

[REDACTED]

Date: 2nd May 2023

Mr Ian Arrow  
HM Senior Coroner  
Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Arrow

### **Preventing Future Deaths Report**

I write with reference to the Preventing Future Deaths report following the Keyham Shooting Inquest. In accordance with the duty for me to respond within 56 days, it is my intention to outline the action taken to date by Derbyshire Constabulary, the proposed response to your findings and the timescales for completion of a planned review of decision making over the past 5 years.

Firearms licensing currently forms part of our Criminal Justice department. The Head of Criminal Justice is a Detective Superintendent who holds monthly meetings to review decision making for revocations and returns following a revocation. The Firearms Licensing Manager also meets quarterly with the Assistant Chief Constable responsible for Crime and Criminal Justice.

I can confirm that Derbyshire Constabulary have reviewed in detail the findings of the Keyham Shooting Inquest. In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, the force reviewed all firearms certificates for the preceding 12 months that had been seized, refused, revoked or surrendered, and subsequently approved by the police.

As part of the Internal Audit Plan 2022/23, Mazars LLP were commissioned to undertake an independent internal audit of firearms licensing controls and processes. The audit, which reported in November 2022, provided significant assurance around the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls and improvements in a number of key areas since the previous audit in July 2016, specifically relating to policies and procedures, records and changes, revocations and seizures, and performance information.

Since November 2019, Derbyshire Constabulary has routinely requested medical evidence to support all application and renewal. In March 2023, Derbyshire Constabulary implemented a further change to its referee process, which now includes sending details of the referee's obligations and duties to accompany the proforma reference document. Until medical and reference checks are completed, applications for licences are not progressed by Firearms Enquiry Officers.



Over the past three years, work has been underway to improve the recording and sharing of IT systems. All firearms licence holders and their addresses have a marker on the Police National Computer, together with the local crime and intelligence system. When any incident, crime report, or intelligence is received involving a firearms licence holder, firearms licence address or any persons linked to that address is recorded within the East Midlands region on our crime and intelligence system, an automatic notification is sent to our firearms licencing team.

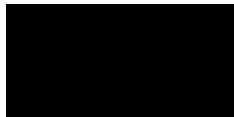
All Firearms Enquiry Officers have attended the training course provided by South Yorkshire Police, enhanced further by local internal continuous professional development sessions. The force is also in the process of developing a digital learning package to raise awareness of firearms licensing amongst frontline officers. Members of the Firearms Licensing management team will shortly be attending a two-day event at the College of Policing to debrief the findings of the inquest and identify any learning for inclusion in our local delivery plan.

Derbyshire Constabulary is committed to improving the quality of firearms licensing decision making. One area currently being explored is the possibility of introducing an independent scrutiny panel to further strengthen quality assurance activity.

Finally, in accordance with guidance from the National Police Chiefs' Council, Derbyshire Constabulary will shortly commence a review of all cases in the last five years where firearms have been seized or surrendered to police pending a review of suitability to have a licence, but then subsequently returned. There will be a staged approach to completion of this task with the most recent decisions being initially prioritised for review. This is a significant undertaking, and our ambition is to complete this work by the end of October 2023.

I hope this provides the necessary reassurance of the commitment of Derbyshire Constabulary to learning the lessons from this tragedy.

Yours sincerely

  
**Chief Constable**