



Home Office

Home Secretary

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His Majesty's Assistant Coroner Edward Ramsay
[REDACTED]

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24th April 2023

Dear Coroner Ramsay,

Regulation 28 report: Hannah Warren (ref: 127458)

Thank you for your email of 14 February. As requested, I am writing to formally respond to your report pursuant to the duty in paragraph 7(2) of Schedule 5 to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and pursuant to the requirements in regulation 29 of The Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013. This report relates to the circumstances surrounding the death of Hannah Warren in February 2016.

At the outset, I wish to express my most sincere condolences to Hannah's loved ones for the distress they must have experienced following Hannah's death.

Your report raises a number of concerns about the guidance and training for police officers investigating missing person reports; specifically, the use of the action report (ACT) in relation to Hannah's vehicle.

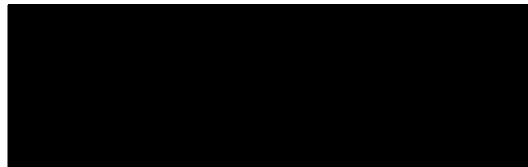
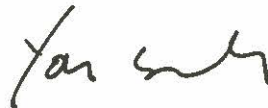
The police investigation of a missing person report is an operational decision for individual police forces. The standards for these investigations for all forces in England and Wales are set by the College of Policing (henceforth 'the College') through their Authorised Professional Practice (APP). The College also issues guidance for police forces, including instructions on the use of ACT and REACT reports on PNC, the most recent version was published in November 2022.

The College is independent of Government; its role is to set high professional standards for policing; sharing what works best; acting as the national voice of policing; and ensuring police training and ethics is of the highest possible quality.

The Home Office has no authority to intervene in operational policing matters. I cannot comment on the action and decisions taken by police officers in the course of their duties because operational matters are the responsibility of the Chief Officer of the force concerned. However, for the purposes of this response, my officials have consulted the College, the Metropolitan Police and the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) to seek assurance that the appropriate guidance is in place which addresses the concerns that you have raised.

I am satisfied by the College that there is current police guidance on this matter which is readily available to forces; and clearly sets out the actions police officers should take were these circumstances to arise again. Specifically, the guidance states that missing persons fall into the category of 'serious incidents' and as such, at a minimum, a medium priority ACT report should have been put in place. The response from the College will set out further detail on the use of the ACT guidance.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. My Ministers and I are committed to continuing to work with police forces in England and Wales through the College and NPCC to ensure that missing, vulnerable people are protected from harm. I hope this response assures you, and Hannah's family and friends, that your findings are being given the appropriate attention in order to ensure that the proper processes are followed should these circumstances arise in future missing persons investigations.



Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP