



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Minister of State
Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

HM Coroner Rachael Griffin
Dorset

11 August 2026

Dear Rachael,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 24 June 2026 about the death of Naeem Ahmed.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Mr Ahmed's death, and I offer my sincere condolences to his 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 disposal of medicines and lack of joined up systems to show the cumulative workload of clinicians undertaking both NHS and private clinical work.

In considering your report, officials within the Department of Health and Social Care made enquiries with NHS England and concluded that the concerns you have raised are more appropriately addressed by NHS England directly. The matters relating to the disposal of medicines are operational issues that fall within NHS England's remit. This includes responsibility for coordinating the regional response. Accordingly, NHS England is best placed to respond to these aspects of your correspondence. I am advised that NHS England will therefore provide you with a full and comprehensive response to the operational concerns you have raised.

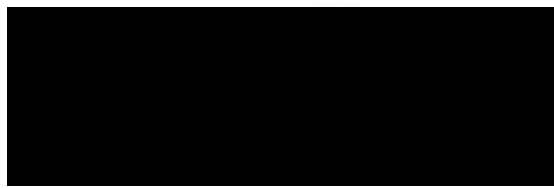
On staff working patterns, employers have a duty of care to balance the demands of providing continuous care with consideration for staff rights and wellbeing. The national terms and conditions of employment for consultants provide safeguards related to working patterns which go beyond the minimum legal requirements established by the Working Time Regulations. As set out in their contract of employment, a consultant is expected to inform their employer of any private practice work they are undertaking to ensure safe working hours and shift patterns are maintained within their job plan.

The Government also expects employers across the NHS to have their own arrangements in place for supporting their staff, including occupational health provision and employee support programmes. On a national level, NHS England has made available additional support including emotional and psychological health and wellbeing support and in 2023,

published a strategy to grow occupational health and wellbeing, setting out a roadmap for the NHS and partner organisations to work together to develop and invest in occupational health and wellbeing services for NHS staff over the next 5 years. For those NHS staff in need of specialist mental health support, including doctors, they can access the National Staff Mental Health Treatment Service (provided by NHS Practitioner Health), a national support service for staff with more complex mental health needs brought about by serious issues such as trauma or addiction.

I hope this response is helpful

Yours sincerely,



MINISTER OF STATE