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British Heart Foundation
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18th September 2019.

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[REDACTED]
Re: Prevent Future Deaths Reports for Annabel Newport
Date of Death: 23.03.2018, Case Ref: 00898-2018

Thank you for your letter, dated July 17 2019, on behalf of Assistant Coroner Henrietta Hill QC regarding the tragic death of Miss Annabel Newport following a cardiac arrest in 2018.

Improving survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is a strategic priority for the British Heart Foundation. We have invested over £7m in our 'Nation of Lifesavers' programme over the last 5 years which has resulted in over 5.5m people being trained in CPR. Over 85% of secondary schools across the UK are using BHF funded CPR kit to ensure that the majority of young people will leave school knowing how to save a life. I am proud to say that we have achieved this thanks to the generous support of our s donors who come from all walks of life.

Each year we support an average of 362 community groups to place a defibrillator in their local areas to increase access to defibrillators during an emergency. We are currently investing over £4.5m in the development and roll-out of a national database, known as 'The Circuit: the national defibrillator network', which will be connected to every ambulance service in the UK. This will allow the emergency medical dispatcher to direct a bystander to the nearest defibrillator at the time of an OHCA. The Circuit is now live in the West Midlands and Scottish ambulance service and we are actively preparing for the roll-out to the remaining 12 services in the UK.

We also support workplaces to purchase defibrillators – for example we have recently supported a national construction company to purchase over 300 defibrillators that will be placed within the new housing estates they are developing.

While there is no legislative onus on train stations and rail network providers to place defibrillators within train stations and on trains, we do encourage those relevant organisations to do so and can support them as I outlined above.

I hope that this will address the points you raised in your letter. Please do get in touch again if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Simon Gillespie, OBE
Chief Executive

Beat heartbreak forever.

bhf.org.uk