

Louise Hunt
HM Senior Coroner
Coroner's Court
Steelhouse Lane
Birmingham
B4 6BJ

[REDACTED]

16th December 2025

[REDACTED]

Dear HM Senior Coroner Louise Hunt,

Prevention of future death report following inquest into the death of Ricky James Monahan

Thank you for sending the Care Quality Commission (CQC) a copy of the Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths, which was issued following the death of Ricky James Monahan, in which CQC was named as a respondent.

Firstly, we would like to offer our sympathy and condolences to Ricky's family and loved ones.

We note the legal requirement upon CQC to respond to your report within 56 days, by 17 December 2025.

We will respond to each of your concerns in turn.

- 1. Mr Monahan was in a 10 bedded rehabilitation unit and was detained under S37 of the Mental Health Act. There was an unprotected fire escape at the rear of the building which could be easily accessed from the garden which in turn gave easy access to the roof. No environmental risk assessment had been completed regarding how accessible the fire escape was and how it easily provided access to the roof due to inadequate railings at the top of the staircase. The trust relied on individual risk assessments when considering what controls were required for individual patients when accessing the garden.**

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 apply to all registered persons (providers and managers) registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that carry out regulated activities.

Regulation 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 refers to Safe care and treatment. The intention of this regulation is to prevent people from receiving unsafe care and treatment and prevent avoidable harm or risk of harm. Providers must assess the risks to people's health and safety during any care or treatment and make sure that staff have the qualifications, competence, skills and experience to keep people safe.

We do not specify that all providers must carry out specific environmental risk assessments, however providers must make sure that the premises and any equipment used is safe and where applicable, available in sufficient quantities. CQC understands that there may be inherent risks in carrying out care and treatment, and we will not consider it to be unsafe if providers can demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of people using their services and to manage risks that may arise during care and treatment.

As part of our inspection process, CQC will routinely ask for the most recent environmental risk assessment to provide assurance that providers have made the premises safe for people who use the service. CQC inspectors will also observe the ward environment as part of an inspection. In our inspection in October 2023, CQC found that there were risk assessments in place in all ward areas which removed or reduced any risks they identified. The report in October 2023 does not make specific reference to the external fire escape.

2. The inquest heard how there are no current guidelines setting out what protections are required for fire escapes in rehabilitation settings. The lack of any guidelines presents a risk of future deaths and in my view, action should be taken.

Your concerns relate specifically to the availability of national or local guidance. We are unable to comment directly on this point due to it being outside of the remit of our regulatory scope. We are currently not aware of guidelines regarding fire escapes specifically in rehabilitation settings. However, the CQC signposts registered providers to information regarding fire safety and the environmental safety of their premises on our website.

- <https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-regulation/providers/regulations-service-providers-and-managers/relevant-guidance>

This webpage includes other guidance from other bodies which is available. I have included a sample of links below:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-risk-assessment-residential-care-premises>
- [NHS England » Health technical memoranda](#)
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/>
- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/guidance/index.htm>
- [Health and safety in care homes - HSE](#)
- [Leading health and safety at work Actions for directors, board members, business owners and organisations of all sizes](#)
- [Managing for health and safety \(HSG65\) - HSE](#)

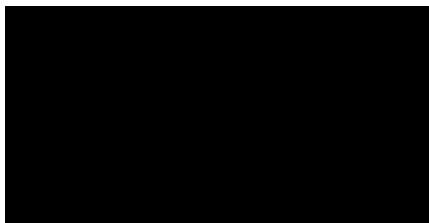
Further Queries

Should you have any further queries please contact our National Customer Service Centre using the details below:



If your query is regarding this letter, please quote the CQC reference.

Yours sincerely



Deputy Director of Operations Mental Health