



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

Minister of State for Health (Secondary Care)

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

HM Assistant Coroner, James Thompson  
Gateshead & South Tyneside

21 August 2026

Dear James Thompson,

Thank you for the Regulation 28 report of 6 July 2026 about the death of Scott Alan Taylor. I am replying as Minister of State for Health.

Firstly, I would like to say how saddened I was to read of the circumstances of Mr Taylor'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 the availability of specialist tertiary care for the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

Responsibility for the commissioning of specialist tertiary care for the treatment of OCD sits with Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) which are overseen by NHS England.

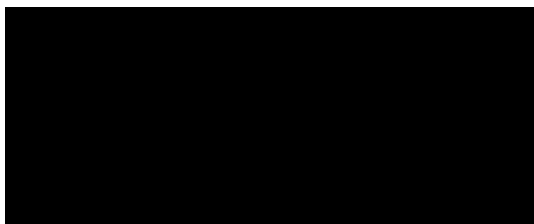
In considering your report and the concerns raised, officials within the Department of Health and Social Care have made enquiries with NHS England and concluded that NHS England is therefore best placed to provide a response. I am advised that NHS England will provide you with a full and comprehensive response on the concerns you have raised.

I would like to assure you that we recognise that it is unacceptable that some people are waiting to receive the mental health care they need. We are determined to change that so that people can be confident in accessing high-quality mental health support when and where they need it.

We know that long waits are being driven by increasing demand to a system in desperate need of change. We are already responding by delivering new, innovative models of care in the community, and are piloting six community-based adult mental health centres to bring together community, crisis and inpatient care. We are also providing more NHS Talking Therapies, investing in mental health emergency departments and giving patients better access to 24/7 support directly through the NHS App. Through our upcoming mental health strategy, we will put more emphasis on early intervention and recovery to support people to live well and thrive.

I hope this response is helpful

Yours sincerely,



**MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH**