



1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

BY EMAIL: [REDACTED]

Rachael Griffin  
Senior Coroner  
Coroner area of Dorset

Dear Ms Griffin

**IVAN RUMENOV IGNATOV (DECEASED)**

I am writing in response to the preventing future deaths report we received at the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and I respond as our Managing Director on behalf of the AACE.

It may be helpful for us to explain that AACE is a private company owned by the English and Welsh Ambulance NHS Trusts. It exists to provide ambulance services with a central organisation that supports, co-ordinates and implements nationally agreed policy. Our primary focus is the ongoing development of the English ambulance services and the improvement of patient care. It is a company owned by NHS organisations and possess the intellectual property rights of the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee UK ambulance service clinical practice guidelines (the "JRCALC guidelines"). AACE is not constituted to mandate or instruct ambulance services however it has national influence via the regular meetings of ambulance Chief Executives and Trust Chairs along with a network of national specialist sub-groups.

With regard to your matter of concern relating to ambulance services:

*There is a lack of knowledge and/or understanding amongst emergency services and search and rescue services, especially around terminology, process and communication for them to ensure they can work together when an incident arises without confusion or misunderstanding arising. I would request that consideration is given to further national and local training or guidance across emergency and search and rescue services to ensure communication can be facilitated without delay, and ensure terms and processes are understood to avoid any doubt of what action is taken when an incident is ongoing.*

AACE work closely and regularly at a national level with our partners in police, fire and rescue, and search and rescue. We have representation on the UK Search and Rescue (UKSAR) national groups hosted by HM Coastguard (HMC) on behalf of the Home Office. I am pleased to learn from colleagues at HMC, that details of your concerns will be discussed at the UKSAR Communications working group and the efficacy of interagency operational communication will be examined further with particular relevance to the points you have raised.

In addition to the UKSAR forums, interagency liaison and training across the emergency services is continuous. Along with the other emergency services, the ambulance sector and the National Ambulance Resilience Unit (NARU) looks to embed the principles of the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) doctrine throughout our operational services. An essential element of the JESIP programme is to optimise clear communication with interagency working and the Medical Advisor to NARU is aware of your concerns and is looking to ensure learning from this tragic incident takes place. We are also aware of ongoing work following the Manchester arena inquiry looking to improve interoperability through research led by the Home Office.

AACE are not responsible for the training of ambulance staff, however we are aware that within ambulance services at a regional level, training is often reviewed and updated and where possible joint training

Chairman: [REDACTED]

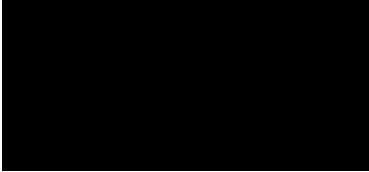
Managing Director: [REDACTED]

exercises with partner emergency and search and rescue services takes place. We are very aware of the importance of working together to ensure incidents are managed well when multiple agencies are involved.

On behalf of AACE, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the family of Ivan Rumenov Ignatov.

I hope this response has adequately addressed the concerns that you have raised. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Managing Director.A black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the Managing Director.

Managing Director