REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO: Ms Julie Harrington, Chief Executive, British Cycling, Stuart Street, Manchester M11 4DQ. CORONER I am Chris Morris, Area Coroner, for the Coroner area of South Manchester 2 CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013 3 **INVESTIGATION and INQUEST** On 29th March 2017, Alison Mutch OBE, Senior Coroner for Manchester South opened an inquest into the death of Charlie Benjamin Craig, who was aged 15 when his death was confirmed at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport on 21st January 2017. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest which I heard on 13th and 14th February 2018. The conclusion of the inquest was that Master Craig died as a consequence of damage to his heart resulting from a number of myocardial infarctions. It is likely that these myocardial infarctions occurred as a result of an abnormal physiological response to adrenaline and noradrenaline produced by the body during intense exercise. At the end of the inquest. I recorded a narrative conclusion to this effect. CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH 4 Charlie Craig was an elite cyclist, and a member of the Apprenticeship stage of British Cycling's World Class Programme. Master Craig appeared to be generally in excellent health, and in particular did not at any stage report any signs or symptoms which would ordinarily be suggestive of any problems with his heart. Master Craig was found unresponsive in his bed on the morning of 21st January 2017. having last been seen by his family, apparently fit and well, the previous evening. A post mortem examination (part of which included examination of Master Craig's heart by a specialist cardiac pathologist) concluded that Charlie Craig died as a result of: 1a) Idiopathic myocardial infarction; II) Gastrointestinal bleeding. 5 **CORONER'S CONCERNS** During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. -

It was confirmed during the inquest that British Cycling does not currently undertake any health assessments or medical screening prior to accepting young riders onto the Apprenticeship stage of the World Class Programme.

The evidence before the court was that this approach differs from that of some other UK sporting bodies running comparable programmes for young athletes, who undertake medical screening as a matter of routine.

A consultant cardiologist gave evidence in the course of the inquest to the effect that medical screening can play an important role in identifying cardiac abnormalities in asymptomatic young people.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action.

7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 12th April 2018. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.

8 COPIES and PUBLICATION

I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons:

I have also sent a copy to UK Sport who may find it useful or of interest.

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.

The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.

9 Chris Morris

Area Coroner

15.02.2018