



Mr Geraint Williams
Assistant Coroner for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

1 April 2020

Your Ref: GUW/LJB

Dear Mr Williams,

Re: Marc Antony Cole (deceased)

I am writing on behalf of the College of Policing (the College) in response to the concerns raised in the Reg 28 Prevention of Future Deaths notice that you issued in respect of the death of Mr Marc Anthony Cole.

I was very sorry to read of the circumstances of Marc's death. My sympathies are with his family and friends and I share your commitment to addressing issues that contributed to his untimely loss. I understand the jury found the medical causes of death to be: "Use of cocaine, episode of altered behaviour including self-harm, exertion, excitement, the use of x26 Taser Device and restraint."

The Reg 28 Notice sets out concerns that arose from the information received during the inquest. In my detailed response, appended below, I will explain the role of the College and address each of the issues raised in relation to the College in turn.

In summary, my detailed response explains that current College guidance and learning material address the risks associated with the number and duration of Taser activations. Our materials have been developed in close consultation with the independent body (SACMILL)* that advises the Home Office on the medical issues associated with conducted energy devices and are in line with their advice. The Home Office and SACMILL would be better placed to comment on the associated evidence base.

The Reg 28 Notice suggest there were gaps in the information available to the inquest in respect of the medical evidence about the use of Taser, and the advice the College gives on multiple activations, medical implications and first aid. Had SACMILL, AXON and the College been called to give evidence at the Coroners court, information could have been provided that would have been highly likely to be useful to you and the jury in your considerations.

In any future inquests, where the College's training material and guidance are to be examined, we would be glad to attend to provide information and clarity where needed. I believe this would be in the interests of the family, jury and wider public and would help ensure that lessons are learned in the most appropriate areas.

We would like to thank you for bringing the circumstances of Mr Cole's death to our attention and we will ensure that our immediate and future work is informed by the events that culminated in Marc's tragic death. We keep Taser training under regular review and we will carefully examine the findings of Mr Cole's inquest to ensure learning continues to be reflected. The College will also continue to work with SACMILL to ensure that our guidance and training are always informed by the most up-to-date independent scientific evidence available to us.

Yours sincerely



Mike Cunningham
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*SACMILL: Scientific Advisory Committee for the Medical Implication for Less Lethal Weapons (an independent scientific body funded by the Ministry of Defence).