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Mr Zafar Siddique Senior Coroner – The Black Country By email Chief Executive

Redgrave Court Merton Road Bootle Merseyside L20 7HS

16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

http://www.hse.gov.uk/

Dear Mr Siddique,

## **DEATH OF LYNN HADLEY, CORONERS REGULATION 28 REPORT**

Thank you for your report on the inquest into the death of Lynn Hadley and for raising your concerns with us that future deaths will occur unless action is taken.

These incidents are, thankfully, rare but when they do occur the consequences can be extremely serious and tragic, such as in this case.

MHRA are the lead authority, as they are the regulator for the equipment involved in this incident. However, during the investigation a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), comprising the Care Quality Commission, West Midlands Ambulance Service, West Midlands Fire Service, MHRA, Medical Gas Solutions and HSE, was established to:

- assist the regulators in fulfilling their various investigative and regulatory roles; and
- consider whether it would be possible to further reduce the possibility of any future incidents.

HSE continues to support MHRA and we believe it would be premature for us to consider taking any action before their work is completed.

Once completed, we will:

- use our communication channels and stakeholder networks to promote and promulgate any information and/or guidance produced by the MHRA; and
- consider if any further action is required by HSE, including whether the HSE guidance document INDG459 Oxygen use in the workplace Fire and explosion hazards: Fire and explosion hazards (hse.gov.uk) on the safe use of oxygen cylinders, including their use in assisting those with breathing difficulties, should be updated to reflect any new information and/or guidance produced.

I trust this provides reassurance that HSE is taking the appropriate steps, in conjunction with others, to ensure that oxygen cylinders are used safely.

Yours sincerely,

**Chief Executive**