



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Andre Rebello
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HM Coroners Court
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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
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31st October 2019

Dear Andre,

Regulation 28 Report (re. death of Lucia Jayne Stear)

Thank you for sending me a copy of your Regulation 28 Report to prevent Future Deaths regarding the death of Lucia Jayne Stear as the result of the branch of a tree in Arrowe Park falling on the moving car in which she was travelling. I am very sorry to hear about this tragic loss of life and would like to take this opportunity to pass on my deepest condolences to her family.

You have asked for action to be taken nationally, to stop such an accident happening again. Spending on parks is a matter for local authorities. We acknowledge that local authorities are working under financial pressure, that's why this year the Chancellor has announced the biggest year-on-year real terms increase in spending power for local government in almost a decade. Core Spending Power (CSP) is expected to rise from £46.2 billion to £49.1 billion in 2020-21, an estimated 4.3% real terms increase.

This positive announcement brings a significant level of support to local authorities, but we also understand the pressures that they are under in particular areas such as parks and green spaces. In order to provide additional assistance my Department announced in February a total of £9.7 million to be allocated directly to all local authorities across England with the expectation the award be used to undertake remedial work and renovation of existing parks to enhance the green space available to their local communities. This funding enabled local authorities to target funds to those parks in their local area in need of greatest repair and improvement. Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council was allocated a total of £56,295.

Thank you once more for sharing your concerns. I would like to reiterate my condolences and I would be grateful if you could convey my sympathy to Lucia's family.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP

Received

11 NOV 2019

H.M. Coroner