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RECEIVED
13 FEB 2017

Dr Andrew Harris
Senior Coroner for Inner South District Greater London
Southwark Coroner's Court
1 Tennis Street
London, SE1 1YD

Chief Executive and Registrar: Marc Seale

13 February 2017

Den Dr Harris

PFD (Prevent Future Deaths) report touching the death of Richard Walsh
Date of death: 19/07/2015

I am writing in connection with the above report. Nicola Blackwood MP wrote to me in January 2017 in connection with your request that the findings of your report be brought to the attention of those who lead the 'Departmental training programme' for Approved Mental Health Practitioners (AMHPs). We understand that Ms Blackwood advised you that she had brought this matter to our attention.

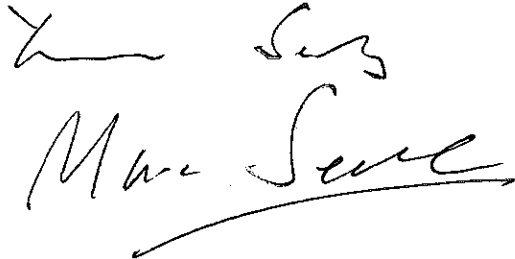
We have given careful consideration to the findings of your report. We have a statutory responsibility to set criteria for initial Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) training and to approve training programmes. Having reviewed the criteria that we first published in 2013, we are confident that they continue to set out appropriate requirements for qualifying training, including requirements for those completing training to have acquired necessary skills in carrying out mental health assessments. However, as we only assumed responsibility for approving AMHP training in 2012, we are cognisant that the nurse involved in this case may well have undertaken training assessed against different requirements.

I am also mindful that our responsibility for AMHP training is due to become the responsibility of a new regulator, Social Work England, in 2018. We will ensure that the new regulator is aware of this report and our correspondence.

Successful completion of an approved programme only makes an individual *eligible* to be approved to act as an AMHP. Under The Mental Health (Approved Mental Health Professionals) (Approval) (England) (England) Regulations 2008 approval to act as an AMHP rests with a Local Social Services Authority (LSSA) in England. The LSSA also has responsibility under the regulations for ensuring that the AMHPs they approve receive at least 18 hours of training per year relevant to their role. This is likely to be the most effective means of addressing the specific

issues that you raise in your report. I have copied this letter to Nicole Blackwood MP to suggest that bringing your report to the attention of LSSA's in the context of their ongoing training obligations might be an effective way of drawing attention to the issues that you raise.

I hope this letter is helpful. Please do contact me if we can assist in any way in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Seale', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marc Seale
Chief Executive and Registrar

cc. Nicola Blackwood MP