

PE1604/Y

Minister for Mental Health submission of 10 October 2017

As set out in previous letters to the Committee, as a result of the petition the review to be undertaken as required by section 37 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015 will also consider the deaths of patients who are being treated in the community under a compulsory treatment order. The review group is to be led by Professor Craig White, Divisional Clinical Lead, Planning and Quality Division, Scottish Government and will hold its first meeting later this month. The review report will be published by 24 December 2018.

In my last letter to the Committee I confirmed that there was no target for the commencement and completion of suicide reviews which are carried out in line with Healthcare Improvement Scotland's framework for learning from adverse events. The issue of timescales in relation to such reviews will be considered by the review group as part of its discussions.

In respect of suicide prevention, we know there is always room for improvement. We have good working arrangements with a range of partner organisations working in suicide prevention. In late 2017 and into 2018 we will engage with stakeholders with a view to developing a new suicide prevention action plan for publication in 2018, with the aim of continuing the strong long-term downward trend.

I would like to thank the petitioner for her important contribution. The review group will consider how best to engage with the views of families and as part of this process the Chair of the review group would like to offer to meet with the petitioner.