

Contact: [REDACTED]
Direct Tel: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]
Your ref:
Our ref: TC/CH



Mr Andrew Twedde
HM Senior Coroner for County Durham and Darlington
HM Coroner's Office
PO Box 282
Bishop Auckland
Co. Durham
DL14 4FY

17 March 2015

Dear Andrew

Re: Jordan Lee Roberts, deceased

I refer to your letter dated 6 February 2015 regarding the warning signage on both sides of the River Wear at Finchale Abbey.

Following the tragic death of Jordan Lee Roberts, a safety assessment of the northern section of the river bank has been undertaken by Durham County Council. The assessment process has also involved a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) consultant. ROSPA have also been engaged by the Durham City Safety Group to undertake an independent review of river safety in Durham City Centre. As part of this process, ROSPA are also reviewing various other locations across the County including Finchale Abbey.

The safety assessment has resulted in actions being taken to replace the existing warning signs which were identified in the matters of concern. Larger, improved hazard warning signs have been erected at 3 key locations along the northern river bank. This will warn river path users that there are river related hazards, specifically strong currents and deep water. The signs being erected are in accordance with The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations and ROSPA national water safety signage specification for public areas. All signs will be subject to ongoing inspection and monitoring regimes and replacements will be erected on an ongoing basis where required.

Furthermore, additional work will also be undertaken to improve sections of fencing along the northern side of river bank in the vicinity of the footbridge. Information will also be provided on the Durham County Council Cocken Wood picnic area webpages regarding the hazards associated with the river, particularly for those visiting this attraction that may be unaware.

Continued/.....

Neighbourhood Services

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In order to raise as much awareness as possible to the dangers of the river, the actions being taken by the Council on the Northern side of the river bank have also been communicated to the adjacent landowner [REDACTED], at a site meeting on 27 February 2015.

Should you require any additional information do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services