



11st December 2025

To Dr Zubir Ahmed MP
Minister of State for Care
Department of Health and Social Care

Sent by email : dhsc.publicenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk

Dear Zubir Ahmed

The 2023 Learning from Lives and Deaths report (LeDeR report)

We are writing to you on behalf of the elected member representatives at Learning Disability England. Learning Disability England is a membership organisation bringing people and organisations together to create a movement for change where people with learning disabilities, families, friends and paid supporters come together on an equal basis.

NHS England has announced that the 2023 LeDeR report is being withdrawn and will be republished in January 2026. We are concerned the report was already extremely late. It reviewed deaths in 2023, but it wasn't published until September 2025, almost two years later. Now it will be republished in 2026 because some of the data used was incomplete.

Our thoughts are with the families who bravely contributed to this report after the devastating loss of their loved ones. Their voices must be honoured, not undermined. The system needs to ensure that these lessons are taken forward to drive meaningful improvements.

People with a learning disability still die, on average, 20 years younger than the general population. These reports are meant to help services learn quickly and stop avoidable deaths. Delays mean lessons aren't acted on as soon as they should be. Families, people with a learning disability and their allies are right to feel let down. We hear from members that failures like this and the lack of change erode their trust



in the NHS and the government's commitment to ensuring people with a learning disability have the same life opportunities as other citizens.

There are also wider impacts:

- **Wasted resources** – Many NHS trusts and care providers have already responded to the September report. They've spent time and money reviewing findings and updating plans. All of that now needs rework.
- **Risk of misinformation** – If the original report contained gaps or errors, decisions based on it may have targeted the wrong areas. That means some urgent issues could have been missed.
- **Risk of delay** – The significant changes outlined in *Fit for the Future* are happening now, but we are not clear how the learning from LeDeR and other evidence is being incorporated in the design of new systems and programmes like Neighbourhood Health, and Modern Service Frameworks.

The Changes we ask you make include:

- **Timely publication:** Reports published on time to maintain trust and drive timely improvements.
- **Learn quickly:** Learning from incidents is a cornerstone of the NHS's approach to keeping people safe. Lives depend on the NHS learning and acting quickly.
- **Be open and honest:** If there are problems, say so in plain language, promptly and publicly to the people affected.
- **Intentionally include people with a learning disability:** Ensure people action to reduce premature and avoidable deaths and reduce health inequalities is embedded in Fit for the Future implementation.

We ask you as the Minister confirm what you are doing to support those and other changes that will end the scandal of people with a learning disability dying early and often avoidably.

People with a learning disability, their families, organisations, professionals, and the public deserve full transparency: what went wrong, what's being corrected, how



future reports will be safeguarded but most importantly how service failure and health inequalities will be ended.

As Learning Disability England Representatives we remain committed to working openly with NHS England to ensure that the LeDeR process is transparent, reliable, and centred on the voices of people with lived experience.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Kielty, Kate Chate, Jack Marshall BEM.



Co-chairs of Learning Disability England Representative Body

Please respond to Learning Disability England

Info@LDEngland.org.uk

<https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/>



About Learning Disability England

Learning Disability England is bringing people and organisations together to create a movement for change where people with learning disabilities, families, friends, and paid supporters come together on an equal basis.

As a membership organisation, members work together to build a world where people with learning disabilities have good lives with equal choices and opportunities as others.

Learning Disability England works nationally across England with 185+ organisational members and over 600 individual members.

You can find out more about our work here:

<https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/>