



Department
of Health

From Norman Lamb MP
Minister of State for Care and Support

Department of Health
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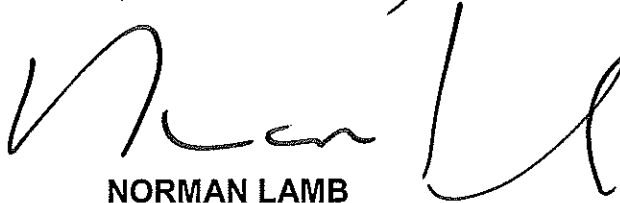
Dear Alex Knapp,

Thank you for your continued correspondence on this matter. Since you last wrote to us, my officials have been working with colleagues at CQC to ensure that the proposed new regulations reflect the importance of care providers employing competent staff.

A series of Departmental consultations on fundamental standards, duty of candour and fit and proper persons requirements have recently closed, and we have been working with CQC to analyse the responses and further improve the draft regulations. Our latest drafts now include explicit references to competence - and CQC are aware of this. CQC must publish guidance about complying with the new regulations. This will reflect the content of the new regulations, and CQC will consult on the guidance later in the year.

In parallel to this, CQC have been developing and refining their model for regulating care providers, and the handbooks to which your most recent letter refers are a part of this process. However, these handbooks were drafted before our consultations had closed, which is why they do not reflect the suggestions you have made previously.

I hope this gives you some reassurance that your previous comments are being addressed.

Yours sincerely,

NORMAN LAMB