

**England National Office**  
620 Bristol Business Park  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bristol BS16 1EJ

Alison Mutch OBE  
HM Senior Coroner  
Manchester South  
Coroner's Court  
1 Mount Tabor Street  
Stockport  
SK1 3AG



Tel 0300 067 4068

richard.barker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

16 February 2018

Your Ref 5886/CLB

Dear Ms Mutch

**RE Paul Anthony Daniels**

Thank you for your letter of 2 January 2018 to Mr Ian Gambles, Forestry Commission Director England, enclosing a copy of the Regulation 28 Report following your investigation in to the death of Paul Anthony Daniels. I have been asked to reply.

The Forestry Commission has only a very minor role in the arboriculture industry and we do not have any great involvement in the setting of standards within the industry or communication with practitioners in the industry, which means that your opinion that we could take action to prevent further deaths may have been misplaced.

Nevertheless, our Head of Health and Safety and Technical Training has been in contact about the case with both the Arboricultural Association (the industry representative body) and the Health and Safety Executive to see if we can contribute anything to the follow up. Matters such as this are considered at the Health and Safety Executive's Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG), but would not generally fall within the scope of the Forestry Industry Safety Accord, where the Forestry Commission plays a leading role as a major player the forestry industry.

In respect to our own staff, a small number of which are involved in arboriculture, either directly or through the engagement of contractors to carry out work on the land we manage we will be taking the following action:

- Circulating the Arboricultural Association safety bulletin regarding this matter;
- Reviewing the emergency procedures against AFAG guidance 401 & 402 with our in-house arborists;
- Re-briefing employees, who supervise arboricultural contracts, on the key requirements of this guidance;
- Completing the process of updating the training module we offer for our supervisors regarding arboricultural contracts and we will ensure that the incident is covered within the scheme of work for this module.

I would also like to confirm that the AFAG guidance and current best practice requires a risk assessment to be carried out to establish the emergency procedures, methods of communications and sufficient competent resources to effect a rescue without delay.

We recognise that reducing the risk of similar incidents occurring in future requires rigorous implementation of these requirements and we will continue to do this in areas where we have control.

If you require any further clarification of the role of the Forestry Commission in regard to the Arboriculture Industry then please let me know. We have no objection to the contents of this letter being published by the Chief Coroner.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Barker**  
Head of Parliamentary Business and Information Rights  
Director England's Office  
Forestry Commission England