



**NATIONAL POLICE
AIR SERVICE**

Mr G Irvine
Senior Coroner
East London Coroner's Court
Queens Road
Walthamstow
E17 8QP

Dear Mr Irvine,

INQUEST TOUCHING THE DEATH OF MAZEEDAT OPEYEMI ADEOYE

I, [REDACTED] Head of the National Police Air Service (NPAS), am writing in response to the Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths in the matter of Mazeedat Opeyemi Adeoye (reference 16975704).

Whilst acknowledging that the delay in locating Mazeedat did not contribute to her tragic death, I fully accept that our training and operational practices require a review to ensure that future deaths are prevented wherever possible. In coming to my decisions I have liaised with [REDACTED] Head of Flight Operations, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Tactical Flight Officer and technical SME, [REDACTED], Training and Quality Standards Manager and [REDACTED] Regional Operations Manager. There is a large breadth of knowledge and experience between these staff members, both in wider aviation and policing.

Police decision making is based on the National Decision Model - a model that is trained via the College of Policing. The national decision model (NDM) is suitable for all decisions and should be used by everyone in policing. It can be applied:

- to spontaneous incidents or planned operations
- by an individual or team of people
- to both operational and non-operational situations
- Decision makers can use the NDM to structure a rationale of what they did during an incident and why.

Everyone can use the NDM to review decisions and actions, and promote learning.

In a fast-moving incident, the police service recognises that it may not always be possible to segregate thinking or response according to each phase of the model. In such cases, the main priority of decision makers is to keep in mind their overarching mission to act with integrity to protect and serve the public. This is in line with the ethical principle of 'public service'.

The NDM has six key elements.

- Code of Ethics; [Ethical policing principles](#) and [Guidance for ethical and professional behaviour in policing](#).
- Gather information and intelligence.
- Assess threat and risk and develop a working strategy.
- Consider powers and policy.
- Identify options and contingencies.
- Take action and review what happened.

In this particular case the information / intelligence was that the house and gardens had been thoroughly searched and with the rear gate locked the officers on the ground believed Mazeedat has left the property via the front door. This then led to the Tactical Flight Officers determining the search parameters.

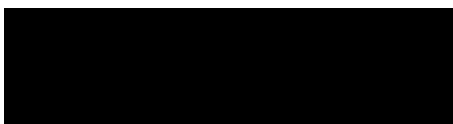
Moving forwards, to investigate every heat source on every incident would not be practicable and may be counter productive, leading to delays that could also contribute to future deaths. There will always be a balance to be maintained.

The training our TFO's receive is to utilise the NDM, with the intelligence / information coming from a variety of sources depending on the type of incident. It may be that NPAS are the only police resource and are reliant on the contents of a police log, in other cases there will be officers on the ground and their input forms part of the wider picture.

We have to rely on our staff applying their training correctly as well as using professional judgement based on the experience they have in police aviation and how the different cameras detect heat sources. As technology progresses, potentially with new fleet, there may be opportunities to change how we search.

I will however utilise this footage as a case study / training tool for NPAS that may give perspective to search scenarios moving forward. Should a situation present itself in a similar way it may cause a TFO to think beyond the info / intel where time and circumstances allow. This will be incorporated from the next training course that commences on 14th February.

Yours sincerely



Head of NPAS