



**York and Scarborough  
Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

[Redacted]

Medical Governance  
The York Hospital  
Wigginton

13 May 2026  
Road

YORK  
YO31 8HE

Mr Mark Armitage  
Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of  
North Yorkshire & York

[Redacted] Medical Director  
[Redacted]

Dear Sir

Thank you for raising your concerns following the inquest surrounding the death of Mr Malcolm Welch and his care at York Hospital. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family. York & Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust) notes your concerns outlined at Section 5 of the Report to Prevent Future Deaths (PFD) in relation to the availability of walking frames for patients.

Across York & Scarborough NHS Foundation Trust, each inpatient ward has their own stock of walking aids (mix of rollator frames and walking sticks) which are available for their patients to use during their inpatient stay. When a patient is assessed as needing a walking aid to support their mobility in the hospital, this is initially provided by each ward from the ward stock. The aid will then be accessible within the bay and in reach for the patient whilst they are on that ward.

When a patient moves to another ward it is not standard practice for the walking aid they were using to move with them. On arrival at the new ward they will have access to the that ward's walking aid stock.

This process is designed to manage the risk of surplus walking aids accumulating on some wards, which then increases the risk of environmental trip hazards and falls for some patients, and leaving other wards with reduced stock.

We recognise and regret that Mr Welch was not immediately provided with his own walking frame on arrival on the ward.

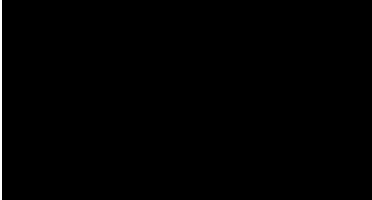
In response to this case the monthly Learning from Falls briefing focused on the provision of



walking aids and this was shared with Ward Managers, Deputy Ward Managers, Matrons, Heads of Nursing, Allied Health Professional team managers and Falls Champions for circulation. It was also discussed in the April 2026 Falls Champion meetings.

We hope that this information provides you with assurance that the Trust has taken your concerns on board and is working to establish improved safety in this area.

Yours sincerely



Medical Director & Responsible Officer