

David Pojur
Assistant Coroner for North Wales (East and Central)
HM Coroner's Office
County Hall
Wynnstay Road
Ruthin LL15 1YN

18th April 2024

Dear Mr Pojur,

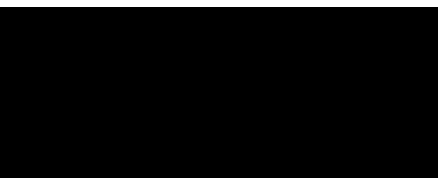
RE: Response to Benjamin Leonard: Prevention of future deaths report

I extend my sincere condolences to the family of Ben. The circumstances set out in the prevention of future deaths report makes for sombre reading – both in the way the Scout Association has conducted itself in relation to the inquests and the extensive list of “matters of concern”.

As Children’s Commissioner for England I do not have regulatory or legislative powers, however, my team will be asking the Scouts Association to provide us with updates on what, I hope will now be, a meaningful learning exercise to prevent future deaths or serious injuries. The first request will be made by 30th April 2024. I will be mindful of the Coroner’s comment that the Scout Association is “institutionally defensive” when considering their response.

Organisations engaged with children need to take safety seriously so children can enjoy opportunities to explore the natural world. I have called for Ofsted to play a larger role in assuring high standards of safety and safeguarding in youth work organisations ([The Big Ambition: Ambitions, Findings and Solutions | Children's Commissioner for England](#) (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



Children’s Commissioner for England