



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Department of Health & Social Care
Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds
LS2 7UA

Mrs Rachael Griffin
HM Senior Coroner, Dorset
The Coroner's Office
Town Hall
Bournemouth
BH2 6DY

Your Reference: RCG/01301-2017/LJ
Our Reference: PFD1195251

7 November 2019

Dear Mrs Griffin

Prevention of Future Deaths Report (Douglas Paul Oak)

I am writing to you in relation to a Prevention of Future Deaths Report issued to the Department of Health and Social Care on 24 October 2019, following the inquest into the death of Douglas Paul Oak.

As you will be aware, a General Election will take place on Thursday 12 December 2019. Dissolution of Parliament happened on 6 November and there will now be a five-week pre-election period.

General Elections have a number of implications for the work of Government departments. In line with Cabinet Office guidelines, it is customary for Ministers to observe discretion in initiating any new action of a continuing character. The guidelines further recommend that matters of policy on which a new Government might be expected to want to take a view should be postponed until after the election, provided that such postponement would not be detrimental to the national interest or wasteful of public money.



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My purpose in writing to you is to advise that it is unlikely the Department will be able to respond to your report by the deadline of 19 December 2019.

The Department respectfully submits that an extension to your deadline to a time when a new administration is in place, Ministerial appointments have been made and incoming Ministers have an opportunity to consider your report, would enable a full response to be made.

The Department will ensure that your office is contacted to discuss, and agree, a new, appropriate deadline once a new administration is in place.

I appreciate that the Department's delay in responding will be disappointing. However, we will work to ensure the concerns you have raised are considered carefully and that a full response is provided as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely


Senior Policy Manager, Patient Safety