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**INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF JACQUES GERARD LAKEMAN AND
TORIN CALLAN LAKEMAN – REGULATION 28 REPORT**

Thank you for your letter of 15 May to the Home Secretary about the tragic deaths of Jacques and Torin Lakeman from the misuse of ecstasy. I am replying as the Minister for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Victims with responsibility for drug policy.

I note your request for action concerning:

- i. the supply and importation of Class A Drugs by use of the internet; and
- ii. the regulation of the internet, if possible, in relation to the supply of drugs and the delivery of the drugs to the UK using the postal system.

This is clearly a very tragic case involving two young brothers and I am grateful to you for raising these issues with me.

As I stated in my recent letter to you regarding the death of Jason Houghton, online purchasing remains a small overall element of drug supply: The 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that just 1% of adults who used drugs in the last 12 months sourced them from the internet.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) and the police routinely monitor controlled drugs being offered for sale on the internet and take action with industry partners to close websites trading illegally in these substances. Where it has been identified, or where there is reasonable suspicion to suggest, that controlled drugs are being sold on websites, law enforcement agencies have the relevant powers under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to act against suppliers of controlled drugs, whether on controlled drug charges or on suspicion of wider drug-related offences.

In November 2014, the NCA, working with police forces across the UK, arrested six people in strikes coordinated with international partners. Those arrested included suspected administrators for the online market place Silk Road 2.0 and another online drug market place, as well as significant vendors of illegal drugs through the dark web.

Simultaneously, partners from the European Cybercrime Centre, acting on intelligence developed by US counterparts, took out technical infrastructure which was key to the hosting of illegal market places on the dark web, in total over 400 hidden services taken down. The action was part of continuing operations to target the use of online market places to trade in illegal commodities such as class A drugs, firearms and false documents.

In addition, as I stated in my previous letter to you, Border Force officers are on constant alert to keep controlled drugs from entering the country. The associated enforcement response includes intelligence-led examination of packages and letters sent by post to intercept the importation of controlled substances. Working together with law enforcement partners, this activity is co-ordinated by the NCA who are continuing to enhance the security of our borders and lead the fight against serious, organised and complex crime.

I hope that this letter addresses your concerns.



Rt Hon Mike Penning MP