



Department
of Health

POC 1028369

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15 June 2016

Thank you for your letter to Secretary of State about the death of Ms Joyce Carney. I am responding as the Minister with responsibility for patient safety at the Department of Health.

I was saddened to read of the circumstances surrounding Ms Carney's death. Please pass my condolences to her family and loved ones.

Your report outlined the events leading to the injuries sustained by Ms Carney and her subsequent death.

Although frontline organisations must have a measure of autonomy in operational matters, your report raises some important points about the way in which the police and hospitals can work together in these instances. To this end, I have shared your report with NHS Protect, which is the organisation with responsibility for a wide range of security and protection issues across the NHS.

NHS Protect would support a joint DH/Home Office initiative to develop protocols, policies and procedures, to provide a national framework for joint risk assessments between police and NHS staff for patients detained at a hospital under arrest, or in the presence of, or supervised by, police officers.

This will enable NHS organisations and police to develop jointly local plans to mitigate known risks from patients detained at a hospital who may pose a risk to the safety and care of themselves, other patients, visitors and staff.

I hope that this information is useful. Thank you for bringing the circumstances of Ms Carney's death to our attention.

BEN GUMMER