



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

Minister of State for Health (Secondary Care)

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

HM Senior Coroner Rachael Clare Griffin  
Coroner's Office for the County of Dorset,  
BCP Civic Centre,  
Bourne Avenue,  
Bournemouth,  
BH2 6DY

12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Ms Griffin,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 10/07/2025 sent to the Department of Health and Social Care about the death of Jairus Joshua Timothy Earl. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for data and technology.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Jairus' death, and I offer my sincere condolences to their family and loved ones. The circumstances your report describes are deeply tragic and I am grateful to you for bringing them to my attention.

The report raises concerns over gaps in the regulation of shotgun licenses, especially when a licence holder has more than one property where the guns may be used or stored, and the lack of access police forces have to medical information about persons other than the registered applicant living at the same property, or at their second homes, when considering firearm and shotgun license applications.

The Department have worked closely with the Home Office and the British Medical Association to ensure there are strong controls in place in relation to an applicant's medical suitability which is an important element of the application process that the police consider when deciding if an applicant can hold a firearms or shotgun certificate.

An applicant is required to declare all relevant medical conditions upon applying and they must provide details of their GP, giving approval for their GP to share any concerns with the police for the application and throughout the period of firearms or shotgun licence, if granted. The proforma is then completed by their GP or an independent General Medical Council registered doctor. The doctor completing the proforma checks the GP medical record and must provide details of all relevant medical conditions to the police.

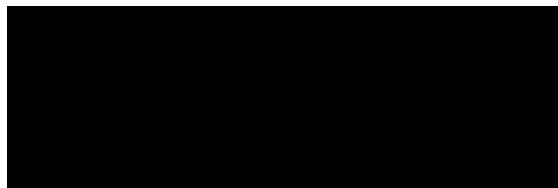
This process has been further strengthened within GP IT systems, where a GP adds a digital marker to the patient record, to note that the patient has a firearms certificate. This was fully rolled out to all GP IT systems in England by May 2023. If the patient begins to experience

a relevant medical condition while the certificate is valid, upon discussion with the GP, the GP will see an alert and can flag this to the police allowing them to review the person's suitability, and if necessary, revoke the certificate.

Ensuring that health and non-health data is linked effectively is vitally important to making the best decisions possible to ensure the safety and security of all. In relation to firearms licences, we must do this in a way that is proportionate and balances individuals' rights to confidentiality with the safety of those holding firearms licences and others who could potentially access that firearm. Considering the matters you raise in connection to Mr Earl's death, we will carefully explore the options for and implications of broadening access to relevant medical information of others residing at licence-holders' addresses. Dependent on the outcome of an initial implications appraisal we would look to engage with GP profession representatives and, in the meantime, work with them to ensure that operational guidance relating to the existing Digital Firearms Marker policy remains fit for purpose and considers ongoing learnings.

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

Yours sincerely,



**MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH**