

HM Coroner's Court  
Station Approach  
Woking  
Surrey  
GU22 7AP

Letter to Dr Karen Henderson, Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of Surrey.

From Professor Sir Simon Wessely, President

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Dr Henderson,

**Re: Mrs Marjorie Sybil Bassendine (Deceased), Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths.**

Thank you for sending me a copy of this report and I note that copies have also been forwarded to Mr Jeremy Hunt (Department of Health) and the MHRA to whom I have also copied this reply. May I begin by communicating my condolences to the family of Mrs Bassendine. I note the matters of concern detailed in your report, namely:

1. To recognise use of multiple psychotropic medication has the potential to prolong the QT interval;
2. To undertake an Electrocardiogram (ECG) prior to commencing such medication;
3. To undertake regular ECG's to ensure long QT syndrome has not developed and to help plan continuing treatment.

I also note that you think that action should be taken to prevent future deaths and you believe that the MHRA and the Royal Colleges of Psychiatrists and General Practitioners have the power to take such action.

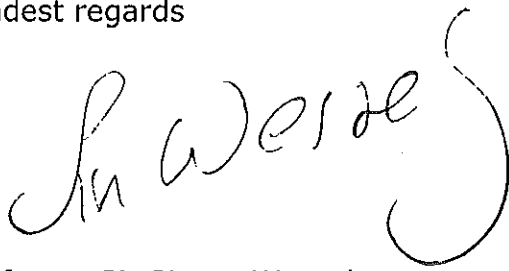
Actions planned by the Royal College of Psychiatrists:

1. I shall liaise with the Chair of our Special Committee for Psychopharmacology to publicize these matters to the members and fellows of the RCPsych;
2. I shall liaise with the Chair of the Faculty of Old-Age Psychiatry to determine the best way to raise these issues with old-age psychiatrists;

3. We will review our continuing medical education initiatives to ensure that this issue is comprehensively covered in RCPsych material;
4. I shall inform the Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and General Practitioners, by copy of this letter, of our plans and will be ready to work with them in any suitable joint ventures.

I hope that these endeavours will help reduce the risks of further deaths of this nature.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S Wessely". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Professor Sir Simon Wessely  
President