

Jyoti Gill  
Assistant Coroner for Essex

20 May 2026

Dear Ms. Gill,

**Re: RCPCH Response to the Inquest Touching the Death of Viviana-Ray Winnie Elsie Wendy Butnaru – A Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

Thank you for sharing your report with us regarding the tragic and untimely passing of Viviana-Ray Winnie Elsie Wendy Butnaru. I was very sorry to hear of Viviana-Ray's death.

We have considered your report carefully. Myocarditis is a very uncommon presentation in children. RCPCH Facing the Future: Standards for Children and Young People in Emergency Care Settings (5th edition, updated October 2025) provide a comprehensive framework for system-level safety in emergency care settings. While these standards do not include condition-specific pathways for rare but serious presentations such as myocarditis, they describe how paediatric care should be delivered to provide a safe and sustainable, high-quality service that meets the health needs of every child and young person. The standards apply to all persons up until the age of 18 and aim to ensure that urgent and emergency care is fully integrated to ensure children are seen by the right people, at the right place and in the right setting. We recently completed a comprehensive review, revision and update these standards under the auspices of an intercollegiate committee for emergency care.

Several of these standards are relevant to your concerns. In particular, Chapter 4 (Management of the Sick or Injured Child) sets clear expectations that all children attending an emergency department must undergo timely triage within 15 minutes, receive a full set of physiological observations, and be assessed using a paediatric early warning system with clearly defined escalation protocols. Abnormal observations must prompt timely escalation and senior clinical review, with repeat observations performed at defined intervals. These standards directly relate to the issues identified in this case, including failure to escalate CEWT scores, absence of repeat observations, and delayed recognition of clinical deterioration.

In addition to this, RCPCH are committed to the introduction, embedding and appropriate standardisation of Paediatric Early Warning Systems (PEWS). PEWS are designed to effectively recognise and respond to the deterioration of children or young people in a healthcare environment. A parental escalation process is essential to any effectively PEWS. RCPCH have been collaborating with NHS England and the Royal College of Nursing to

develop a single national PEWS for England since 2018 and are supportive of equivalent processes across the UK.

Chapter 12 (Information Systems and Quality Care Indicators) sets expectations for clear, contemporaneous documentation, structured communication and handover processes, and timely access to diagnostic reporting systems. These standards address the deficiencies identified in documentation, communication of radiological findings, and delayed reporting of chest X-rays.

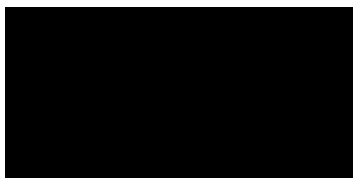
In addition, Chapter 3 (Workforce and Training) requires access to consultant-level paediatric expertise and appropriately trained staff capable of recognising serious illness, which is relevant to the delayed recognition of cardiac pathology and clinical deterioration.

With regard to other matters of concern specific to children that you raise:

- Parvovirus awareness. We are not aware of any change in the overall prevalence of this common virus in the population
- Chest X ray reporting. This lies outside of our control but we recognise that there is often some delay between images being taken in the context of an emergency and a formal report being issued. All clinicians have some training in interpreting chest x rays.
- Metabolic acidosis is a non-specific feature of many acute presentations in children. Respiratory acidosis is very uncommon in children

Thank you for seeking our views and reminding us of the importance of this work. Our sincere condolences are with Viviana-Ray's family.

Yours sincerely



RCPCH President