



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

Minister of State for Health and Secondary Care

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Our ref: [REDACTED]

HM Coroner Louise Hunt  
The Birmingham and Solihull Coroner's Court  
Steelhouse Lane  
Birmingham  
B4 6BJ  
[REDACTED]

July 2025

Dear Ms Hunt,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 3 June 2025 sent to the Secretary of State about the death of Mark Anthony Villers. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for Secondary Care.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Mr Villers' death and I offer my sincere condolences to his 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 insufficient radiologists at Good Hope hospital to report the large number of CT scans undertaken over the weekend period, at the time of Mr Villers' presentation to hospital on 18 May 2024. This was one of the root causes of a very subtle abnormality indicating aortic dissection being missed when Mr Villers' scan was reported. The inquest heard evidence that whilst the situation had improved, the number of radiologists was still not in accordance with Royal College of Radiology guidelines.

In preparing this response, my officials have made enquiries within this department to ensure we adequately address your concerns.

I have carefully considered the situation. Individual NHS Trusts and other employers are responsible for determining staffing levels and workforce composition. They are best placed to understand their services and the needs of their patients in order to deliver safe and effective care. I would expect University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and all other NHS Trusts to ensure that their staffing arrangements, including weekend cover, are appropriate, following the tragic death of Mr Villers.

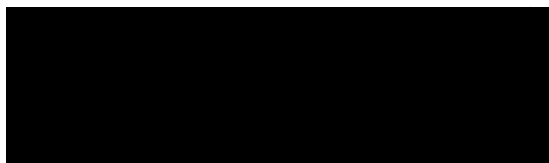
Trusts already have a duty through the Health and Social Care Act 2008<sup>1</sup> to regularly review the number of staff and range of skills needed to safely meet the needs of people using their services.

In our 10 Year Health Plan we committed to publishing a new 10 Year Workforce Plan later this year. This will ensure the NHS has the right people in the right places to deliver the best care for patients.

I note that you have also sent this report to University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, and Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Service and expect that they will respond regarding the concerns about the services involved.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Minister of State for Health and Secondary Care**

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<sup>1</sup> *Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 – Regulation 18*