



**NHS**  
**England**

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh  
National Medical Director  
Skipton House  
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Mrs Louise Hunt  
HM Senior Coroner – Birmingham &  
Solihull  
Coroner's Court  
50 Newton Street  
Birmingham  
B4 6NE

14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**Your ref: 114060 – JANE LOUISE REASON (LH/RP)**

Dear Mrs Hunt,

Thank you for your letter and report dated 25 October 2016. I was very sorry to read of the circumstances around Jane's death, and would like to express my deep condolences to the Reason family.

Out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is common, affecting over 50 000 people in England annually. The chain of action which optimises chances of survival starts with an early call for help and bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), both of which occurred in this case. Early defibrillation where indicated is also part of that chain of command. We are unable to comment on why defibrillation appeared to be indicated but was not delivered by the initial ambulance crew member.

Subsequently, a second ambulance crew arrived and a defibrillation shock was administered but this delay reduced the chances of successful defibrillation. This was then further compounded by the battery failure of the second defibrillator. Why there was battery failure is unclear as defibrillators should be fully charged and checked daily. We are aware of an alert for Lifepak defibrillators where premature battery failure has led to an alert, but it is not clear whether this defibrillator was of that make. The ambulance services will be able to answer the issues we are unable to clearly respond to above.

Professor Huon Gray, NHS England National Clinical Director for Cardiac Diseases, has stated that we agree of the need for (a) more public access defibrillators (PADs) and (b) increased training in CPR. Both will increase the chances of survival from OHCA in public places.

**A. Programme for "PADs"**

The Treasury has allocated £2m of public money to purchase and distribute more PADs. £1m has already been allocated and the second £1m should be available in the next 3-6 months. Both tranches have been

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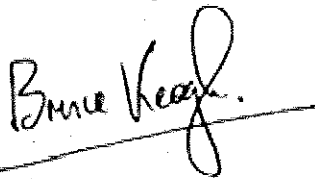
overseen by the Department of Health and distributed by the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

**B. Increased Training**

The Department for Education has given written guidance to schools encouraging training in CPR and availability of PADs in schools. The Fire Service are promoting both CPR and WSome schools do have Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) too and train staff in CPR.

I hope the above has provided some reassurances that NHS England has taken your concern on board

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Keogh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

**Professor Sir Bruce Keogh KBE, MD, DSc, FRCS, FRCP  
National Medical Director  
NHS England**