

1 April 2026

Mr Andrew Cox
Senior Coroner for Cornwall and the
Isles of Scilly
Cornwall Coroners' Service
Pydar House
Pydar Street
Truro
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Executive Office
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Dear Mr Cox

Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Geoffrey Gudgeon

Thank you for your report dated 16 February 2026 following the inquest into the death of Mr Geoffrey Gudgeon. I am writing on behalf of NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board in response to your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued following the inquest into Mr Gudgeon's death. First and foremost, we offer our sincere condolences to Mr Gudgeon's family.

The ICB accepts that the concern raised through the inquest highlights a material system capacity risk within the Cornwall stroke pathway, with direct implications for timely access to specialist stroke assessment and treatment. We note the evidence heard that, at the time of the events in question, 35% of patients were admitted to a stroke unit from the Emergency Department within 4.5 hours and 55% spent more than 90% of their time on a stroke unit.

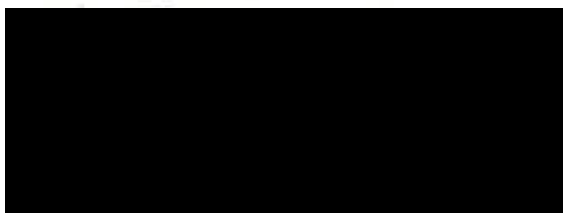
More recent data for the Cornwall stroke pathway indicates improvement in direct admission to the stroke unit within 4 hours, rising from 38% in 2024/25 to 52% in the available 2025/26 data. However, system pressures across the wider pathway have remained evident since December 2025, reflecting ongoing capacity constraints.

The ICB is leading a system-wide programme of review and improvement in relation to stroke capacity and pathway provision. This includes development of a unified integrated stroke pathway, strengthened cross-organisational governance, and updated demand and capacity modelling covering bed capacity, workforce, therapy provision, and patient flow.

This work reflects the system's recognition that the issue is not limited to acute stroke bed capacity alone, but relates to wider pathway resilience, including rehabilitation provision, workforce capacity, and patient flow across organisational boundaries. A cross-organisational working group has been established, with a three-month timeframe agreed for development of a business case incorporating demand and capacity modelling, workforce requirements, governance arrangements, service options, financial implications, and key risks and mitigations.

This work is underway and is intended to address the risks identified through the inquest by improving pathway resilience and reducing delays in access to specialist stroke care. This programme is being progressed to an agreed timetable, with immediate commencement of modelling work and a three-month timeframe for completion of the business case to inform future system decisions. The ICB will continue to review progress and work collaboratively with partners to support delivery of the required improvements.

Yours sincerely



**On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board**