

Dr [REDACTED]
Joint Honorary Secretary

Mr Philip Barlow
HM Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of Inner South London
Sent by email to:



28 May 2021

Dear Mr Barlow,

Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths - touching on the death of Ella Adoo Kissi-Debrah

Thank you for your report of 20 April 2021. I am responding on behalf of the Royal College of General Practitioners as Joint Honorary Secretary to Council. Firstly, can I convey our condolences to the family and friends of Ella. I was saddened to read of Ella's passing.

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) is the largest membership organisation in the United Kingdom solely for GPs. It aims to encourage and maintain the highest standards of general medical practice and to act as the 'voice' of GPs on issues concerned with education; training; research; and clinical standards. Founded in 1952, the RCGP has just over 54,000 members who are committed to improving patient care, developing their own skills and promoting general practice as a discipline.

RCGP has been working to raise the profile of impact of pollution at public health and policy levels and also with members, practices and patients. In preparing this response, I am indebted to colleagues in helping to draft a reply to your Regulation 28 letter. I would particularly like to thank Drs [REDACTED] and Dr [REDACTED] for their assistance.

As RCGP, we support the "Greener Practice Networks" approach, which has a significant emphasis on air pollution. See [here](#) for details. The RCGP has for several years encouraged engagement of practices in the Green Impact Audit for Health (see [here](#)) which includes encouragement for practices to address the use of cars for transport by staff and patients; this is part of the work supported by the college's Climate Change Emergency Advisory Group which is jointly chaired by Dr [REDACTED] and a former RCGP President, Dr [REDACTED]. We also work

Royal College of General Practitioners
30 Euston Square, London, NW1 2FB

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with the Primary Care Respiratory Society, which is clear regarding the impact of pollution on respiratory function. See [here](#) for details.

We are also aware that Health Education England are considering an on-line planetary education programme. RCGP is already in the process of producing a planetary health element of curriculum that all new GP will be assessed against. In the near term we are also planning a high profile webinar that GPs would be able to access and whilst it would have a broader approach to planetary change, it would incorporate elements regarding pollution.

RCGP is supportive of the use of non-carbon transport. In line with a change to our commercial policies, we emphasise electric modes of transport as well as where appropriate, supporting the use of bicycles, such as that arranged by our Wessex Faculty (see [here](#) for details).

Finally, RCGP as an organisation has undertaken its own environmental audits and we continue to work to reduce our own carbon footprint. We were also the first Royal College to make a strategic decision to disinvest in organisations that are involved with fossil fuels.

Overall we consider that there is much work to be done to support efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change and within this the effects of air pollution. Our view is that this would significantly improve the health of both current and future patients as well as be better for our planet.

I trust that this reply is helpful and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. [redacted]
Joint Honorary Secretary of Council
Royal College of General Practitioners