

Regulation 28: Prevention of Future Deaths report

Samuel Patrick CLARKE (died 02.01.18)

	<p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>1. Sir George Iacobescu Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Canary Wharf Group plc One Canada Square Canary Wharf London E14 5AB</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am: Coroner ME Hassell Senior Coroner Inner North London St Pancras Coroner's Court Camley Street London N1C 4PP</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I make this report under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, paragraph 7, Schedule 5, and The Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, regulations 28 and 29.</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 8 January 2018, one of my assistant coroners, Sarah Bourke, commenced an investigation into the death of Samuel Patrick Clarke, aged 19 years. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 15 June 2018.</p> <p>I made a determination that Samuel's death was the result of an accident, when he fell from height whilst on a construction site at 1 Bank Street in London at approximately 2.30am on New Year's Day 2018, and was not found until the following day.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p>

	<p>Samuel left a 2017 New Year's Eve celebration and ended up gaining access to the One Bank Street site in the early hours of New Year's Day. He made himself known to security guards but then ran off. CCTV was checked and there was no sign of him leaving the site. A search ensued but the police were not called.</p> <p>He was not found until 2 January 2018, by which time he was dead. It was not the impact of his fall that killed him and so if he had been found earlier, he might have been saved. His medical cause of death was as follows.</p> <p>1a postural asphyxia 1b fall and traumatic injury 1c ethanol intoxication</p>
5	<p>CORONER'S CONCERNS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I was told by the senior construction manager of Canary Wharf Contractors Limited that the gap under the turnstile where Samuel accessed the site has been reduced by 5cms since his death, from 30cms to 25cms, by adding a strip of plywood to the bottom. <p>I am concerned that the turnstile is still accessible to unauthorised personnel – including to children. I heard at inquest that there are 800 tradespeople on site and I wonder whether one of them has the skills to make the turnstile secure?</p> 2. I heard evidence that, since Samuel's death, site security officers have been given instructions to call the police if they are aware of an intruder on site who has not been located. However, no consideration has been given to a company contingency plan, for example to draft in staff who are familiar with the site to help with a search. Would this be possible? 3. The site security officers explained to me that they were equipped with battery operated regular sized torches, rather than large flashlights. No consideration has been given to improving their equipment in this regard. Could it be?

6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion, action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe that you have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p>YOUR RESPONSE</p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 20 August 2018. I, the coroner, may extend the period.</p> <p>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.</p>
8	<p>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHJ Mark Lucraft QC, the Chief Coroner of England & Wales • [REDACTED] Samuel's parents • [REDACTED] senior construction manager, Canary Wharf Contractors Ltd. <p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.</p> <p>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 Senior Coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
9	<p>DATE SIGNED BY SENIOR CORONER</p> <p>22.06.18</p>