



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From [REDACTED]
Minister of State for Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Our ref: [REDACTED]

HM Coroner Elizabeth Gray
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Coroner's Office
Lawrence Court,
Princes Street,
Huntingdon
PE29 3PA

By email: [REDACTED]

28 January 2025

Dear Ms Gray,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 4 December 2024 sent to the Secretary of State / the Department of Health and Social Care about the death of Patricia Curtis. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for hospital discharge.

First, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Patricia Curtis'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 over the lack of uniformity of discharge notes across hospital trusts and the consequential risk that when patients are transferred to another clinical setting, clinicians could be missing the essential patient information they need to provide timely care and treatment.

As the Minister responsible for hospital discharge, I recognise the importance of ensuring people are discharged from hospital and transferred to another clinical setting in a safe way. Doing so will help to ensure that people are able to receive the life-saving investigations and treatment they need without delay.

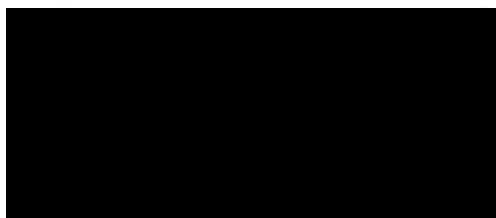
In preparing this response, my officials have made enquiries with NHS England to ensure we adequately address your concerns. Individual trusts are responsible for their own discharge policies. I am therefore grateful to NHS England for advising that, since the report, they have engaged with Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. I welcome the steps taken by the trust's Discharge Planning Group around involvement of next of kin in patient transfers. I look forward to engaging with NHS England to understand how this develops.

While individual trusts are responsible for their own discharge policies, national statutory [hospital discharge guidance](#) has been published (last updated January 2024) which details the national discharge requirements for all NHS Trusts, commissioning bodies, local

authorities, and relevant sectors, such as care providers. The guidance sets out how local areas should plan and implement hospital discharge services in order to support safe and timely discharge for all individuals, including the sharing of accurate timely information across organisational boundaries.

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

Yours sincerely,

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