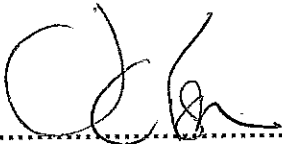


REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)

*NOTE: This form is to be used **after** an inquest.*

<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>1. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary</p>	
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am John Geoffrey Tomalin, Deputy Coroner for the coroner area of Exeter and Greater Devon.</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.</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 18 July 2013 I commenced an investigation into the death of Jason Geoffrey PALMER. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 6th November 2014. The conclusion of the inquest was that Mr Palmer had taken his own life.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>Mr Palmer died from a shotgun injury to the head. The shotgun used was his own shotgun. At the time, Mr Palmer had consumed a large quantity of alcohol. He and his wife had also separated.</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) Mr Palmer applied for a shotgun certificate in December 2004. His licence was granted in January 2005. The licence was for renewal in 2009 and the Firearms Officers were aware there had been certain domestic incidents involving Mr Palmer and his wife but were assured by Mr Palmer these were no longer of significance. Mr Palmer's licence was renewed on 19 January 2010.</p> <p>The Firearms Licencing Operations Officer [REDACTED] commented in a Statement at the Inquest that if he and his colleagues has been aware the number of police incidents relating to Mr Palmer's domestic situation, then they would have made more robust enquiries into the suitability of Mr Palmer to possess shotguns at the time of his renewal. That information was contained within secure Police Logs for the protection of Officers.</p>

	<p>Whilst it is understandable for confidentiality reasons and the protection of Officers in circumstances where personal incidents had occurred, if Mr Palmer had been a member of the public, as opposed to a serving Police Officer, then the Firearms Unit would have been aware of these incidents from the Police logs. It may be prudent for such information to be made available to the Firearms Unit and the restricted logs reviewed perhaps at Senior Officer level and if appropriate that information passed to the Firearms Unit for assessment.</p>
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you and 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 Friday 6th February 2015. 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] (Wife of Deceased) and [REDACTED] (Father of Deceased).</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>Signed: </p> <p>John G. Tomalin H. M. Deputy Coroner</p> <p>Dated: 12 December 2014</p>