



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From [REDACTED]  
*Minister of State for Care*

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Our ref: [REDACTED]

HM Assistant Coroner Miss I Thistlethwaite  
HM Coroner's Office  
Leicestershire County Council  
County Hall  
Glenfield  
Leicestershire  
LE3 8RA

By email: [REDACTED]

24 June 2025

Dear Miss Thistlethwaite,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 sent to the Department of Health and Social Care about the death of Mrs Susan Marion Lakin. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for adult social care.

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

The report raises concerns over the advertisement and sale of the lap belt products which led to Mrs Lakin's death, and the lack of warning and information around the dangers that could arise from their use. Officials within the Department of Health and Social Care have considered these concerns and concluded that the responsibility for these concerns sits within another organisation. I understand the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is also responding to your report, and I hope that their response will be helpful.

I will be writing to the Office of Product Safety and Standards with my deep concerns about the product in question. You may also like to make the OPSS aware of your concerns.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**MINISTER OF STATE**