



Sara Thornton CBE QPM
CHIEF CONSTABLE

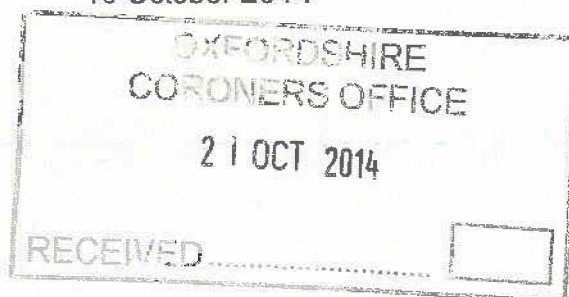
Thames Valley Police Headquarters
Kidlington
Oxon OX5 2NX

Tel: (01865) 846002
Fax: (01865) 846057

ST/EA/letters/2014/Salter

16 October 2014

Mr D M Salter
HM Senior Coroner
Oxfordshire Coroner's Office
The Oxford Register Office
2nd Floor, 1 Tidmarsh Lane
Oxford, OX1 1NS



Dear Mr Salter.

Thank you for your letter of 28 July 2014 in respect of the issue of a Regulation 28 Report following the Inquest touching the death of Ms Suzanne Cammell.

I note that that the issue of concern for TVP appears to relate to communication between this force and Gloucestershire Police and that, in particular, "specific information, of a high risk nature, was not or may not have been passed by TVP to Gloucestershire Police or, if it was, it may not have been made available to [REDACTED] I understand that, at Inquest, you did not have available to you details of the specific information passed by TVP Control Room to Gloucestershire in the early hours, which subsequently led to [REDACTED] of Gloucestershire and his colleague carrying out the welfare check. I gather therefore that the concern is that while [REDACTED] based on the information from TVP, carried out a prompt welfare check, he might not have had information which could have affected his decision in relation to the degree of intervention required.

[REDACTED] of our Professional Standards Department has carried out a thorough review of this matter, in the course of which he has consulted with senior colleagues from the Control Room & Enquires Department, the Force Intelligence Bureau and the Partnership Team (which covers mental health).

With regard to the question of the information passed from TVP to Gloucestershire, [REDACTED] findings may be summarised as follows:-

1. On Thursday 3rd October 2013 at 0120hrs TVP was notified that an elderly female was wandering around on her own in the direction of Burford town centre. The caller, [REDACTED] was concerned for her welfare. At 0122hrs it was recorded that [REDACTED] stated that Ms Cammell was *trying* to get under lorries parked up in a lay-by. He had woken her and she had walked off.
2. [REDACTED] attended and found Ms Cammell hiding behind a hotel, her explanation being she was scared of people who were following her. These were established to be [REDACTED] and his 2 friends.
3. [REDACTED] accepted that response but, being concerned for Ms Cammell's well-being, spoke to her at length. She found her to be at no immediate risk and also identified that she had her car, a silver Jaguar, parked in the lay-by.
4. [REDACTED] was joined by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and it was decided that for Ms Cammell's own safety [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] should take her back to her home address of 15 The Stables, Lechlade Gloucestershire.
5. The officers took Ms Cammell home - a residential complex where she lived alone. They found her home to be to be clean and tidy and, having no further concerns, they left.
6. At 0230hrs, Thames Valley Police Control Room made contact with Gloucestershire Police Control Room to inform them of the action that had been taken, advising that she had been left alone at home but appeared to be alright.
7. At 0245hrs Gloucestershire Police control room contacted Police Sergeant [REDACTED]. He was asked to view their log and, at 0253hrs, along with another officer, he attended the home of Ms Cammell. At 0345hrs [REDACTED] reported that Ms Cammell was safe and well and that he had no concerns.
8. At 0543hrs [REDACTED] of TVP made an additional call to Gloucestershire Police control room, as she had been unable to do so earlier due to other commitments. She told them that, earlier that morning, she had seen Ms Cammell wandering around a golf course / hotel. She told Gloucestershire about the circumstances of finding her. [REDACTED] enquired with Gloucestershire Police if Ms Cammell was known to them and suggested that they may need to complete an Adult Protection referral. It would appear that [REDACTED] was unaware of the contact between the two control rooms at 0230hrs.
9. At 0705hrs Thames Valley Police received a call from a member of the public stating that there was a dead woman in the lay-by at Burford and that it looked like her head had been run over. The deceased was later confirmed to be Ms Suzanne Cammell.

