

PE1604/W

Petitioner submission of 4 May 2017

My family and I are pleased to see that the Minister for Mental Health will now include those who were lost to suicide whilst under Compulsory Community Treatment Orders in the Community within the scope of the review.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland does not seem to fully address the issues faced by bereaved families, especially in considering whether they should attend reviews, as their response does not seem to address the issue of the NHS having complete autonomy over whether they investigate themselves: there is no mandatory obligation for Health Boards to involve relatives in the review process, and statistics for February 2016-February 2017 show that a very low number of health boards - only 37% - actually completed suicide reviews within three months.

Also, in the case of physical illness resulting in death where there may have been fault, steps would normally be taken to deal with this, but it would appear that no-one should ever be held responsible or accountable for those who may have been wrongly treated with mental illness. Learning cannot, therefore, take place, as there is no framework for this to occur.

The October 2013 Briefing Paper is very good, however, and should, I believe, be exactly how the suicide review process should be handled, but I do not think it will work if Health Boards continue to be allowed to investigate themselves.

My family and I wish to thank everyone for their responses, and we continue to hope that real progress can be made to assist those who care for loved ones who suffer from mental ill health.