

## REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)

*NOTE: This form is to be used **after** an inquest.*

	<p><b>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</b></p> <p><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</b></p> <p>1. Instastop Ltd., Holly Street, Kelham Industrial Estate, Doncaster, DN1 3TR</p>
1	<p><b>CORONER</b></p> <p>I am Lorraine Harris, Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of South Yorkshire (East) sitting in Doncaster.</p>
2	<p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b></p> <p>I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.</p>
3	<p><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b></p> <p>On 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 I commenced an investigation into the death of Steven Paul KIRKHAM. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The conclusion of the inquest was: Steve Paul Kirkham applied a ligature and hung himself. At the point in time, it was not clear whether he intended to take his own life.</p> <p><b>COD:</b> 1a Suspension by ligature</p>
4	<p><b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</b></p> <p>Mr Kirkham was an informal resident in Osprey Ward, Swallownest Court, Sheffield having suffered problems with his mental health.</p> <p>During his stay he was located in a private room with en-suite facilities which had a door for privacy.</p> <p>A device was fitted to the door by Instastop, which was designed to sound an alarm should any weight be applied to the door and hence highlight staff to the potential of an attempted hanging.</p> <p>On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Mr Kirkham used a ligature and hanged himself from the door, no alarm sounded.</p> <p>Evidence was heard that the company attended the day following Mr Kirkham's death and found the alarm to be in working order and identified a "blind spot" near to the hinge area.</p>
5	<p><b><u>CORONER'S CONCERNS</u></b></p> <p>During the course of the inquest, the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion, there is a risk that future deaths could occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances, it is my statutory duty to report to you.</p> <p>The <b>MATTERS OF CONCERN</b> are as follows. –</p> <p>(1) It appears that there is a "blind spot" on the door alarm mechanism.</p> <p>(2) I have been informed that, although Swallownest have replaced the doors with an alternative, that these door alarm systems may still be used in a variety of places where vulnerable people are housed. I am concerned that other users of these mechanisms may not have been informed of the potential danger.</p>

	<p>(3) I was not given any information with regard to what, if anything, has been done to rectify the “blind spot” area by Instatop and therefore have concerns that other users of the doors may be unaware of the issue.</p>
6	<p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe your organisation have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021. I, the coroner, may extend the period.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p><b>COPIES and PUBLICATION</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons – The family of Mr Steven Paul Kirkham via their solicitors Irwin Mitchell, Riverside East House, 2 Millsands, Sheffield S3 8DT and Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield Hallam Trust, Woodfield House, Tickhill Road Site, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 8QN.</p> <p>I am also under a duty to send a copy of your response to the Chief Coroner and all interested persons who in my opinion should receive it.</p> <p>I may also send a copy of your response to any other person who I believe may find it useful or of interest.</p> <p>The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest.</p> <p>You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response.</p>
9	<p><b>18th August 2021 [SIGNED ELECTRONICALLY BY CORONER] Lorraine Harris</b></p>