

Coroner ME Hassell  
Senior Coroner  
Inner North London

Sent by email to: [REDACTED]

18 August 2025

Dear Mr. Hassell,

**Re: RCPCH Response to the Inquest Touching the Death of Finlay Joshua Roberts  
A Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

Thank you for sharing your report with us regarding the tragic and untimely passing of Finlay Joshua Roberts. I was very sorry to hear of Finlay's death.

We have considered your report carefully and note your concerns regarding a lack of nursing observations. You have also noted that a lack of paediatric nursing observations was the subject of another of your recent PFD reports following the death of Billie Wicks, to which RCPCH provided a comprehensive response in May 2025.

As we noted then, observations are important but are part of a holistic assessment of children. There are lots of reasons why observations might not be obtained, and RCPCH recognises that challenges in adequately staffing emergency departments may be one reason. In 2024, RCPCH carried out work to better understand where rota gaps most prominently impact on paediatric staffing, and we continue to advocate at a local and national level for an active reduction in these gaps.

The RCPCH Facing the Future Standards for Emergency Care ensure that urgent and emergency care is fully integrated to ensure children are seen by the right people, at the right place and in the right setting. We are currently in the process of audit, review and revision and update of these standards, to be published later in 2025. The revised version will set out that observations are part of holistic care and repetition is dependent on the child's well-being, alongside clarification around frequency of observations. This update has been led by an Intercollegiate Committee for Emergency Care, including representation from the Royal College of Nursing.

Thank you for seeking our views and reminding us of the importance of this work. Our sincere condolences are with Finlay's family.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Professor [REDACTED]  
RCPCH President