



# Department of Health & Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

## **Steve Brine MP**

Chair, Health and Social Care Select Committee

*By email only*

10 April 2024

Dear Steve,

### **Lampard Inquiry Terms of Reference**

On 26 March, Minister Stephenson and I met with some of the affected families to discuss the Lampard Inquiry. It was very helpful to hear the families' moving stories and their views on the Terms of Reference, which I have considered in addition to the Chair's consultation. I know that Baroness Lampard has thoroughly considered all the responses received by the Inquiry from a range of interested parties.

I have accepted changes to the Terms of Reference proposed by the Chair and made some additional amendments to reflect some of the views shared by the families. In particular, we have clarified that the Inquiry's definition of an inpatient death will include some deaths outside mental health inpatient units as set out in the Explanatory Note to the Terms of Reference. We have also made it clearer that the Inquiry will consider interactions with other public bodies, including coroners and the Care Quality Commission. Other changes reflected in the Terms of Reference are: the inclusion of the independent sector, given that NHS patients also receive treatments in the independent sector; serious harm short of death events; and consideration of neurodiversity and learning disabilities. The Inquiry will also be extending its investigations to the end of 2023 to capture additional deaths since 2020.

I recognise that there were calls to include community and outpatient deaths within the Inquiry's scope. After careful consideration, I have concluded that given its size, the community sector would add significantly to the original scope and length of the Inquiry. We do not consider it appropriate for community and outpatient deaths to be included as an area of focus for the Inquiry.

I am writing to inform you that today (10 April) the Terms of Reference for the Lampard Inquiry will be published on gov.uk. Due to Parliamentary recess, a Written Ministerial Statement will be laid in Parliament as soon as practicable. In the interim, a copy of this letter and the Terms of Reference have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am pleased that the Inquiry now has a firm basis on which to proceed. Baroness Lampard and her team will undertake the Inquiry thoroughly and as swiftly as possible. The Department will continue to support the Inquiry with the resources it needs to undertake its investigations. I recognise that as the Inquiry progresses there will be individuals who require support through the process. The Inquiry offers independent emotional support and details

of how this support can be accessed are available from the Inquiry website.  
<https://lampardinquiry.org.uk/support/>

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

**RT HON VICTORIA ATKINS MP**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**