






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: 

HM Coroner Dr Karen Anderson  
HM Coroner's Court  
Station Approach  
Woking  
GU22 7AP

By email: 

16 December 2024

Dear Dr Henderson,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 14 October sent to the Secretary of State about the death of Mia Louise Gauci-Lamport. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for Patient Safety.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Mia'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.

The report raises concerns around the:

1. lack of appropriate monitoring of Mia during the night;
2. medical care provided to Mia and;
3. senior management at The Children's Trust (TCT), Tadworth.

In preparing this response, my officials have made enquiries with NHS England (NHSE) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to ensure we adequately address your concerns.

I deeply sympathise with the family and your concerns, which as you state in the report were also raised two years ago. It is important to understand what occurred to fully grasp the reasons for this unfortunate death, and what measures will be put in place to stop it from happening again. We have sought assurances from CQC and NHSE, who further sought assurance from TCT, that responses are being prepared to address concerns respective to each organisation.

In parallel, the CQC inform us that they are monitoring the service to ensure that children residing there are not exposed to risk or unsafe care, which is of utmost importance so deaths such as Mia's can be prevented. CQC regulates the premises and the care provided, and they are reviewing any information received to help inform the next inspection.

NHSE have informed us that their regional specialised service team commissioned some beds at TCT for specialised rehabilitation for those with complex needs, but it appears that

Mia was in a residential care bed, which is commissioned instead by the Local Authority. The commissioning body, in this case the LA, has the responsibility for oversight of the quality of the service. NHSE have provided assurance that their regional team has been working with system and other partners on responding to risks and concerns in a joint approach at this provider, which will be set out in their response. In case of interest, NHSE's guidance on specialised services can be found here: [NHS commissioning » Specialised services](#).

In relation to your point about the delay in fulfilling the duty of candour obligations, as you may be aware, the statutory duty of candour (organisational) places a direct obligation upon NHS trusts and all other health and social care providers registered with the CQC to be open and honest with patients, service users and their families, when a notifiable safety incident occurs. The Government is supportive of the review on the duty it inherited from the previous administration and will consider the findings, recently [published on 26 November](#), following a call for evidence in April this year. The government will consider these findings alongside findings from the ongoing [manager regulation consultation](#) as it continues to develop policy on candour in healthcare. The Department's aim is to ensure the NHS can better meet the objectives of the statutory duty of candour and work with patients as partners to support a culture of learning and continuous improvement.

Patient Safety is of utmost importance for this government across all services. I strongly believe that lessons learnt must be implemented robustly to change the way patient safety is approached in healthcare, and that they are enduring.

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

Yours sincerely,



**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
PATIENT SAFETY, WOMEN'S HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH**