

**IN THE SURREY CORONER'S COURT**  
**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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**The Inquests Touching the Deaths of Sadie PETERS, Joseph PETERS and  
George PETERS**  
**A Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

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	<p><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• [REDACTED] – General Secretary of The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain</li><li>• [REDACTED] – Chairman of The Caravan Club</li><li>• [REDACTED] – Chief Fire officer – Surrey Fire and Rescue Service</li></ul>
1	<p><b>CORONER</b> Richard Travers HM Senior Coroner for Surrey</p>
2	<p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b> I make this report under paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 5 to The Coroners and Justice Act 2009.</p>
3	<p><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b> The inquest into the deaths of <b>Sadie PETERS, Joseph PETERS and George PETERS</b> was opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and was resumed on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and concluded that same day.</p> <p>In the case of each death I found the cause of death to have been:</p> <p>1a. Inhalation of fire fumes.</p> <p>In the case of each death I concluded with a short form conclusion of 'Accidental Death'.</p>
4	<p><b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</b> During the winter months Sadie Peters lived together with her three sons, [REDACTED], Joseph aged 6 years and George aged 14 months, with her husband and the children's father [REDACTED] in a permanent mobile home situated at The Plantation, Lingfield, Surrey. [REDACTED] was a</p>

	<p>showman and came from a long line of showmen. Other members of his family and fellow showmen families also lived in permanent caravans at the Plantation. At about 01.30 hours on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was awoken by sounds outside his caravan. When he went outside to investigate he discovered that [REDACTED] caravan was on fire. He made valiant attempts to save the people inside and managed to rescue his brother [REDACTED] and the couple's eldest child [REDACTED]. Tragically Sadie Peters and the two youngest children, Joseph and George, did not manage to escape and all three died in the fire.</p> <p>I heard evidence that the fire started in a small extension to the caravan that housed a solid fuel burner and that this burner was the most likely cause of the fire. I heard that it became apparent from a close examination of the remains of the fire that there was no smoke detector fitted inside the caravan.</p> <p>Further, I was told that had a smoke detector been fitted inside the caravan the occupants would have been warned about the fire at an early stage and that it was more likely than not that the outcome would have been different.</p>
5	<p><b>CORONER'S CONCERNS</b></p> <p>Whilst I do not underestimate the work done by Surrey Fire and rescue Services in making people aware of the importance of using smoke detectors, whether in a building and or a caravan, and the full engagement of The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain in that work, during the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters that gave rise to concerns that circumstances creating a risk of other deaths will continue to exist in the future unless action is taken.</p> <p>The <b>MATTERS OF CONCERN</b> are:</p> <p><u>Fitting of Smoke Detectors in all Mobile and Static Caravans</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consideration should be given to maintaining or developing any existing programmes and, where appropriate, creating new programmes which are designed to raise awareness amongst people using or living in caravans, whether mobile or permanent, of the importance of fitting and maintaining a fully functioning smoke detector inside the caravan.</li> </ol>
6	<p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I</p>

	believe that the persons listed in paragraph one above are in a position to draw these concerns to the appropriate authority in place who has the power to take such action.
7	<p><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of its date; I may extend that period on request.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for such action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p><b>COPIES</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of this report to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. [REDACTED] – General Secretary of The Showmen’s Guild of Great Britain</li> <li>2. [REDACTED] – Chairman of The Caravan Club</li> <li>3. [REDACTED] – Chief Fire officer – Surrey Fire and Rescue Service</li> <li>4. [REDACTED] (on behalf of the family)</li> <li>5. The Chief Coroner</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Signed:</b></p> <p>Richard Travers</p> <p><b>DATED this 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016</b></p>