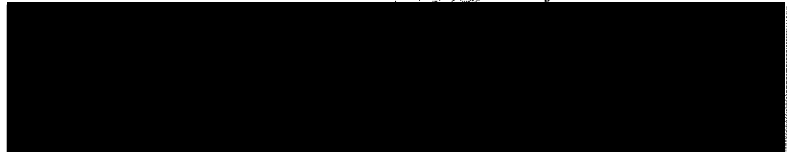


From the Chief Executive and Registrar

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

17/9



13 September 2019

Dear Sir

Re: The Late Alex James Blake – Regulation 28 prevention of Future Deaths Report

Further to your report to Prevent Future Deaths made under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, I am writing to provide you with the Nursing and Midwifery Council's ('NMC's') response.

Firstly, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to Mr Blake's family for their loss, and to assure you and them that I take the concerns you have raised very seriously.

Action we are taking in this case

I note that the concerns are focused on three named individuals, two of whom are registered nurses, and one of whom is a healthcare assistant (HCA).

I have passed your report regarding the two registered nurses to our Fitness to Practise team for further investigation; we have now also received a formal referral from NHS Professionals in respect of these two nurses. The case of the two nurses is now with our screening team and they will use the information we have received from your office and NHS Professionals to consider the matter further. I would be happy to arrange for you to receive further updates about the progress of the case if that would be helpful

Our Employer Link Service (ELS) has been in touch with the trust and NHS Professionals to try to understand the delays that occurred in referring these nurses to us and to learn for the future. The ELS will also be following up with the trust and NHS Professionals to ensure that there are processes in place to ensure that prompt referrals are made in appropriate cases in the future.

23 Portland Place, London W1B 1PZ
T 020 7637 7181
www.nmc.org.uk

We are the professional regulatory body for nurses and midwives in the UK. Our role is to protect patients and the public through efficient and effective regulation.

Registered charity in England and Wales (1091434) and in Scotland (SC038362)

With regard to the HCA mentioned in your letter, we are unable to direct action against this individual. Our statutory remit covers nurses, midwives and nursing associates effective on our register. However, we have referred your concerns about this individual to the Care Quality Commission, who will be able to take any action or make any recommendations they consider to be appropriate in relation to the trust's use of agency staff.

I hope that my letter reassures you that we are taking all appropriate action to address your concerns. If you have any further questions regarding this case or the action we have taken, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I would also like to reassure you and Mr Blake's family that it is open to them to speak to our Public Support Service for information and support concerning our fitness to practise processes. I will ask my colleagues in that team to contact them about the support they can provide.

Finally, please can you ensure that any future Regulation 28 prevention of Future Deaths Reports are sent to me at 23 Portland Place, London, W1B 1PZ as this will enable us to deal with any future reports as promptly as possible.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely

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

Andrea Sutcliffe CBE
Chief Executive and Registrar