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Sarah Bourke
Assistant Coroner
Poplar Coroners Court
127 Poplar High St
E14 0AE
13 June 19

Dear Sarah

Thank you for taking my call on Thursday and our discussion regarding the death of Steffen Kunzel. Looking through our electronic notes he had an admission relating to his alcoholism in August 2017. This led to various investigations and treatments but importantly a referral to Reset to support his attempts to reduce his alcohol intake. I enclose a snapshot of his discharge summary from this. He was also seen in ED later in September of that year, it was noted that he had been referred to the alcoholic community support- I enclose again an image of his electronic discharge. He then didn't present to us for another 12 months, which was a single attendance in ED, with alcohol intoxication. Again he was treated, stayed a few hours and felt well enough to leave. He wasn't seen again until his final collapse later that year. Discussing with our ED department they thought it likely that it was noted from his past CRS record that he was under an alcohol reduction scheme in the community but it's not documented if this was discussed with him. As he was intoxicated it may have been difficult to obtain a good history. We both agree that alcohol addiction is a serious public health issue ; we have many attendances each week with alcohol related conditions . Discussing with our alcohol team they have too little resource to provide support for every attendance and concentrate on those admitted to the hospital. Our public health consultant, Ian Basnett is currently working on improved health care packages for our alcoholic patients-this follows successful packages for our smokers Mr Kunzel only had one attendance to ED in 12 months which would not have triggered a further referral .As above our public health team is looking at ways of offering more information to these patients but they are a difficult group with a very varied pattern of attendance and compliance On balance we could offer contact details of various agencies; how useful this would be at the time of presentation I am unsure. From the little of his GPs electronic notes I can see there is very little covering his addiction.



I will do a formal response to the PFD if necessary but this covers the enclosed hospital documentation following our conversation

Yours sincerely




Consultant Anaesthetist
Medical Director RLH
Responsible Officer Bart's Health


