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Director of Community Protection & Chief Fire Officer:

Mr Geoffrey Sullivan  
The Senior Coroner  
The Old Court House  
St Albans Road East  
1FT  
Hatfield  
AL10 0ES

**Trading Standards**  
Postal Point MU104  
Mundells  
Welwyn Garden City AL7

Email:  
Contact:  
**My Ref:** GP/EH  
**Your Ref:**  
**Date:** 16 August 2017

Dear Mr Sullivan,

**Response to Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths**  
**Linda Jean Baranowski deceased**

I refer to your report following the tragic death of Linda Baranowski.

On receipt of your report I instigated research by Hertfordshire Trading Standards Officers to gain an initial understanding as to the availability of the products referred to in your report, and those products of a similar nature. To this end a 'test purchase' was also carried out in relation to one similar product, and labelling issues with this product will be followed through with the appropriate local Trading Standards Service and supplier.

Our research has indicated that products of a similar kind and nature to those referred to in your report are available and accessible to consumers nationwide particularly over the internet, and we therefore consider that this issue requires national, rather than local consideration and coordination.

Hertfordshire Trading Standards therefore undertakes to further liaise and work with the lead national government agencies and regulators on the safety of food products, supplements and topical creams in examining what further can be done to address your concerns in relation to the listed products. Hertfordshire Trading Standards pledges to offer input into the development of a national strategy on this issue if required and which the Food Standards Agency (being the lead national agency on food safety matters), deems appropriate.

For your information at a national level in trading standards, there is a National Trading Standards Board (which is funded Government through the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) which amongst other things helps to co-ordinate safety issues on a national basis, and the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers, which



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also can aid the Food Standards Agency and others in co-ordinating and delivering any national approach

I note that one of the products; the Hot Anti-Cellulite Balo slimming cream gel chill 85ml is not a food product or supplement but a topical gel (not covered by the Food Standards Agency), and we would welcome and encourage a coordinated approach from colleagues at a national level led by the Food Standards Agency following their liaison with the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy covering general product safety in relation to such products. Hertfordshire Trading Standards will respond to their direction and suggestions as they develop.

Yours sincerely

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Deputy Director, Community Protection