

Janine Richards
Assistant Coroner, for the Coroner area of Durham and Darlington

By email via: [REDACTED]

9 October 2024

Dear Janine Richards

Re: In the matter of Anthony Paul Nixon (Ref 1349-2023)

Thank you for sending us the Regulation 28 report regarding the death of Anthony Paul Nixon. We are very sorry to hear about this sad death and we would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Mr Nixon's family.

By way of background, the GPhC is the independent regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies in Great Britain. Our main job is to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of members of the public by upholding standards and public trust in pharmacy. This includes maintaining a register of pharmacy professionals and premises, setting regulatory standards and investigating concerns.

Following on from your office's initial email about the case, our requests for further information and the material supplied and the subsequent PFD report, we have considered how the GPhC needs to act to protect the safety of patients, uphold standards and maintain public trust in pharmacy. The GPhC Inspection and Fitness to Practise (FtP) teams have been collaborating closely on this case.

As part of this, the pharmacy has recently been inspected by one of our inspectors, who looked for evidence that the pharmacy is meeting our Standards for Registered Pharmacies. The purpose of these standards is to create and maintain the right environment in pharmacies to protect and improve people's health and wellbeing. The inspection included looking for evidence about the governance arrangements and the way the service for people taking methadone was being delivered. This was to ensure practices in the pharmacy, including supply of daily doses of methadone on days prior to the pharmacy being closed met the requirements of the prescriptions being dispensed. The Inspection report will be published in due course, showing some minor non-compliance and advice being given. Evidence collected during the visit to the pharmacy has been shared with our FtP colleagues.

The GPhC FtP team investigates concerns about individual pharmacy professionals where there may be a risk to patient safety and/or where public confidence in pharmacy could be affected. The initial assessment of this case is complete, and an investigation is open. The case has been allocated to a Case

Officer who will consider the findings of the GPhC inspection and whether any further evidence is required. Once the investigation is complete, we will assess the evidence in line with our Threshold Criteria to determine whether further action against the individual pharmacist is required.

The details of this case have been discussed with our NHS colleagues in the Accountable Officer team and with the local CD police liaison officer to share any learnings from this case and further actions may be determined by the FtP investigation outcomes.

We hope this information is helpful. If you should require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A small black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the signatory.

Chief Executive and Registrar