Coroner ME Hassell
Senior Coroner
Inner North London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
London N1C 4PP

17 October 2024

Dear Coroner ME Hassell,

Thank you for sharing the Prevention of Future Deaths Report following the tragic death of Malika Mohammed Abdu Hibu on 17 February 2024.

With regard to planning and the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), we welcome the fact that you are drawing this matter to the attention of the Secretary of State. We note your concerns that many planning applications will be determined before changes to the NPPF are made. We understand that a review of the NPPF is underway and that the updated version of the NPPF will be published in 2025.

Nonetheless, you may wish to ask that the Secretary of State writes to all Chief Planning Officers requiring that they consider potential hazards to children and vulnerable people when determining planning applications. Any such letter would be a material planning consideration.

In terms of the Crest Buildings housing development, the Council is working proactively and positively with Peabody to bring forward a planning application for safety fencing around the canal side area of the Estate. The Council has held two senior level meetings with Peabody to discuss their planning application and to encourage them to submit the application in the most expedient manner possible. Once the application is submitted, we will deal with it promptly. We have also met with the residents of the Estate to explain the planning process and to encourage them to engage in that process

Finally, the urban design lessons learned from this incident have been shared with all Development Management Officers at Islington Council. We have also checked that a planning application for another canal side residential development includes fencing and have confirmation that this is the case.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive, Islington Council