



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Rachel Clare Griffin  
Senior Coroner for Area of Dorset

c/o 71-75 Shelton Street  
Covent Garden  
London  
WC2H 9JQ

Sent by email to:  
[REDACTED]

1 August 2023

Dear Mrs Griffin

Thank you for raising the concern in relation to the death of Ivan Rumenov Ignatov on 11 August 2020. It is with great sadness that I read about the circumstances of his death. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) is committed to a culture of learning and improvement and seeks to support fire and rescue services (FRSs) to embed a learning culture. We actively track Prevention of Future Deaths Reports and share them with our members to ensure all opportunities to improve are taken.

The NFCC supports the consistent and robust embedding of the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) doctrine, which promotes effective interagency working through its principles of Co-Location, Communication, Co-ordination, Joint Understanding of Risk, and Shared Situational Awareness. Following a series of high-profile incidents before 2020, all FRSs have reviewed their current policies and training in line with JESIP.

One such incident was the attack at Manchester Arena and the subsequent recommendations of the Manchester Arena Inquiry. The recommendations are now being overseen through a Ministerial board with national blue light services. Part of the work linked to the Board, being led by NFCC and other blue light partners, is to establish a process of providing additional national assurance about the application of JESIP across blue light services, and this work will commence in autumn 2023.

The NFCC produce and maintain a suite of National Operational Guidance, which is considered good practice. All FRSs should adopt the NFCC National Operational Guidance for Incident Command. This provides guidance and makes calls to action for FRSs to comply with, which instruct FRSs to test communication equipment to ensure it is compatible with other services and agencies, to train together, and to adopt agreed multi agency guidance. It also calls upon incident commanders to communicate using agreed structured briefing and debriefing systems, use plain English, including avoiding acronyms, and to confirm that all parties understand the information passed to them.

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The NFCC also provides guidance for fire control rooms to recommend setting up and sharing information with our multiagency partners, using agreed terminology and briefing structures.

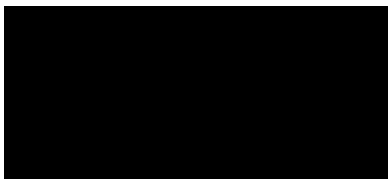
The supporting framework of guidance provides the appropriate tools for all FRSs to embed effective multi agency communication at incidents and promotes the correct pre incident actions to ensure multi agency communication can be implemented easily when required. However, it is acknowledged that interoperability between agencies is both crucial to the successful outcome of an incident and difficult to achieve consistently.

The NFCC have engaged with Dorset and Wiltshire FRS, the JESIP principles are well embedded within their service. They lead on multi agency training and working closely with the Local Resilience Forum to embed effective multiagency communication during the response phase.

Evidence suggests that the issue identified primarily relates to interoperability with one agency. This had been identified prior to the release of the coroners recommendations and actions are underway to address this to improve inter agency working practices.

In response to the recommendations made the NFCC believes that appropriate guidance is available, and we will continue to encourage all FRSs to follow existing JESIP doctrine and operational guidance while continuing to develop existing guidance to make its application more effective.

Yours sincerely



Chair  
National Fire Chiefs Council