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Cardiff
CF23 8RU

[REDACTED]

24 December 2023

Mrs Tanyka Rawden
HM Senior Coroner South Yorkshire (West)
Office of HM Coroner
The Medico-Legal Centre
Watery Street
Sheffield
S3 7ES

Dear Mrs Rawden,

Re: Adam Robert Johnson (Deceased)

We have now had an opportunity to review the Prevention of Future Deaths Report issued by the Senior Coroner on 03 November 2023.

We can confirm that the International Ice Hockey Federation (“IIHF”) is the worldwide governing body for Ice Hockey, under whose jurisdiction Ice Hockey UK (“IHUK”) falls. IHUK in turn operates as the national governing body for the sport within the UK.

The IIHF, on recommendation from its Medical Committee, has now decided to mandate the use of a neck laceration protector (or “neck guard”), specifically designed for this purpose, at all levels of IIHF competitions -

https://www.iihf.com/en/news/56022/iihf_mandates_neck_laceration_protection_at_all_le. IHUK, whose rule jurisdiction only covers the GB National teams, mandated neck guards for Senior Men and Women with immediate effect on 30 October 2023 - <https://www.icehockeyuk.co.uk/player-health-safety-wellbeing-review-and-action-plan>. This was in addition to the existing mandate for the U16, U18 and U20 categories, as official IIHF categories the latter two were already covered as per IIHF Official Rule Book.

IHUK does not have jurisdiction to implement changes within the Elite Ice Hockey League (“EIHL”) rules which Adam Johnson was playing within at the time of the incident, nor the English Ice Hockey Association (“EIHA”, now known as England Ice Hockey or “EIH”), both parties named as Properly Informed Persons on the Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths. The EIHL and EIH will be able to separately advise as to how they intend to address the decision taken by IIHF.

Yours sincerely,

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Chair, Ice Hockey UK
For and on behalf of Ice Hockey UK Ltd