



HM Senior Coroner  
Birmingham and Solihull Areas  
Coroner's Court  
50 Newton Street  
Birmingham  
B4 6NE

16.11.2016

Dear Mrs Hunt,

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

Thank you for your letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016 regarding your Report to Prevent Future Deaths in this sad case. We agree that it is appropriate that further action should be taken to prevent future deaths in relation to the availability of public access defibrillators (PAD), often referred to as an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), and thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond.

The Resuscitation Council (UK) (RC (UK)) is a charity established by medical professionals to promote high-quality practice in all aspects of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and improve survival rates from cardiac arrest. The charity exists to promote high-quality, scientifically-based resuscitation guidelines that are applicable to everybody, and to contribute to saving life through education, training, research and collaboration.

In relation to your requirements, we recognise that immediate access to a defibrillator is key to improving the chances of survival from cardiac arrest for many individuals. This can be achieved through greater numbers of PADs in the community, knowledge of the location of these devices and resuscitation training for the public. This will help to ensure the public have the knowledge and confidence to give basic life support (BLS) and use a PAD when appropriate. This is a message that we have been promoting for some time and continue to do so with enthusiasm.

To this end we are engaged in the following activities:

- **Education**

We recognise education facilitates many of the aims of the RC (UK). We work closely with UK ambulance service, other first aid organisations and the European Resuscitation Council to encourage all members of the public to learn first aid (BLS and AED use). In the UK, we have recently organised the annual 'European Restart a Heart Day' which through hundreds of events that took place across the UK, trained over 150,000 children and young people in basic life support.

We have been campaigning at all levels to make BLS and AED teaching mandatory for all school children. Although disappointingly we have not managed to make this a mandatory part of the school curriculum, our campaign has undoubtedly raised the need for this training and improved the numbers of school children who are taught these vital life skills.

- **Training**

The RC (UK) runs a number of immediate and advanced life support courses which help promote the wider need for awareness of defibrillators in public places, training approximately 150,000 medical professionals each year.

- **Guidelines**

The RC (UK) is a contributor to international and European resuscitation guidelines from which are distilled the UK resuscitation guidelines. We work with key first aid organisations (e.g. ambulance service, RNLI, St John etc.) to ensure that recommendations relating to bystander CPR and defibrillation are disseminated as appropriate throughout the entire UK.

Additionally, in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation, we have recently published 'A guide to Automated External Defibrillators' which is designed to provide information about AEDs and how they can be deployed in the community to help resuscitate a victim of sudden cardiac arrest.

- **Research**

The RC (UK) funds a number of research projects relating to resuscitation and in particular defibrillation that contribute to our knowledge and use of AEDs.

- **Improving the availability of AEDs**

We are currently working with the Department of Health to oversee the distribution of £1,000,000 funding for public access defibrillators across communities in the UK.

After extensive public consultation, we have redesigned the signage to be used for all PADs in order to improve the visibility of the devices and increase their use at cardiac arrests in public areas.

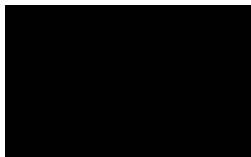
- **Collaboration**

We regularly work with statutory and non-statutory organisations where we share common aims in order to promote the use of PADs. We have been contributing a major project with the Department of Health to produce a national framework to improve the treatment of patients with cardiac arrest (Resuscitation to Recovery: A National Framework to improve care of people with Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) in England. 2016) This document makes specific recommendations with regards to improving availability of PADs.

In summary, whilst being actively engaged with the above requirements, we have no power to mandate these. We would ask that your recommendations are shared with the Department of Education, in particular that all children are trained in BLS and defibrillator awareness as a mandatory part of the curriculum.

We hope that this letter clarifies our position with regards to placement of PADs and educating the public and hope that it meets your requirements.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of the Resuscitation Council (UK)