



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Jackie Doyle-Price MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health,
Inequalities and Suicide Prevention

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Your Ref: 9480/CLB

PFD-1150539

Ms Alison Patricia Mutch
HM Coroner's Court
1 Mount Tabor Street
Stockport
SK1 3AG

19th November 2018

Dear Ms Mutch,

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 September to Matt Hancock about the death of baby Bridget Marie Connell-Graham. I am replying as Minister with portfolio responsibility for maternity care.

I have noted carefully the matter of concern in your report. It is essential that we look to make improvements where we can to ensure the safety of healthcare services and prevent future deaths and I am grateful to you for bringing these matters to my attention.

My officials have made enquiries with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). I am advised that the guideline, *Preterm labour and birth* (NG25)¹, includes a 'Terms to use in the guideline' section (at the end of Recommendations) that contains key definitions. This currently does not include a definition of cervical trauma. However, the full guideline document for NG25 does. The full guideline document contains the recommendations, the evidence they are based on and considerations of the guideline developers. It also contains a glossary which defines cervical trauma as "*Physical injury to the cervix including surgery; for example, previous cone biopsy (cold knife or laser), large loop excision of the transformation zone (LLETZ) – any number) or radical diathermy*".

¹ <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng25>

NICE has advised that it will ensure this definition is added to the 'Terms used in this guideline' section as soon as possible, so it is easily accessible to those looking over the recommendations.

I hope this response is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie', written in a cursive style.

JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE