



Department of Health & Social Care

*From Baroness Merron
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Women's Health and Mental Health*

*39 Victoria Street
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19 December 2025

My Lords,

I want to thank you for your contribution in the Lords on 13 November on Goodmayes Hospital Mental Health Facility.

I am writing to provide additional clarity to some remarks I made in the debate. When responding to the question from the Noble Lord, Lord Scriven, regarding the assessment the Government has made of the link between financial distress in NHS mental health trusts and patient safety, I stated that, for the North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NEFLT), "acute adult wards remain in the category of requiring improvement, as does its overall rating".

In 2024 CQC introduced the Single Assessment Framework, a new framework for assessing health and care providers, including NHS Trusts. Whilst previously, NHS trusts received several ratings for different aspects of their services, since 2024, each Trust receives one, combined overall rating. This rating is based on the 'well-led' key question rating, which assesses how a trust is managed and governed. In March 2025, the CQC assessed the 'well-led' key question at NEFLT and rated it 'Good'. Following this assessment, and as per the updated assessment framework, the single trust-level rating for NEFLT is 'Good'.

I hope the above response proves useful. I am copying this letter to the editor of Hansard. I have deposited a copy of this letter in the Library of both houses.

All good wishes,

BARONESS MERRON