



Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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BAC-CO-8343

Judge John Cain
State Coroner
Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Judge Cain

Investigation into the death of Baby S (Court reference COR 2013 002108)

I refer to your letter of 24 November 2020 to the former Department of Health and Human Services, now Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) about Baby S and the following recommendations (in accordance with section 72(3) of the *Coroners Act 2008*):

"..... I recommend that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services conduct a review and audit of the updated Child Protection policies and procedures listed....., to determine whether these changes have effectively improved Child Protection's response to and management of high-risk infants. In addition, I recommend that the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services conduct a compliance audit to ensure that staff are complying with the policies and procedures listed The review and audit should be completed no later than 30 June 2021".

The department has considered your findings and your recommendations and can confirm a review and audit of the stated Child Protection policies will be undertaken, including a compliance audit of the infant intensive response and infant response. Due to changed work priorities caused by COVID-19, the department will not be able to complete the review and audit by 30 June 2021 as per your recommendation but will complete the work by 30 November 2021.

The review and audit findings will be used to inform the department's response to and management of high-risk infants.

Yours sincerely



Sandy Pitcher
Secretary
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
03 / 03 /2021