

HM Assistant Coroner Gareth Jones

12 January 2024

Dear HM Assistant Coroner Jones,

Regulation 28 Report following the inquest into the death of Jill Brice

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths.

We apologise for the delay in providing our formal response to the Regulation 28 report dated 10 October 2023, which we recognize should have been provided to you by 5 December 2023.

Due to a processing error, your Regulation 28 report was not considered for review until 2 January 2024. We take Regulation 28 reports very seriously and value the information contained within them for the purposes of helping inform proper discharge of our regulatory functions. We therefore very much regret the delay that this error has caused. We will seek to address that error at pace with process improvements to ensure that there is no repetition of the issue.

We have undertaken a rapid review of the concerns raised in your Regulation 28 report and established that the location where Mrs Brice was residing at the time of her death, namely the Dene, The Green, Rottingdean, Brighton, was not registered with us.

We have also reached the provisional view that the location, appears to fall outside the scope of registration with us, and so outside the scope of regulation by us. We have formed that provisional view following analysis of the information in your report, the Record of Inquest, Fire Investigation report and additional enquiries undertaken. Our analysis is that none of the information gathered indicates that registrable regulated activities requiring registration with us, under Schedule 1 of the Health and Social Care Act (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 or CQC Scope of Registration, were carried on.

However, in order to prepare and provide a considered formal response to your Regulation 28 report, we wish to gather further information to inform a considered and thorough assessment. In those circumstances, we respectfully request:

1. that you grant us interested person status as a sufficiently interested person under section 47(2)(m) of the Coroners Act 2009, and provide disclosure of the coronial bundle pursuant to Rule 13 of the Coroners (Inquests) Rules 2013 (Rule13); and
2. That you grant an extension until 24 January 2024 for submission of our formal response to your Regulation 28 report.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions arising.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Executive