



Royal College of
General Practitioners

MB ChB MSc(Med) FRCGP DRCOG DIMC RCS(Ed)
Joint Honorary Secretary

Mr Andrew Harris
Senior Coroner
Coroner for Inner South District Greater London
Southwark Coroner's Court
1 Tennis Street
Southwark
SE1 1YD

RECEIVED
15 APR 2019

11 April 2019

Dear Mr Harris

Preventing Future Deaths Report for Donna Williamson
Date of Death (13.08.2016) (Case Ref:02160-2016)

Thank you for your letter dated 1 April 2019 regarding this sad case. I am responding to you on behalf of the Royal College of General Practitioners in my role as Joint Honorary Secretary.

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) is the largest membership organisation in the United Kingdom solely for GPs. It aims to encourage and maintain the highest standards of general medical practice and to act as the 'voice' of GPs on issues concerned with education; training; research; and clinical standards. Founded in 1952, the RCGP has just over 53,000 members who are committed to improving patient care, developing their own skills and promoting general practice as a discipline.

The sharing of information when there are potential safeguarding concerns including domestic abuse is a key part of the responsibilities of a general practitioner. Whilst accepting that tensions regarding confidentiality can occur, in broad terms advice from a wide range of organisations is that the sharing of information is less likely to do harm than not sharing. The process by which the doctor is expected to follow is given in guidance by the General Medical Council and for your ease of reference, it is attached. I have also attached the document Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff. This was developed by the Medical Royal Colleges last year and whilst not a contractual requirement, the expectation is that staff who have direct clinical responsibilities, such as general practitioners, would maintain a Level 3 competence. Pages 33 and 35 provide detail of the educational outcomes from training, which you will note is recommended to be on a three-yearly cycle. I have also enclosed a copy of the guidelines RCGP has published on the management of domestic abuse in general practice.

Finally, given the importance of this area of work, RCGP has recently published a Safeguarding Adults at Risk of Harm Toolkit. It includes a wide range of helpful information including a film outlining the key points and responsibilities of general practitioners. You can access it at: <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/resources/toolkits/safeguarding-adults-at-risk-of-harm-toolkit.aspx>

I trust that this information is helpful and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,




Joint Honorary Secretary of Council
Royal College of General Practitioners

Dr Andrew Harris
Senior Coroner
Southwark Coroner's Court
1 Tennis Street
Southwark
SE1 1YD

19 June 2019

Dear *Dr Harris*

I am writing in response to the Regulation 28 report to Prevent Future Deaths which you sent on Monday 1 April 2019, in relation to the death of Donna Williamson on 13 August 2016.

Your report notes that the Multi-Agency-Risk-Assessment-Conference (MARAC) process, in this case, was incapable of facilitating protection and resolution of problems for chaotic non engaging individuals. We support your recommendation for a national review of how the MARAC system can afford protection and support for these particularly vulnerable complex individuals.

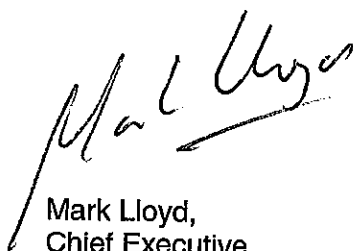
As part of our response to the Government's Draft Domestic Abuse Bill consultation, we called on the Government to assess whether the MARAC model is working effectively and how this could be improved. In particular, we highlighted the high volume of MARAC cases, and the need for local authorities, the police and wider partners to have the necessary support and investment to respond to an increase in domestic abuse cases. Our response to the Government's consultation on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill is available on our LGA website here:
<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/LGA%20response%20to%20the%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Bill%20consultation%20-%202031%20May%202018-%20Final.pdf>

The LGA has also highlighted the importance of sharing the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews at a national level. We raised these points in our written evidence to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry on domestic abuse and in our oral evidence to the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill. LGA officers have highlighted these evidence sessions in our Chief Executive bulletin and our Community Safety bulletin. We will continue to raise these points with the Government as the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill is debated in Parliament.

With regards to concern (1) regarding the repairing and securing of the front door of private rented accommodation, your report identifies a duty on the local authority officer to repair the door if the landlord did not. I understand that LGA officers have requested additional information from your office about which legislation this duty falls under. Clarity on this issue will help us to raise awareness of how to resolve such problems for privately renting vulnerable tenants.

Thank you for drawing this matter to my attention and please do let me know if you wish to discuss this matter any further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Lloyd,
Chief Executive

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