



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From [REDACTED]
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health*

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU
[REDACTED]

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Ellie Oakley
Assistant Coroner
Westminster Coroner's Court
3 Tachbrook Street
Pimlico
London
SW1V 2JR

By email: [REDACTED]

12 September 2024

Dear Ms Oakley

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths dated 12 July about the death of Judith Maike Obholzer. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health.

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

Thank you for highlighting your important concerns about the pressures on NHS mental health services, the interface between private practitioners and NHS providers and the sharing of medical information between the two. I know that you have also addressed these matters of concern to NHS England and South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust and I look forward to working with both organisations, where appropriate, to avoid a repetition of the tragic events of this case.

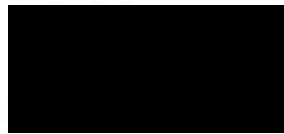
It is clear that many people, like Judith, with mental health issues are not getting the support or care they need, which is why this Government is taking action to fix the broken system to ensure we give mental health the same attention and focus as physical health and that people can be confident of accessing high quality mental health support when they need it.

As part of our mission to build an NHS that is fit for the future, we will recruit an additional 8,500 mental health workers to reduce delays and provide faster treatment which will also help ease pressure on busy mental health services. To help reduce the lives lost to suicide, these new workers will be specially trained to support people at risk. More broadly, we will modernize legislation of the Mental Health Act to give greater choice, autonomy, enhanced rights and support, and ensure everyone is treated with dignity and respect throughout treatment.

I know that NHS England has outlined to you the work they are taking forward to improve sharing of information and records overall. I understand that work is also in progress at NHS England to review the interface between NHS and non-NHS funded independent health providers, and that NHS England has offered to update you on this important work as it progresses. I assure you, I have written to NHSE colleagues to ensure this is driven forward and these points are addressed.

I hope this response is helpful and thank you again for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.A black rectangular box redacting the name of the sender.