



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Steve Brine MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care

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Your Ref: KLD/LD/FARMER/1895
Our Ref: PFD-1161031

25 JAN 2019

Ms Karen Dilks
HM Senior Coroner, Newcastle upon Tyne
HM Coroner's Court
Civic Centre
Barras Bridge
Newcastle NE1 8QH

22 JAN 2019

Dear Ms Dilks,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 December to Matt Hancock about the death of Edward James Farmer. I am replying as Minister with portfolio responsibility for Alcohol.

I have noted carefully the matters of concern raised in your report. I understand that you have also copied your report to Damian Hinds, the Secretary of State for Education.

In your report you request that consideration be given to conducting a national campaign of the risks of consuming alcohol within a short period; how to identify persons at risk; and the importance of timely medical intervention. The death of Edward Farmer is tragic and careful consideration is needed on how best to address the issues raised in your report.

I suggest our approach should be the same as the one suggested by the Secretary of State for Education, in that any action on this is deferred until the Department of Health and Social Care has had the chance to work with colleagues across Government and in other health sector bodies.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for highlighting this important issue to me; I will write back to you on how best we can prevent similar deaths in the future.

Yours



STEVE BRINE