




**Katie Sutherland Acting Senior Coroner
Senior Coroner for North West Wales**

	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>1. President and Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am Katie Sutherland Acting Senior Coroner for North West Wales</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</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>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 14/07/2020 I commenced an investigation into the death of Mared Thomas Foulkes, 21 . The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 28 October 2021. The conclusion of the inquest was Suicide.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>Mared Thomas Foulkes, aged 21, died beneath the Britannia Bridge on 8 July 2020. Mared was a student at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Cardiff University studying for a M Pharm. She had received examination results the morning she died indicating that she had 'not successfully completed this year/stage of her programme of study'. It was revealed after her death that she had successfully completed the year (once the ratification process had occurred).</p>
5	<p>CORONER'S CONCERNS</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 will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. –</p> <p>(1) The sharing of examination results and how examinations are marked is complex, confusing and at times capable of appearing misleading. Mared had failed one Professional Skills Assessment during the second year of her degree (2019/2020) and had undertaken a resit during the first semester for which she had received a 'provisional pass'. This was not ratified in the June exam board; instead it was to be ratified in the September exam board round in accordance with the University's policy (though that was not obviously clear at the time). The indication therefore to Mared in July 2020 was that she had not successfully completed the year. The result was later ratified in September. Furthermore, marks of 39% and 1% (fails) for assessments are given in situations where marks could be 'pending'.</p> <p>(2) There is no system in place for personal tutors to contact students ahead of the release of failed examination results, especially in vulnerable students. Students are not contacted directly by telephone by their personal tutors ahead of the release of the results in the event of failed modules or in the event of being informed that they had not successfully completed the year despite the complex and confusing assessment and results process and potentially misleading process around the sharing of examination results.</p>

6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you, Cardiff University, have the power to take such action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ratifying examination results at the first available opportunity, i.e. June, where a student has a provisional pass following successful resit for an initial failed Professional Skill Assessment (or equivalent in other schools or colleges) (b) Amending wording on exam notification correspondence to students (transcripts, emails, etc) to include 'pending' results, clarifying which exam board round (June or September) will ratify the results and clarity on assessment and ratification processes. (c) Provide additional and ongoing training to school staff on the clarity of explanation to students of assessment processes. (d) Provide further additional support to students where they are to receive a 'fail'
7	<p>YOUR RESPONSE</p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 5th January 2022. 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>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family 2. [REDACTED] Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences 3. The Chief Coroner <p>who may find it useful or of interest.</p> <p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.</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. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
9	<p>Dated 10 November 2021</p> <p>Signature </p> <p>Acting Senior Coroner for North West Wales</p>