

**FAO Dr Jeane Rosa Mellani
His Majesty's Assistant Coroner
SEAX Court
Chelmsford
Essex**

13 March 2026

Dear Madam,

I write to set out the Trust's formal response to the report made under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, dated 12 January 2026 in respect of the above, which was issued to Mid and South Essex NHS Trust and Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) following the inquest into the sad death of Mr Green.

The matters of concern as noted within the Regulation 28 Report have been carefully reviewed and noted. I will now respond in full to these concerns in the hope that this provides both yourself and Mr Green's family with additional assurances from the Trust to address the concerns you have raised.

Concerns

- (1) The evidence identified a risk of patients at high risk of self-harm being able to leave the acute ward without appropriate risk assessment**
- (2) The evidence identified a risk of patients at high risk of self-harm being able to leave the acute ward without the knowledge of the hospital staff**

Response: The Trust has reviewed an updated relevant policies and flowcharts to assist clinical staff with guidance and processes when managing high risk of self-harm patients in an inpatient setting, to ensure the appropriate risk assessments and supervision are put in place to maintain their safety and minimise their ability to leave a ward without staff knowledge or appropriate supervision.

Enhanced Supervision and Engagement Policy

I enclose a copy of the Trust's policy for Enhanced Supervision and Engagement, together with its appendix Safe and Supportive Non-clinical Supervision of Staff, which provides staff with a risk assessment and decision-making tools to guide and inform decision making. This policy aims to provide a safe, lawful and supportive framework for the assessment, provision and de-escalation of increased levels of non-clinical supervision. It aims to ensure that all our patients being treated in the MSE group of hospitals and requiring increased levels of non-clinical supervision;

- are assessed and managed lawfully with respect to the Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty and Safeguarding requirements
- receive the least restrictive level of supervision necessary to maintain their safety and that of those around them for the least possible time



- are regularly reassessed for their level of supervision requirements
- receive supervision which is supportive, engaging and personally tailored to the individual needs of the patient

Mental Health Policy

I am also including a copy of the staff guidance regarding Section 5(2) Mental Health Act which has now been included in the Trust's Mental Health policy. This legal framework is an option for ward clinicians to use in situations where a patient has been assessed as high risk and attempts to leave the ward, or voices intent to leave the ward.

In circumstances such as those of Mr Green, Section 5(2) assessment could be considered as an option to prevent him leaving the ward until such time as the mental health team are able to review.

I can confirm the Trust's Mental Health Lead and Prevent Lead Nurse is undertaking a programme to raise awareness of this updated staff guidance at the Nurses' Grand Rounds. A training session is also delivered every 6 months to the FY2 doctors as part of their induction, in which this topic around Section 5(2) assessment of the Mental Health Act is covered. In addition, this has now been added into the Trust's Mental Health Act training that is delivered each month online.

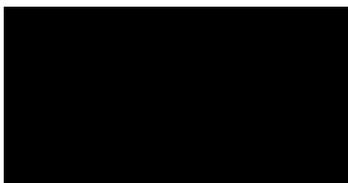
Flowchart for Missing Persons and Absent Without Leave (AWOL) process

The Trust's flowchart for Missing Persons and AWOL process for patient's who abscond from hospital, which is part of the Mental Health Policy is also attached to demonstrate the detailed guidance provided to ensure staff undertake urgent and prompt key actions when a patient has left a ward or department or there are concerns about their absence.

I hope that I have provided reassurances around the current Trust policies in place that cover some of the key concerns contained within your report.

Please do let me know if you require any further information at this stage. We understand that the Court will share a copy of this reply with Mr Green's family.

Yours sincerely



Interim Chief Nurse
Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

Enclosed:

- Enhanced Supervision and Engagement Policy – MSEPO21228
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- ii) Appendix Safe and Supportive Non-clinical Supervision of Staff for Enhanced Supervision and Engagement Policy
- iii) Mental Health Flowchart within Mental Health Policy
- iv) MSE Missing Person and AWOL process for patients who abscond from hospital Flowchart dated 18.02.2025

