

HM Senior Coroner – Mr Ian Arrow
1 Derriford Park
Derriford Business Park
Plymouth
PL6 5QZ

27th April 2023

Ref: Prevention of Future Deaths Reports – Keyham Inquests

Dear Mr Arrow,

This response is submitted on behalf of the College of Policing ('the College') in reply to your reports on Preventing Future Deaths (PFD) following the Keyham inquests.

Firstly, I wish to extend my deepest condolences to the families and friends of those murdered and injured as a result of the shootings. We also wish to state our appreciation of all of those who contributed to the proceedings. It is incumbent on the College and others in policing to ensure lessons are learned.

College Response to Matters of Concern

The College is named as a joint addressee for the PFD report that focuses on the training of firearms licensing decision makers, and you have made us aware that:

- *'despite the repeated recommendations being made over the past 27 years, and the earlier requests made specifically to the College of Policing asking for such training to be developed, no accredited training as yet exists'*
- *'neither the current CoP APP guidance on firearms nor the proposed update includes any requirement that FELU staff are trained in firearms licensing generally or trained in conducting suitability assessments in particular'*

The College is currently developing significantly revised and updated Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on firearms licensing. The APP – and other national products such as the Home Office's Statutory Guidance – will underpin the development of a national training course for staff involved in firearms licensing. This will include Firearms Enquiry Officers (FEOs) and others who may have delegated authority to make decisions.

We will adapt national approaches to training used in other high-risk areas of policing, for example, armed policing. As part of this approach, national materials and accompanying quality assurance (QA) processes will be developed to ensure a consistent approach to training across forces in England and

Wales. The material and QA will be based on national learning outcomes which are also currently being reviewed and updated.

It is our intention to incorporate an assessment component to the training, to help ensure and reinforce occupational competence. We also intend to develop a framework that can help ensure operational competence (for example, ongoing assessment against learning outcomes evidenced through mechanisms such as portfolios; performance and development reviews; and Continual Professional Development).

Once the training course has been designed, we will state in the APP that chief officers should only delegate their firearms licensing decisions to people who have been trained to take those decisions.

It is also noted that the PFDs could lead to other significant developments for firearms licensing. We will continue to monitor developments in firearms licensing to ensure our training and guidance reflect the highest standards. This is so that only those who should have access to firearms do so and that the licensing system contributes to the safety of the public to the extent that it can.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer
College of Policing

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