



Department
of Health

From Norman Lamb MP
Minister of State for Care and Support

Richmond House
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POC3000928796
Mr Andrew Cox
HM Assistant Coroner for the County of Cornwall
The New Lodge
Newquay Road
Penmount
Truro
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26 MAR 2015

Dear Mr Cox,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State for Health about the death of George Taylor. I am responding as Minister responsible for mental health policy.

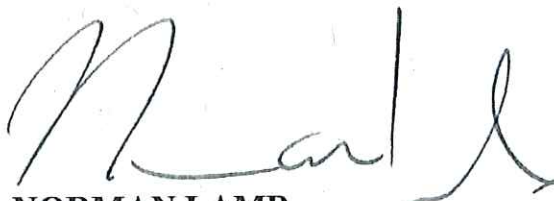
I was saddened to hear of Mr Taylor's death. The Government has made it clear that beds must always be available for those who need them and have set out in the Mandate — our annual contract with NHS England — that plans must be put in place to ensure no one in mental health crisis will be turned away. I have made NHS England aware of your report.

The Crisis Care Concordat makes it clear that local commissioners should commission a range of mental health services that respond rapidly and appropriately to a person in urgent need. We asked local areas to commit to and agree their own 'Mental Health Crisis Declaration' before the end of 2014. Every area in England has done so and work is now underway across the country to develop action plans over the coming months detailing how local partners will improve crisis care for people of all ages.

As you heard during the inquest, the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is reviewing bed provision in Cornwall with the Cornwall Partnership Foundation Trust. Decisions about the appropriate number of beds to be commissioned in Cornwall are for local clinicians to make. I note that you have also sent your report to the CCG.

I hope that this information is helpful and I thank you for bringing the circumstances of Mr Taylor's death to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Norman Lamb', written in black ink.

NORMAN LAMB