



**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**  
Secretary of State

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**Edward Timpson CBE**  
Chair, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

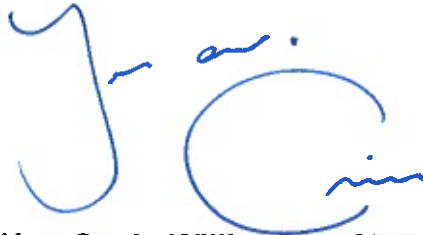
16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Thank you for your letter of 7 October 2019 announcing that the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's second national review will look at sudden unexpected death in infancy, in families where the children are considered at risk of harm.

The sudden unexpected death of an infant or baby, when there is no apparent cause of death, has a profound impact on the family of the child. Nationally the rate of unexpected deaths in infancy is falling, but we need to do all we can to further reduce the incidence of such deaths. We know that the risk increases for children in families where neglect may be a factor, in particular where unsafe sleeping habits occur.

The announcement of this review is another important step in our work to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. The Panel is in a unique position to bring expertise together from across multi agency partnerships to learn from serious child safeguarding incidents and support improvements to services where they are needed. Its national reviews are an opportunity to look closely at local practice, bringing a fresh perspective and analysis to understanding what works in keeping children safe from harm.

I am copying this response to my cabinet colleagues the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care with whom I share joint responsibility for the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large 'G' followed by a 'W' and a 'M'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**  
**Secretary of State for Education**