





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*


Our Ref: 

Sebastian Naughton
Assistant Coroner
South London Coroner's Office
2nd Floor Davis House
Robert Street
Croydon
CR0 1QQ

By email: 

12 August 2024

Dear Mr Naughton,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths dated 10 June 2024 about the death of Sailor Court and I'd like to thank you for agreeing an extension. I am replying as the recently-appointed Minister with responsibility for patient safety and mental health.

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

I understand and share the concerns you have rightly raised in your report about the long waiting times for assessment and treatment in some children and young people's mental health services.

This Government recognises how important it is that children and young people with mental ill health get the level of care that is appropriate for their needs early on, and we want to ensure that they have access to the right mental health support, in the right place, and at the right time.

As stated in your concerns, it is unacceptable that waiting times for some mental health services are far too long meaning that too many children and young people are not receiving the care they deserve. We are determined to change that.

As part of our mission to build an NHS that is fit for the future and that serves the patients that need it, this Government will recruit 8,500 additional staff across children's and adult mental health services, introduce a specialist mental health professional in every school and roll out Young Futures hubs in every community to intervene earlier with more timely mental health support.

With regards to your concerns about the "keeping in touch team" at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. I have been in touch with Stephen Powis at NHS England to discuss the service. I understand that colleagues at NHS England will address these concerns in more detail in its response to your report.

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

Yours sincerely,

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