



Department  
of Health

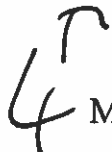
POC 1014368

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

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Ms Selena Lynch  
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 4 May 2016



Thank you for your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> January to the Secretary of State about the death of Rio Andrew . I am responding as the Minister with portfolio responsibility for patient safety at the Department of Health.

I was saddened to read of Rio's death. The death of a young person is always a great loss. Please pass my condolences to his family.

Your report noted a number of concerns which include the regulation of the private ambulance company by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), exemptions around temporary events and regulation of the title 'ambulance technician'.

With regards to the regulation of the private company by the CQC, the exemption for temporary arrangements means that the provision of medical assistance at events is entirely unregulated. This includes not only illegal raves, but legal events such as sporting events, fetes and festivals.

Although Local Authorities are generally responsible for enforcing health and safety legislation at events where an event is actually organised by a local authority, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is normally responsible for enforcement. HSE is sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions.

To assist in the provision of safe and well run events Local Authorities have Safety Advisory Groups which

- promote high levels of safety and welfare at events by giving advice and guidance
- promote good practice in safety and welfare planning for events
- ensure events have a minimal adverse impact on the community

The CQC does not regulate the “treatment of disease, disorder or injury” where it is delivered under temporary arrangements for the purposes of sporting or cultural events. The rationale for this is because the short term nature of such events means system regulation does not offer an effective mitigation of the risks in the care provided over the course of the event. In most cases, the event would be over before the CQC would have chance to inspect it or provided any sort of assurance about the quality and safety of services provided at the event.

In addition, the costs and requirements of regulation to one-off events, such as village fetes and similar, would place a disproportionate burden on the organisations wishing to carry out those events.

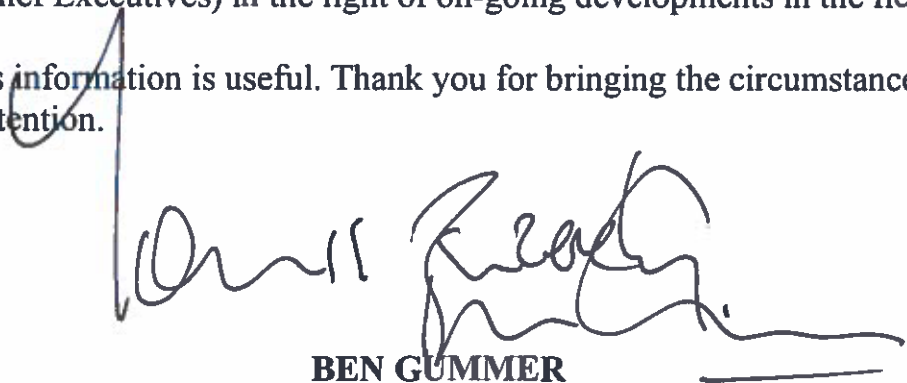
The Department has become aware of some permanent established companies that provide cover at temporary events. These providers deliver services on a year round basis, to one off events and other social and cultural events. The range of services provided appears to go some way beyond basic first aid and in some cases involves the delivery of services by a multi-disciplinary team. The Department is intending to consult later this year as to whether providers of this sort, should be brought into the scope of regulation by CQC. The Department is proposing that permanent nature of these providers, as opposed to the temporary nature of the events they provide services at, does offer sufficient continuity of service that system regulation by CQC could help mitigate the risks of the public receiving unsafe care at events.

This proposal would not extend to organisations established on a temporary basis for the purpose of delivering services at a cultural or sporting event, for the reasons already set out above.

I note that you have been sent a report from [REDACTED] of Life Skills Medical UK which was, in this case, the Approved Training Centre and Provider of ambulance service qualifications training. [REDACTED] made a number of recommendations which he believes would prevent future deaths.

I have asked my officials to review the issues and proposals put forward by Life Skills Medical UK and discuss them with the relevant bodies (e.g. CQC, Association of Ambulance Chief Executives) in the light of on-going developments in the field.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Gummer', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**BEN GUMMER**