## ANDREW BARKLEY LL.B, Hon DUniv HER MAJESTY'S CORONER

for the Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire **Coroner's Area** 



CORONER'S CHAMBERS, 547 HARTSHILL ROAD, STOKE-ON-TRENT ST4 6HF Tel: (01782) 234777 Fax: (01782) 232074 Email: coroners@stoke.gov.uk

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS         THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:         A R 1 Homecare Ltd, 91 St John's Road, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent, ST8 6LL         CORONER         I am Margaret J Jones HM Assistant Coroner for Stoke-on-Trent & North Staffordshire         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.         http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7
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http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made
INVESTIGATION and INQUEST
On 30/11/2018 I commenced an investigation into the death of Peter Moran. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest 10th May 2019. The conclusion of the inquest was The deceased was 89 years of age and had a history of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, irregular heartbeat, dementia and limited mobility. He lived alone and had a care plan in place. Precautions had been taken to reduce the fire risks in the property. The carers had been instructed to remove knobs from the cooker after use and place them out of reach of the deceased. On 8th August 2017 a carer visited the deceased and cooked breakfast. The gas cooker grill element had not been fully turned off, leaving an almost invisible flame still burning when the carer left. The cooker knobs and lighter had been placed on top of a cupboard out of reach of the deceased. Other visitors during the evening did not notice the lighted grill. At around 3.00am on 9th August 2017 the deceased got out of bed. He noticed the grill was still ignited and used a taper to take a flame from the grill and attempted to light the gas fire in the lounge causing the plastic log effect to smoulder. The Fire and Rescue Service attended and found the deceased inside the property. The grill was alight and the cooker knobs and lighter were still on top of the cupboard. He was taken to the Royal Stoke University Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent where he died at 2.30 am on 19th August 2017. The medical evidence was that the cause of death was hospital acquired respiratory infection due to smoke inhalation with underlying chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and ischaemic heart disease.
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH See above.
<u>CORONER'S CONCERNS</u> 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 <b>MATTERS OF CONCERN</b> are as follows. –
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6	ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN
7	In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you <b>A R 1 Homecare</b> Ltd have the power to take such action. YOUR RESPONSE
	You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by <b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b> . 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
	<ul> <li>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons:-</li> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>(Staffordshire Fire &amp; Rescue).</li> </ul>
	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	30 May 2019
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	Signature Margaret J Jones HM Assistant Coroner Stoke-on-Trent & North Staffordshire