



Department  
of Health

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09 MAR 2015

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Alan Walsh  
HM Area Coroner  
H M Coroner's Office  
Paderborn House  
Civic Centre  
Bolton  
BL1 1QY

26 November 2014

Dear Mr Walsh

*Dear Mr. Walsh,*

Our ref. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter to [REDACTED] about her response to your Regulation 28 report on the death of Katie Davies. I am responding on her behalf.

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in my response while I discussed the issues raised in your letter of 18 September with colleagues across the Department.

Your letter requested that,

- all trusts to be made aware of the issue of potential 'blind spots' for bleepers and pagers on their estates; and
- the next edition of the National Clinical Guidelines for Stroke consider the concerns you have raised.

It may be useful for me to explain that individual Trusts are responsible for their own operations and the Department of Health does not have a "command and control" function.

While individual Trusts remain responsible for their technology and protocols, we recognise the salient points you have raised and have considered how we might raise awareness within the bounds of our remit.

We have talked to colleagues in NHS Estates and Facilities about this. They have agreed that a safety alert will be sent to all Trusts in England making them aware of the concerns that you have raised about potential blind spots, and asking them to investigate and take action where necessary. We will also ask that the devolved nations are included in this alert, although you will appreciate that we are not responsible for the NHS outside England.

On the issue of clinical guidance in the area of stroke (incorporating Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis), we have again consulted [REDACTED] National Clinical Director for Stroke at NHS England. He has agreed to ask for the issues you raise to be reviewed as part of the process of developing the next edition of the National Clinical Guidelines for stroke.

Additionally, although NICE have no plans at the moment to update their guidelines on acute stroke, we have also passed the Coroner's concerns to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is Centre for Clinical Practice Director at NICE, for information.

We thank you for your diligence in this case and hope that I hope that this response is useful

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]