

SM/PR/BW/30
10 April 2017

Mrs Caroline Beasley-Murray
HM Senior Coroner
Seax House, Coroner's Court
Victoria Road South
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1QH



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Acting Chair: [REDACTED]
Chief Executive: Sally Morris

Dear Mrs Beasley-Murray

I am writing to set out the Trust's formal response to the Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths, dated 17 February 2017.

I would like to begin by extending our condolences to the family of Mr Saunders. I hope this response provides them and you with assurance that the Trust regards this situation very seriously and is taking action to address the issues raised.

In response to the three matters of concern addressed in the report to SEPT:

Although the admissions protocol used by the Trust is an all-inclusive one and does not exclude any scenario (provided that the individual has been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983) the Trust has submitted the protocol for regional review by the Secure Services Catchment Group for East of England and will ensure you are informed of the outcome.

The Trust has taken the issue of best practice in relation to the forensic pathway to the Secure Services Catchment Group for East of England for regional discussion. We will ensure you are informed of the outcome. Unfortunately, as the delay in transfer in Mr Saunders' situation was not within the Trust's control, we are unable to address this issue.

The Trust has been in discussion with NHS England, as the commissioners of the service, on the hospital transfer issue and understands that the commissioners are taking this forward with Care UK as the providers of the healthcare service and with NOMS.

Please be assured that learning from Mr Saunders' death is being shared across the Trust in order to help prevent the same issues arising again. We have also been in touch with Mr Saunders' family as part of this learning process.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my condolences once again to Mr Saunders' family. I hope that this response goes some way to providing assurance that the Trust

regards their loss very seriously indeed and is taking steps to address the issues raised during the investigation and the inquest.

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally Morris", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SALLY MORRIS
Chief Executive