



Department of Health & Social Care

Minister of State for Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

HM Assistant Coroner Linda Lee
Coroner's Service,
Cheylesmore Manor House,
Manor House Drive,
Coventry,
CV1 2ND

18th December 2025

Dear Ms Lee,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report sent to the Secretary of State / the Department of Health and Social Care about the death of Jacqueline Mary Langworthy. 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 Miss Langworthy's death, and I offer my sincere condolences to her family and loved ones. The circumstances your report describes are concerning and I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to this matter.

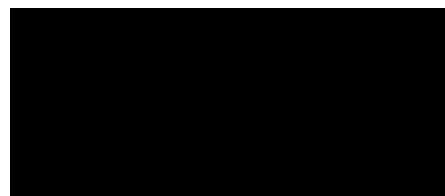
The report raises concerns over the fact that many platform lifts are still in use in care settings without hold-to-run controls, which you note can be retrofitted at a relatively low cost, and that there is limited awareness of the risk posed by the absence of hold-to-run devices.

Officials within the Department of Health and Social Care have considered your report carefully and concluded that the responsibility for these concerns sits within another

organisation. I understand that this report was also sent to the Health and Safety Executive, which has provided a comprehensive response, including the steps taken to increase the awareness of local authorities and the wider healthcare industry to the risks associated with this unfortunate incident. I have also written to the HSE to ask that they monitor for any similar incidents, and to keep under review whether any further action is necessary.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A small black rectangular redaction box covering the title area.

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE