

**OPEN LETTER**

Melanie Leahy  
Email: [Matthewscampaign@aol.com](mailto:Matthewscampaign@aol.com)  
#matthewscampaign

The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health and Social care  
39 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0EU

Monday, 22 May 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

**Essex Mental Health Independent Inquiry**

As you know, Dr Geraldine Strathdee, your appointed Chair of the current Essex Mental Health Inquiry has publicly stated that she cannot effectively meet the Terms of Reference on the current non-statutory footing.

She has made a direct request to you for a conversion to a '**Statutory Inquiry**' under the 2005 Inquiries Act back in January 2023. Supported in that call by multiple MP's, charities, families and the PHSO.

As a mother who has been pleading for answers, accountability and change for over 11 years, alongside growing numbers of other families, **please can we hear your response.**

Your government has the opportunity to get us on the road to truly making a difference to the failing Essex Mental Health system. Defribulate the system here in Essex and start the process of bringing about effective change across our nation and ultimately to stop more unnecessary deaths.

I offered Matthews sad death as a catalyst for change years ago. **Why the continued delay?**

Yours sincerely,

*MJ Leahy*

Mrs Melanie Leahy