



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[REDACTED]  
*Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for  
Housing, Communities & Local Government*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: [REDACTED]

Dr Richard Brittain  
Assistant Coroner for Inner North London  
Bow Coroner's Court  
Bow Road  
London  
E3 3AA

22 May 2025

Dear Dr Brittain,

**RESPONSE TO REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS - INQUEST INTO  
THE DEATH OF ALEXI SUSILUOTO**

Thank you for your letter and investigative report dated 4 April 2025 regarding the death of Alexi Susiluoto, which was made in accordance with Paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Susiluoto. I extend my heartfelt condolences to their family, friends, and all who knew and cared for them. The details outlined in your report are indeed troubling, and I am grateful to you for bringing these serious matters to my attention.

Homelessness levels are far too high. This can have a devastating impact on those affected, including a range of health and social care issues, as tragically seen in Mr Susiluoto's case.

Your report specifically raises concerns about the support in place for people experiencing homelessness with co-occurring substance misuse and mental health needs. We know that many people experiencing rough sleeping have substance misuse needs and can struggle to access the necessary support. In 2025/26, we are providing £58.7m to local authorities through the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG). This includes a £5m funding contribution from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) within the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). RSDATG funding will deliver substance misuse services for people sleeping rough or at risk in 83 local authorities and 4 pan-London projects. RSDATG funds evidence-based drug and alcohol treatment and wraparound support to improve access to treatment, including for those with co-occurring mental health needs, like Mr Susiluoto. A further purpose of the funding is to reduce the numbers of people sleeping rough or experiencing homelessness as a result of substance misuse and reduce the number of deaths from drug and alcohol poisoning.

I understand the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention in the DHSC will be responding separately on matters relevant to their department that your report raises,

including an OHID review of the needs of those with co-occurring mental health and substance misuse issues who also experience homelessness.

I am leading cross-government efforts to deliver the long-term solutions we need to get us back on track to ending all forms of homelessness. This includes chairing a dedicated Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), bringing together Ministers from across Government to develop a long-term strategy. DHSC Ministers attend the IMG, and we are working closely with the DHSC to address the health needs of people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping. This includes improving access to mental health services and improving join-up between all services across the health system to ensure people experiencing homelessness are supported with all their health needs. We expect to publish our Homelessness Strategy following the conclusion of Phase 2 of the Spending Review.

Alongside this, the Minister for Homelessness and Democracy has established an Expert Group to bring together representatives from across the homelessness and rough sleeping sector, local and combined authorities and wider experts. The role of this expert group is to provide knowledge, analysis and challenge to help Government understand what is working well nationally and locally and where improvements are needed. We will continue to meet with a range of stakeholders, including mayors and MPs, to make sure the strategy is informed by a range of expertise.

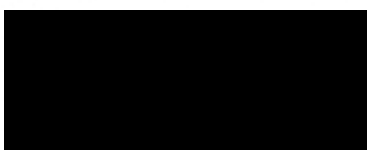
The report also specifically raises a concern regarding additional issues that arise when a patient with dual diagnoses is also homeless, including frequently being moved between temporary accommodation and therefore between different health providers. Local authorities have a duty to ensure any household housed under a homelessness duty is provided with suitable accommodation, and this must include consideration of medical facilities and other support currently provided for the applicant, as set out in Section 17.57 of the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities. Individuals have the right to request a review of homelessness decisions made by their local housing authority, including a review of whether the accommodation in which they have been placed is suitable. They can also issue a complaint to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman if they consider the Council has not applied its duties correctly regarding temporary accommodation or a homelessness application.

As announced at the Budget, funding for homelessness services is also increasing next year by £233 million compared to this year (2024/25). This brings total spend to nearly £1 billion in 25/26.

Given the actions and relevant cross-government strategy being already undertaken and led by my department, I am proposing that no further action is taken by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in relation to this case.

I hope this letter addresses your concerns and provides reassurance that ending homelessness and its severe consequences remain a top priority for this Government.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government.A black rectangular box redacting the name of the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government.

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government