



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service
Five Rivers Community Health & Wellbeing Centre,
Hulse Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3NR

Rachael C Griffin
Senior Coroner
His Majesty's Coroner for the County of Dorset

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By email only.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Date: 22 August 2023

Dear Rachael,

I am writing in response to Coroner's Support Officer, [REDACTED], letter of 8 June 2023 and the Coroner's report written under paragraph 7, schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, concerning the inquest into the death of Ivan Rumenov Ignatov, who lost his life in July 2020.

On behalf of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to Ivan's family. I very much appreciate your efforts to ensure that the inquest was conducted in such a way that allowed the circumstances surrounding this incident to be rigorously examined, and subsequent areas identified to ensure lessons are learnt and appropriate actions implemented across a wide range of organisations.

My response to your Matters of Concern is focussed on those raised in section 5, 2, iv, of your report:

'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 be ensure [sic] 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 being taken when an incident is ongoing.'

Although the Service was not directly involved in the search and rescue operation on this occasion, we work closely with our colleagues in the wider emergency services and search and rescue services, including police, ambulance, and His Majesty's Coastguard. It is for the reasons you identify that we remain committed to the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP). The JESIP joint doctrine interoperability framework forms the foundation on which we train all our incident commanders and contains the five principles of joint working:

- Co-locate
- Communicate
- Co-ordinate
- Jointly understand risk
- Shared situational awareness

These principles are applied at all levels of our incident command from level 1 (initial) to level 4 (strategic). Following the initial acquisition of skills, the command competence of individual Dorset

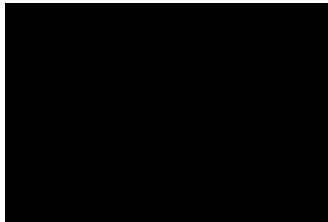
Chief Fire Officer [REDACTED] QFSM FIFireE

& Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service incident commanders is continually assessed and recorded at specific frequencies. This is achieved through both naturally occurring incident attendance and exercising, in line with National Operational Guidance.

The Service is an active member of the Dorset Local Resilience Forum, who consider JESIP as a key area for continuous improvement. Through this forum, the challenges of intra-operability with partners, who have different radio communications, is an area of focus for the Blue Light Group on 18 September 2023. Our Service will be appropriately represented at this meeting.

I trust that my response addresses the issues that you have raised, that are directly relevant to Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. Please be assured of our commitment to continuous improvement.

Yours sincerely,

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

Chief Fire Officer

Chief Fire Officer  QFSM FIFireE