this includes with families and unpaid carers who play a crucial role in supporting people who are living with poor mental health. Care and treatment planning also enables us to capture this effectively, allowing us to be truly person-centred and to provide a focus on being “recovery-focused”. This approach, and our broader cross-Government work that we are taking, is out in our draft Mental Health and Well-being Strategy, which we consulted on recently.

Alongside this, the draft Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Strategy includes commitments to deliver rapid and impactful prevention, intervention, and support to those in society who are the most vulnerable to suicide and self-harm through the settings with which they are most engaged. This includes those in contact with mental health services. It also includes an objective to increase skills, awareness, knowledge and understanding of suicide and self-harm amongst the public, professionals and agencies who may come into contact with those at risk of suicide and self-harm.

In relation to matters of concern 4 and 5, I have written to Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to seek assurances in relation to in-patient access to clinical psychology, and support and treatment in the community.

I hope this provides you with the required assurances that we have carefully considered your report – and that I will continue to focus on delivering improvements to mental health services, and the approach we take to suicide prevention.

Yours sincerely,

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