10. The Independent Police Complaints Commission was immediately informed and attended the scene, as this was a death following recent police contact. The decision from the IPCC following their scene assessment was that this matter was suitable for local investigation. This was dealt with by ██████████ of Thames Valley Police Professional Standards.
11. Enquires later revealed that Ms Cammell had suffered from depression from the age of 19. Furthermore, it was established that on 23rd September 2013, in the Gloucestershire Police Area, Ms Cammell was subject to detention under s136 of the Mental Health Act, having been seen placing her head under the wheels of a lorry. This information had subsequently been recorded in the Police National Database (PND).
12. ██████████ from Gloucester Police carried out the later welfare check on Ms Cammell and, in his evidence at the inquest, said that he was unaware that she had been found lying underneath a lorry earlier that night and that if he had know this he would have made arrangements for a mental health assessment. He also gave evidence that he was unaware of the incident on the 23rd of September, despite the fact it was on the PND and the Gloucestershire intelligence database.
13. ██████████ review has examined the call from ██████████. It found that ██████████ told the TVP control room that Ms Cammell had been *trying* to get under a lorry and records of radio traffic confirm that this information was passed to the attending TVP officers. In his call, ██████████ made reference to his waking up the lady as he had concerns that the lorry could drive away with her under the tyres.
14. The call from Thames Valley Police Control Room to Gloucestershire, Police control room has also been reviewed. It has been established that the TVP officers asked their control room to call Gloucester Police and advise them of the incident involving Ms Cammell.
15. The information conveyed to Gloucestershire Police included that Ms Cammell had been found in Burford in a confused state and that the informant ██████████ was concerned as Ms Cammell had been trying to get underneath lorries and that TVP officers had taken her home.
16. The TVP call taker was asked what Ms Cammell was like when she was dropped off and replied that it was difficult to say from the log but that there were no medical concerns.
17. It is clear from the conversation between both control rooms that Gloucestershire Police had previous knowledge of Ms Cammell, with their call taker commenting '*Check conducted on name and address. Check revealed the lady has problems/mental health issues*'.

18. During the conversation between the control rooms the Gloucestershire officer said, "Okay, alright then.....but you don't want us to do actually do anything then?" The Thames Valley officer replied "Well I don't know whether.....it's worth making your local mental health team aware....I probably would do that to be honest."

In summary, it would seem that TVP informed Gloucestershire Police of the concerns as reported by [REDACTED] insofar as he had found Ms Cammell in a confused state and that she had been *trying* to get underneath a lorry. Admittedly, the information shared did not go into quite the detail reported by [REDACTED], who said that he actually woke Ms Cammell while she was under a lorry and not simply that she was trying to get under one. I am not sure whether this would have made a material difference to [REDACTED] risk assessment when he visited Ms Cammell at home. This would seem to be a matter for Gloucestershire but I hope I have at least been able to clarify the information that was shared.

I understand that you posed to Gloucestershire a question in respect of the use of the Police National Database and that they have covered this in their response. Furthermore, I gather that at the Inquest you expressed concern in relation to a lack of information sharing between the Professional Standards Department and the officer who prepared the report for you. [REDACTED] has put in place measures to address this. He has taken the liberty of making an appointment with you on 4 November 2014 to brief you on these measures and, of course, deal with any further questions you might have in respect of the case of Ms Cammell.

I trust this has been of assistance but please do not hesitate to make contact should you require any further information.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sara Thornton
Chief Constable