

10 May 2021

Dr Philip Barlow
Assistant Coroner
London Inner South Coroner's Court
1 Tennis Street
SE1 1YD

Dear Dr Barlow,

I write in response to your correspondence, dated 20 April 2021, regarding the tragic death of Ella Adoo Kissi-Debrah. I would like to express my sincere condolences to Ella's family.

We have considered the concerns raised in your report that are relevant to NICE's work. Namely, that the adverse effects of air pollution on health are not being sufficiently communicated to patients and their carers by medical and nursing professionals and that this should be addressed by guidance aimed at professionals.

Following the inquest into Ella's death, NICE carried out an [exceptional surveillance review](#) of its guideline on asthma to assess whether the link between air pollution and asthma was appropriately covered. As a result of this process, the decision was made to amend the NICE guideline on [asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management NICE guideline \(NG80\)](#) to acknowledge the link between air pollution and asthma.

Amendments to the guideline were made in March 2021. Within recommendations 1.10.1 and 1.10.5, we clarified that approaches to minimising indoor air pollution and reducing exposure to outdoor air pollution should be included in a personalised action plan because pollution can trigger and exacerbate asthma. We also added links to the [NICE guidelines on air pollution: outdoor air quality and health](#) and [indoor air quality at home](#) in recommendation 1.10.1.

Separate to the above actions, the British Thoracic Society, Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network and NICE are currently working together to produce UK-wide guidance on [asthma diagnosis and monitoring and chronic asthma management](#) that will update and replace the existing NICE guideline (NG80) once published. The expected publication date of this new joint guideline is yet to be scheduled.

I hope the above information is useful. Thank you for requesting our contribution.

Yours sincerely,



Professor [Redacted]
Chief Executive