



Department
of Health

POC5 953428

From Ben Gummer MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Quality

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20 OCT 2015

Thank you for your letter of 7th August 2015 following the inquest into the death of James Adams. I was sorry to hear of Mr Adams' death and wish to extend my condolences to his family.

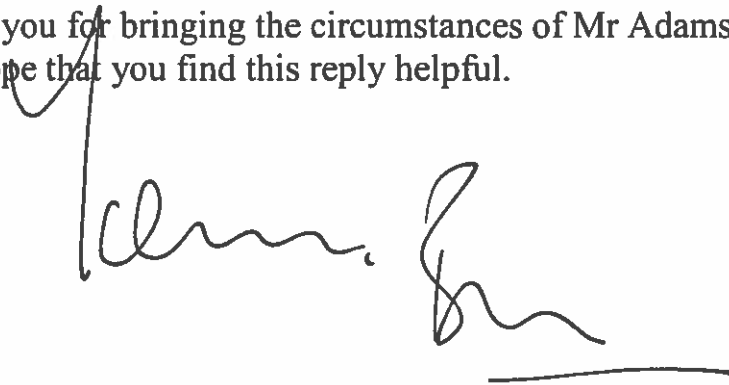
I understand that since Mr Adams' death the working relationship between Devon and Cornwall Police and the local Mental Health Services has been improved and that a Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up.

Your main concern in this case was the lack of acute psychiatric beds in Cornwall and how this could continue to have an adverse impact on the care of mental health patients in this area. Commissioning mental health inpatient services is the responsibility of the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - in this case the NHS Kernow CCG. It commissions services for Cornwall from the Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

I note that you have sent your letter to both NHS England and Kernow CCG. I can advise that Sir Bruce Keogh, National Medical Director of NHS England, is responding to you on behalf of NHS England. I commend Sir Bruce's reply.

NHS England's role is to oversee the commissioning functions of CCGs. Kernow CCG has agreed to carry out a full review both of acute psychiatric beds in Cornwall and the staffing of the place of safety service and will produce an action plan and commissioning strategy. The implementation of this plan will be monitored by NHS England.

I am grateful to you for bringing the circumstances of Mr Adams' death to my attention and hope that you find this reply helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Gummer', written over a horizontal line.

BEN GUMMER