



Devon & Cornwall Police

Building safer communities together

Your ref. [REDACTED]

Mr John G. Tomalin
H.M Deputy Coroner
Exeter and Greater Devon Coroner's Office
Room 226, Devon County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QD

[REDACTED]
Assistant Chief Constable
Force Headquarters
Devon & Cornwall Police
Middlemoor, Exeter
Devon EX2 7HQ

RECEIVED - 5 FEB 2015

Tel. 101

4 February 2015

Dear Mr Tomalin

RE: JASON GEOFFREY PALMER (DECEASED 13 JULY 2013)

I write further to your letter of 12 December 2014 and the attached Regulation 28 report addressed to the Chief Constable, in respect of which I hereby provide a substantive response on behalf of the organisation. I understand the Regulation 28 report to have been prepared arising from the Inquest into the death of Mr Jason Palmer, which concluded on 6 November 2014.

As I understand it, the issue which has caused you concern in relation to Mr Palmer's death is that you had before you evidence from [REDACTED] stating that when he had been considering Mr Palmer's application for the renewal of his shotgun certificate, he had not been aware of a number of police incident logs relating to Mr Palmer's domestic situation as they were restricted, and that had he been aware of their content, further enquiries would have been undertaken as to his suitability to possess shotguns at the time of the renewal in 2009.

A thorough review has been undertaken of the procedures and policies in place to ensure that this concern is addressed.

The process which is followed upon receipt of an application for the granting or renewal of a certificate is that a Firearms Enquiry Officer (FEO) will interrogate the relevant police systems for any incidents of concern, as a part of their investigation into the applicant's suitability to possess firearms. As part of this process, all logs relating to the applicant will be seen by the FEO. This includes the presence of any restricted logs, albeit that the content can only be viewed by an officer of the rank of Inspector or above. The FEO is required to make contact the Control Room in order that the content of any restricted log is viewed, and any relevant information contained therein is communicated to the FEO for the purposes of any decision regarding the application.

NOTE: We are not prepared to accept service of documents by electronic mail
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The Government Standard

Whilst this process is already followed within the Firearms Licensing Unit, a written working practice is currently being developed which formally captures this detail.

In addition, a significant change has been made to the method by which the Firearms Licensing Unit are alerted to any incident log which relate to an existing certificate holder. An electronic system has now been introduced which "sweeps" all police incident logs every ten minutes. In the event that any log relates to an existing certificate holder, an immediate alert is sent to the Firearms Licensing Unit, where the log content will be checked to identify whether any concern arises as a result as to that individual's suitability to possess a firearm. In the event that the log is restricted, a request can be made to the control room for the log to be reviewed and any relevant information provided.

I trust that this adequately deals with the concern raised within your Regulation 28 report, however in the event that you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Assistant Chief Constable