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Chief Constable

Senior Coroner I M Arrow
HM Coroners Office
1 Derriford Park
Derriford Business Park
Plymouth
PL6 5QZ

26th April 2023

Dear Mr Arrow

Re Regulation 28 reports following the inquest into the deaths of Maxine Davison, Lee Martyn, Sophie Martyn, Stephen Washington and Kathryn Shepherd.

Thank you for your report dated 8 March 2023 in the respect of the tragic deaths of Maxine Davison, Lee Martyn, Sophie Martyn, Stephen Washington and Kathryn Shepherd and pursuant to Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013 and Paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

Having carefully considered your reports I make the following observations to hopefully address your matters of concern;

- 1. Further review of all certificates seized, refused, revoked or surrendered and then subsequently approved over the past five years may be required to be assured of public safety.**

Greater Manchester Police have an established Senior Officer Panel. This panel guides decision making at a level senior to that of the Firearms and Explosives Licensing Manager. This mechanism has assessed all cases where guns have been returned to certificate holders. This also includes the renewal or granting of certificates where guns had previously been removed or surrendered.

We are currently examining all available information to identify those cases where certificates have been seized, refused, revoked or surrendered and then subsequently approved and guns returned. Based on the volume identified to date it is forecasted that GMP will review in total, for the five-year period, between 70-80 cases at Senior Officer Panel. All reviews will be against the updated Statutory Guidance and we believe it to be practicable to review these cases over the course of the next 3 months.

- 2. (Forces to ensure) Adequate local training, of a satisfactory standard has been universally delivered to all their FELU staff and supervisors in applying the Home Office Guidance on Firearms Licensing Law (Nov 2022) and the revised Statutory Guidance for Chief Officers of Police (Feb 2023)**


All Firearms Enquiry Officers (FEO) have completed training with an external partner, Mowbray Partners titled "Firearms Licensing ". FEO's are the frontline of the Firearms Licensing Unit and make all initial decisions based on the current legislation, statutory and non-statutory guidance and Approved Professional Practice. The training by Mowbray addresses these fundamental issues.

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3. *Only delegated decision making to persons who have undergone adequate training in firearms licensing and in applying that recent guidance*

The current Firearms Licensing Manager has completed training, procured through an external partner Mowbray Partners, this training is titled "Firearms Licensing – Decision Makers". The Firearms Licensing Manager and Detective Sergeant will additionally be attending a two-day continuous professional development (CPD) event delivered by Chief Constable Tedds at the College of Policing on the 18th and 19th May 2023. Furthermore, the Firearms and Explosives Licensing Unit (FELU) have all reviewed the new 2023 Home Office Statutory Guidance and 2023 College of Policing Approved Professional Practice. The Detective Sergeant will complete the training "Firearms Licensing" with external training partner Mowbray Partners. They will additionally complete the training "Firearms Licensing – Decision Makers" by the end of April 2023. To reassure you further, only those trained personnel above are permitted to make decisions in line with the updated statutory guidance.

Yours sincerely /

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Chief Constable.

Chief Constable