



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

PROFESSIONALISM HQ

Senior Coroner Mr Andrew Harris
Southwark Coroners Court
1 Tennis Street
Southwark
London
SE1 1YD

[REDACTED]
Deputy Assistant Commissioner
New Scotland Yard
Victoria Embankment
London
SW1A 2JL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date: 23rd September 2021

Dear Mr Harris

I am the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Directorate of Professionalism in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and I am responding on behalf of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, dated 3rd August 2021. Your report was sent following the conclusion of the inquest into the death of Miss Emma Day who sadly died on 26th May 2017.

The MPS has acknowledged and reviewed both matters of concern that you have raised and have sought to address points 3 and 4 within your report.

The Metropolitan Police Service did not mention the Non-Molestation Order in the Merlin Report, and when shared with Lambeth CSC only one of the children was mentioned.

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) currently use the Missing Persons and Other Linked Indices application (MERLIN) to report safeguarding and sudden death incidents. Once a MERLIN report is created, it is sent to the MPS Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) where five year background research is completed to provide an informative intelligence product with a risk assessment supported by a clearly recorded rationale. Research includes checking the Police National Computer (PNC) and the Criminal Intelligence System (CRIMINT). Non-molestation orders received from the courts, are now recorded on both PNC and CRIMINT and should therefore be identified through research.

In June 2021, the MPS commenced a review of MASH with the strategic aim to improve the identification of risk to both children and vulnerable adults across London, and to work in partnership with statutory agencies to transform the collective response to information sharing and collective assessment within the MASH teams. It focuses on a consistent and connective approach to referral and agency activity which prioritises risk over volume; thereby improving the safeguarding response to London's vulnerable people. During this review, consideration will be given to include details of non-molestation orders to be placed in MERLIN reports and passed to partners so that they can be made aware and report any potential breaches.

As this review is a significant piece of work across all of London and has links to national work, the review will take approximately 18 months to complete.

On 26th August 2021, communication was sent to all MASH sergeants asking them to place details of any non-molestation orders found during their research, on to MERLIN before sharing with the Local Authority and for this to be disseminated to all of their officers and researchers. As a reminder, this communication will be followed up in a meeting with MASH sergeants in September 2021 and included in the notes of the meeting that will be circulated.

With regard to the child who was omitted from the information shared with the CSC, we believe this was a misunderstanding by the reporting officer that this information could be relevant. However, on receipt of the report by MASH, the MPS MASH Resource Guide contains information on how to complete a Research Template where there is a section to record research on other family members. However, siblings will only be identified if they have been listed on previous reports or on the report in question. When MASH identify siblings of the subject, research should only be conducted on them if relevant and if required. Partners can request further research on a subject at any point.

The Domestic Homicide Review recommended (R24) that the Home office work with the Ministry of Justice to implement a system whereby protective orders can be input directly to the Police National Computer. It was not clear whether all State Bodies that needed to were able to make entries themselves on the Police National Computer. Conflicting evidence was heard, but one police officer stated that R24 had not been adopted, and to do so would be welcomed by other agencies and that without this change there might be missed opportunity to save lives.

PNC is the primary source of information for operational policing in the UK. Access to PNC for non-police organisations can only be authorised by the Police Information Access Panel which is made up of a cross section of senior Home office and police leaders who meet to consider each application. Therefore, the MPS is not in a position to comment on whether other agencies should be given permission to enter protective orders on to PNC.

The current process for receipt of judicial orders into the MPS is explained in the 'Management of Judicial Orders in the MPS Policy'. This states that on receipt of a judicial order, as a minimum standard, the details should be recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) and Criminal intelligence System (CRIMINT). When an order is granted, it is the responsibility of the officer in the case to ensure the order is recorded on PNC and a copy uploaded on CRIMINT.

If the order relates to an automatic sexual notification requirement this will normally be uploaded on to PNC by the Violent and Sex Offender Register (VISOR) Helpdesk.

If an officer is not present when a Judicial Order is granted at a criminal court, the Police Liaison Officer will email a copy of the order to the officer in the case. If the order is granted at a Family Court, for example a non-molestation order, then the court post or email a copy to the MPS. If the subject of the order does not live in the Metropolitan Police District, then a copy of the order should still be recorded on PNC and CRIMINT but also emailed to the relevant force. Where there is no officer in the case, the order is scanned and forwarded to the Central Specialist Crime Offender Management mailbox from which the details are entered on CRIMINT and supplied to the Police National Computer Bureau for inclusion on the relevant PNC record.

In Conclusion

I wish to express my sincere condolences to the family of Miss Day. The MPS is committed to promote a culture of learning and continuous improvement wherever possible.

I trust this provides the reassurance that the MPS has considered the matters of concern you have raised.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.


Deputy Assistant Commissioner