

30 January 2025

Rachael C Griffin,
Senior Coroner for the County of Dorset

cc: [REDACTED] Coroner's Support Officer

By email only: [REDACTED]

Dear Senior Coroner Griffin

Re. William Albert Nairn Lardner ("Billy" - as per the family's wishes), ref. 32399640

Thank you for the prevention of future deaths report dated 5 December 2024.

This response is made on behalf of Bournemouth Airport ("BOH") under paragraph 7(2) of Schedule 5 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013. In doing so, BOH understands that it is required to provide details of any action that has been taken, or which it is proposed will be taken in response to the report, or otherwise, and set out a timetable of the action taken or proposed to be taken; or provide an explanation as to why no action is proposed.

In providing this response, BOH would again like to convey sincere condolences to the family for the loss of Billy in such tragic circumstances.

Background

BOH wishes to stress that Billy's death and the accident did not occur as result of any actions or omissions on its behalf.

First, the driver of the car was found to have been impaired by alcohol and was driving at between 85 mph and 119 mph at the time of the accident. The driver was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment after pleading guilty to the offences of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving, Failing to Stop and Driving without Insurance.

Second, the accident did not occur on land owned or controlled by BOH. The accident occurred on Parley Lane which is the main public highway outside of BOH. BOH does not own and has no responsibility for Parley Lane. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council ("BCP") and the Highways Agency are responsible for Parley Lane.

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Concerns

Although the accident did not occur on land controlled by BOH, the report sets out concerns around the access arrangements to BOH's terminal, namely: (i) there is limited access to the airport by public transport: there is no train and only one bus service; (ii) some passengers walk to the airport on foot, either being dropped off and or picked up, from nearby areas like Parley Lane and Adventure Wonderland's Parley Lane Parking (as referenced by the Senior Coroner); and (iii) there is no public footpath along Hurn Court Lane after turning off Parley Lane to access the airport.

It is also noted that the report states that no action has been taken in response to the site visit and assessment in July 2023 by Dorset Police and BCP Council.

Action

BOH and BCP met on 19 December 2024 and 23 January 2025 to discuss the concerns raised in the report.

Taking each in turn:

1. **Public Transport:** As part of airport expansion plans, there has been positive engagement to improve public transport to the airport between BOH, BCP and the local bus operator. An indicative enhanced timetable has been developed to meet the needs of current and future staff at changeover times as well as continuing to provide opportunities for passengers to access the airport by bus. It is intended that the service will operate at an increased frequency and will continue to provide a key link to Bournemouth town centre and railway station, to allow interchange with other public transport services. Final negotiations are currently underway to agree suitable contributions from the airport to support these additional journeys and to encourage an increased uptake in bus travel to the airport. Until these negotiations are concluded, BOH cannot set out a precise timetable.
2. **Parley Lane/ Adventure Wonderland:** BOH has no control over Parley Lane, Parley Lane Junction, or the Adventure Wonderland Parley Lane Car Park. BOH cannot take any action in respect of these areas and can, therefore, only make representations to BCP about what should happen, which it has done. Following the meetings with BCP, it is understood that (i) BCP are intending to reduce the 60mph speed limit to 40mph on Parley Lane which is currently subject to consultation; (ii) BCP have refused a retrospective planning application associated with the Adventure Wonderland Parley Lane Car Park operation; and (iii) BCP have checked the controlled crossing operation.
3. **Hurn Court Lane Pedestrian Access:** BOH has developed plans and will construct a pedestrian footpath alongside the part of Hurn Court Lane owned by BOH, with the support of BCP. The delivery will be subject to permitted development consultation, but the build plans will be developed in parallel so as the works can be completed in a timely manner. It is hoped that any footpath can be completed within the next 3-6 months.

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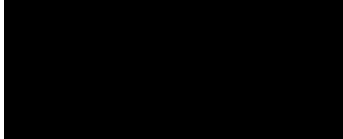
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With regards to the site visit and assessment in July 2023 by Dorset Police and BCP, any remedial action was directed towards Dorset Council, BCP and or the Police. BOH, therefore, does not propose to comment specifically on the remedial actions identified in the relevant site assessment.

BOH trusts that this letter adequately responds to the prevention of future deaths report. If you require further information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



Managing Director
Bournemouth International Airport Limited

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