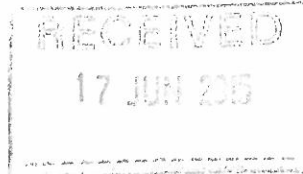


Jeannette

Peter Lewis CB  
Chief Executive



Miss J Kearsley  
Area Coroner – Manchester South  
Coroner's Court  
1 Mount Tabor Street  
STOCKPORT  
SK1 3AG



Your Ref: JSP/KN/02606-2013

15 June 2015

Dear Miss Kearsley,

**Re: Kesia Lena Mary LEATHERBARROW (Deceased)**

I refer to your letter of 16 April enclosing your Regulation 28 Report. I have noted carefully the background to this very regrettable incident and the concerns you have expressed, particularly those concerning the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

I have now obtained a report from Mr [REDACTED] Acting Chief Crown Prosecutor for CPS North West. I am aware that he ensured the CPS in Greater Manchester co-operated with the Inquest procedure throughout and was represented by counsel at the hearing earlier this year.

As you rightly highlight in your letter, a number of agencies have taken steps to change their practices and this includes the CPS. I accept that it is critical that vital information about the welfare of individuals held in custody pending their first appearance before the court, is shared as efficiently as possible. This is particularly important in proceedings involving young people such as Kesia.

The Chief Crown Prosecutor for Greater Manchester is in dialogue with the relevant Assistant Chief Constable for GMP, participating in his "Gold meetings" associated with this case, and looking at the wider issues and lessons which can be learned from the tragic outcome of Kesia's case. The good working practice identified in Lancashire is being considered as part of this exercise.

The CPS Operations Directorate has also been considering the national implications and as a result ensured we have modified CPS training so advocates conducting youth court cases are reminded that a youth can always be remanded for their "own welfare".



As you mention in your Report, recent changes in legislation, particularly the newly enacted Legal Aid and Sentencing of Offenders Act, should ameliorate the position of those attaining the age of 17 so that they are treated for custody purposes as all other youths.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again if you feel I can assist further.

Yours sincerely,

*Peter Lewis*

**PETER LEWIS  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**