



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Minister of State for Health (Secondary Care)

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

HM Coroner JOANNE ANDREWS
Area Coroner for
West Sussex, Brighton and Hove

08 June 2026

Dear Ms Andrews,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 22 May sent to the Department of Health and Social Care about the death of David John Smart. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for urgent and emergency care.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Mr Smart's death and I offer my sincere condolences to their 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 over the continued use of corridors to care for patients at the Royal Sussex Country Hospital Brighton and more widely across the country.

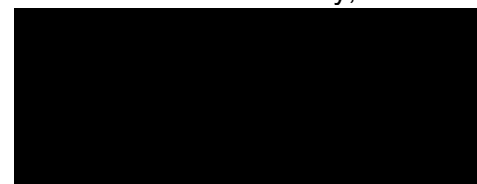
We recognise the concerns surrounding corridor care and are clear that it is unacceptable and should not be allowed to become an accepted part of care delivery. Its presence reflects broader pressures across urgent and emergency care, and we are committed to tackling and eliminating it.

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.

The Government and NHS England will continue to take action across the full urgent and emergency care pathway to improve patient flow, expand available capacity, and reduce avoidable demand on accident and emergency departments. This includes focused support for the most challenged trusts, alongside strengthened reporting arrangements and the introduction of a consistent national definition of corridor care to support greater transparency. We will also begin publishing data on corridor care for the first time, subject to assurance of data quality.

I hope this response is helpful. Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,



MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH