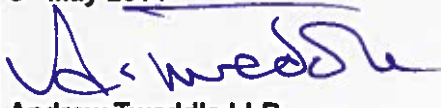


	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>1. Chief Executive, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am Andrew Tweddle, Senior Coroner, for the coroner area of County Durham and Darlington</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013. (see attached sheet)</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 17th of December 2013 I commenced an investigation into the death of Sopefoluwa Babtunda Peters, 20 years old. The investigation concluded at the end of the Inquest on 9th of April 2014 The conclusion of the inquest was Accidental Death.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>Mr Sope Peters who died on the 30th of October 2013 by drowning in the River Wear is likely to have entered the river after falling into the river after descending steep steps in an area known as Drury Lane, Durham City to the riverside path. He was under the influence of alcohol at the time.</p>
5	<p><u>CORONER'S CONCERNS</u></p> <p>During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. –</p> <p>(1) The steps are steep, poorly illuminated, with no handrail and on the evidence are said to be particularly difficult to negotiate at any time even more so by an individual who may be under the influence of alcohol. The wall at the riverside on the path opposite the steps/alleyway is only 690 mm's high and does not create much of a safety barrier.</p>
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe your organisation have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p>YOUR RESPONSE</p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 3rd July 2014. I, the coroner, may extend the period.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons [REDACTED]</p>

	<p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.</p> <p>The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
9	<p>8th May 2014</p>  <p>Andrew Tweddle LLB HM Senior Coroner County Durham and Darlington</p>