

Protected Marking	Restricted	Date	02/05/23
Title & Version	Prevention of Future Deaths Report – Keyham Inquest		
Reference	<p>The Report to Prevent Future Deaths: Made Under Regulation 28 Of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.</p> <p>Duty to respond to report within 56 days (namely by 3rd May 2023).</p>		
<p>HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS: This document must be handled in accordance with the protective security marking shown at the top of the document and should not be disseminated to outside agencies/partners without the consent of the authorising officer.</p>			

Background

The case relates to the Plymouth shooting where the Jake Davision had his shot gun returned via the Force Firearms Licensing unit and subsequently shot and caused the death of five people in Keyham on 12th August 2021. The Coroner recommends all Forces review all their decisions to return firearms to a license holder.

Coroner Report Key Learning

- The death was caused by the fact the perpetrator has a lawfully held shotgun.
- Serious failures in FELU in granting and later failing to revoke the perpetrators shotgun certificate.
- Failure of Police to have in place safe and robust systems, foremost the training of FELU staff, governance of the FELU, quality assurance of FELU staffs decisions making and ensuring they were made at the correct level.
- There was failure of Police FELU staff to obtain sufficient medical information in respect of the perpetrator’s application for a shotgun certificate and on review.
- Failure of Police FELU staff to properly seek out and consider all the relevant evidence an information availability before decision whether to grant the shotgun certificate.
- Following the perpetrator having assaulted two children in 2020, there was a failure by Police to protect the public and the peace. Firstly, with downgraded charge and secondly with in the FELU to sufficiently investigate whether it was safe to return after initially seizing them.
- Incorrect application of the risk matrix meant decision were not approved by a manager of sufficient seniority.
- Catastrophic failure in the management of the FELU, with a lack of managerial supervision, inadequate and ineffective leadership which was compounded by a lack of senior management addressing the issues.
- Evidence heard at these inquests revealed that numerous recommendations arising from previous inquiries and reviews regarding the training of police officers and police staff involved in firearms licencing decision has not been put into effect. Chief Officers ought to be satisfied that they only delegate their authority to issue and



revoke firearms licenses to appropriately trained and skilled personnel. There continues to be a lack of nationally accredited training for FELU staff.

COLP Specific Data / Procedures in relations to Firearms Licensing

COLP currently have the following 36 live certificates
COLP have not returned any certificates having confiscated them in recent years.

Current CoLP procedure

The decision to return a firearm is made by Licensing Team members, quality assured by Inspector with final authority to return being made by Firearms Portfolio holder Commander Ops & Security.

CoLP Actions

Learning from this case should also be applied to the initial application and annual re-licensing processes.

- What are the Common National Standards for Firearms License Applications / Renewals / Return of firearm following suspension? –
- **Match CoLP SOP to ensure standards are met or exceeded.**
- Review SOP to ensure procedures for - Application / Annual Renewal / Return – **Ensuring robust checks across medical, crime recording and Risk Assessment.**
- Risk assessment training and CPD training for all licensing team - **Annual cycle of training and development.**

Recommendation /Response

- City of London Police acknowledge the findings and learnings from the Keyham Inquest.
- These findings have been brought to the attention of the respective operational leads and further governance will be provided through the the Operational Learning Forum for actions to be set and tracked across CoLP. The next OLF is scheduled to for 23rd May at 1330-1500hrs, papers to be submitted by 16th May.

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Commander
City of London Police.
Lead for Ops and Security
Chair Org Learning Board.

