



Our ref: WQ84851 & WQ84852

Russell George MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Montgomeryshire

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1 April 2022

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me to outline how care home deaths will be investigated and whether this will include the discharge of COVID-positive patients from local health boards into care homes during the first wave of the pandemic. You also asked me what specific options I have considered to ensure that deaths in non-NHS funded care homes are investigated, and who would independently monitor these cases.

The *NHS Wales National Framework – Management of patient safety incidents following nosocomial transmission of COVID-19* was published in March 2021, setting out requirements for how and what health boards/trusts should do in response to investigating cases of nosocomial COVID-19, in line with the Putting Things Right regulations.

In cases where COVID-19 has been acquired by an individual in a care home who is not receiving NHS funding, the Putting Things Right regulations do not apply and investigations will not be covered by the framework. I am keen, however, to ensure that we take every opportunity to reflect and learn from the effects of the pandemic and care that was provided in all settings, irrespective of funding structure. My officials are considering how best to capture important learning from instances where COVID-19 was acquired in non-NHS funded care. We will, of course, contribute fully to the forthcoming Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

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Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.