



Department of Health

From Nicola Blackwood MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation



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Mr Ian Singleton
Assistant Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon
Wiltshire and Swindon Coroner's Court
26 Endless Street
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- 7 OCT 2016

Dear Mr Singleton

Thank you for your report of 29 July 2016, following the inquest into the death of Miles Benedict Abel. I was very sorry to hear of Mr Abel's death in January 2016 and wish to extend my sincere condolences to his family.

Your concern relates to the process followed at the Endless Street Surgery for referring patients to the Community Mental Health Team. I am aware that the Surgery has responded to your concerns, confirming that a strengthened and robust system for referral of patients to the Community Mental Health Team is now in place.

Although this is an issue to be addressed locally, the Government is taking forward the digitisation of the NHS. A plan of work covers a portfolio of 33 programmes to deliver the technology, digital and data enablers needed to underpin transformation in the health and social care system. The combined budget for the portfolio is circa £4.2bn. Several programmes will transform how the NHS operates and make better use of technology - for example:

- **Integrated Care** - Better inform clinical decision making across all health and care settings by enabling and enhancing the flow of patient information;
- **Paper free at the point of care** – Create an NHS “paper free at the point of care” to enable the NHS workforce to better utilise the benefits of digital technology; and
- **Transforming General Practice** - Use technology to free GPs from time-consuming administrative tasks and provide patients with online services

I am grateful to you for bringing the circumstances of Mr Abel's death to my attention.

Best wish

Nicola

NICOLA BLACKWOOD