

Chairman: Lord Harris
National Trading Standards
Sylvan Court
Sylvan Way
Southfields Business Park
Basildon
Essex
SS 15 6TH



Email contact via
nationaltradingstandards@actso.org.uk

Ms Briony Ballard
Coroner for Inner London South District
Southwark Coroners Court
1 Tennis Street
Southwark
SE1 1YD

30th October 2019

Dear Ms Ballard

Prevent future death report – Owen James Carey

Case Ref 01206 – 2017

Thank you for your letter dated 9 October 2019. I am sorry to learn of the tragic death of Mr Carey from severe food induced anaphylaxis. I note you have sent the letter under Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations which are designed to prevent future deaths.

National Trading Standards (NTS) is a body which commissions specific Trading Standards related work via various grants from Government. This work relates only to regional or national issues (e.g. complex consumer frauds operating across the country) rather than locally based enforcement. The Food Standards Agency does not commission any work via NTS in relation to food safety enforcement.

As such the activities relating to the regulation of food safety in general, and allergens in particular, do not fall within our remit. At a local level this responsibility lies with individual local authorities. NTS is not an overseeing body for local authorities. Each local authority is responsible for the level of food safety enforcement it undertakes in its own area.

It seems however that the concerns you raise relate to the underpinning statutory system, in particular the lack of statutory requirements in relation to the notification of allergens in the circumstances that Mr Carey purchased his food and also the lack of a national register of such incidents. I see that your letter was also sent to the Food Standards Agency. The FSA have the responsibility, on behalf of Government, for the legislation and policy relating to allergens and for managing national food incidents so I am sure they will be well placed to address the issues you have raised.

I am very sorry that I am unable to directly assist you in this instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toby Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lord Toby Harris
Chairman, National Trading Standards

RECEIVED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Belgrave". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.