

Coroner ME Hassell
Senior Coroner
Inner North London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
N1C 4PP

15th July 2025

Dear Dr Hassell,

We are saddened to read of the death of Finlay Roberts from a condition which may have been treated if identified.

The standards that RCEM published in 2024 in our [Guidelines for the provision of Emergency Services](#) include that "Emergency Departments must use a specific paediatric early warning score and ensure that appropriate triggers and actions are in place." All Paediatric early warning scores dictate how often observations should be checked depending on the age of the child and initial observations.

RCEM regularly conducts national audits of provision of care in children. In 2019 we looked at [the assessment and management of febrile children](#) and found that 97% of Emergency Departments were using a specific paediatric early warning score, which had improved since 2015.

RCEM is involved in the design and piloting of a revised paediatric early warning score specifically intended for Emergency Departments.

As a college we recognise that crowding and understaffing often have a role to play in poor care and continue to advocate for better staffing and resources. In conjunction with the Royal College of Nursing we have produced [minimum standards of nursing for Emergency Departments](#), and recognise the issues in providing these.

We are also involved in the revision of the [Facing for Future](#) standards for paediatric care in Emergency Departments

With kind regards,

Dr [REDACTED]

RCEM Quality in Emergency Care Committee Co-Chair