





Department
of Health &
Social Care


*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Women's Health and Mental Health*

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU


HM Coroner Tanyka Rawden
South Yorkshire (West)
Medico-Legal Centre
Watery Street
Sheffield
S3 7ES


15 January 2026

Dear Mrs Rawden,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 28 November 2025 sent to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care about the death of Mia Maisie Lucas. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for mental health.

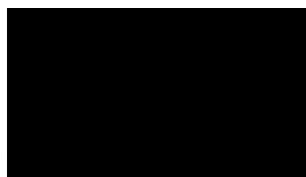
Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Miss Lucas's death, and I offer my sincere condolences to her family and loved ones. The circumstances your report describes are concerning and I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention.

The report raises concerns about the availability of national guidance on when to consider, and how to diagnose autoimmune encephalitis.

In considering your report, officials within the Department of Health and Social Care have made enquiries with NHS England and concluded that these concerns are more appropriately addressed by NHS England directly. I am advised that NHS England will therefore provide you with a full and comprehensive response on the concerns you have raised.

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely




**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
WOMEN'S HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH**