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Mrs Penelope Schofield
Senior Coroner
The Coroners Service
County Record Office
Orchard Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1DD

12th February 2021

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs Schofield

Our ref: [REDACTED]

**Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Deaths
Brian James Easey deceased**

This letter is prepared by way of response to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths prior to Inquest received under cover of your letter addressed to [REDACTED], Chief Executive, such response being required by the 15th February 2021.

This response is concerned only with the period of time in which Mr Easey was employed by West Sussex County Council within the Registration Service which we confirm from our own records was between the period 1st November 1984 and the 18th February 2006. For the period 1984 to 2000, Mr Easey's place of employment was at Mill Road, Worthing where the records of births, deaths and marriages for the Worthing district were stored. In 2000, all records were moved to Centenary House in Worthing and at that time, Mr Easey's employment was at Centenary House.

In 2010, the West Sussex Registration Service was unified and all records of births, deaths and marriages including those that had been moved from the Mill Road premises were moved from Centenary House to the County Records Office in Orchard Street, Chichester.

Two concerns have been raised within the Regulation 28 Report. The first concern is that given the description of dust present on council records at Mill Road, Worthing, there appears to be a risk that such records were and remain

contaminated with asbestos fibres. To respond to this concern, arrangements were made for air monitoring for asbestos and dust sampling testing to be undertaken at the location that the records are currently held, that being the County Records Office. The testing was undertaken by Perry Analytical Limited – Analytical and Consultant Chemist. Copies of the reports prepared by Perry Analytical are enclosed.

The registers that are retained at County Records Office in Chichester, are stored in strong rooms 4 and 5. On the 22nd December 2020 air monitoring for asbestos tests were undertaken in strong rooms 4 and 5. Two samples for each room were taken and all samples tested identified an airborne concentration of asbestos of less than 0.01 fibres per millilitre. The report further comments that an airborne concentration of less than 0.01 fibres per millilitre is satisfactory, there only being a need to investigate further where there is a concentration of 0.01 fibres per millilitre or greater.

The samples of dust within strong rooms 4 and 5 were taken on the 31st December 2020 and analysed on the 4th January 2020. Eleven samples were taken in room 4 and four samples taken in room 5. The finding for each sample taken was that no asbestos was identified.

The second concern raised is that should there currently be asbestos fibres present on the records this presents a risk of asbestos exposure to all those who come in to contact with the records with an associated risk of developing fatal mesothelioma. Given that the findings of the air monitoring for asbestos in both strong rooms identified that the airborne concentration was satisfactory and secondly that the dust samples did not identify the presence of any asbestos, it is not apparent that any one that comes in to contact with the registers would have any exposure to asbestos.

It therefore follows that there is no requirement for the council to take any further action regarding either the location in which the registers are stored or the registers in question.

The council continue to do whatever it can to ensure the safety of its staff.

Should you require any clarification of the points made in this response, I would be grateful if you could please direct any points of clarification to the above address.

Yours sincerely



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Enc: 1. Air Monitoring Test Results
2. Dust Sample Test Results