



Home Office

Minister of State for Policing, Fire
and Crime Prevention

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/home-office

Mr P. Straker
Assistant Coroner
North London Coroner's Service

DECS Reference: [REDACTED]

3 February 2025

Dear Mr Staker,

I refer to your report dated 18 December 2024 provided in accordance with your duty under paragraph 7, Schedule 5 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013. Please accept my sincere apologies for not getting this to you by the deadline of 31 January 2025.

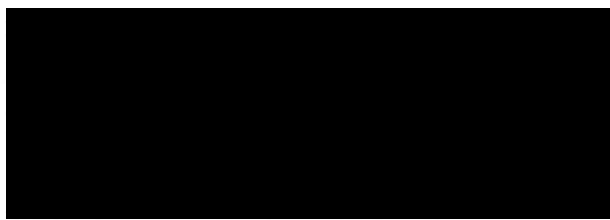
I offer my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Champagauri and Dipak Bhatt.

I understand from your report that the inquest concluded that Champagauri and Dipak Bhatt died from inhalation injuries following a fire caused by an electrical fault in a tumble dryer. You have suggested that changes in information management would result in better analysis of, and learning from, white goods fires, but there is no explanation in your report as to which aspects of information management need to change.

In the absence of more information, it is not possible to provide a specific response to your recommendation. However, it may be helpful to note that as soon as a fatal fire is confirmed a suitably qualified Fire Investigation Officer is asked to attend and a Tier 2 Fire Investigation is undertaken. These investigations are led by the police who produce a forensic investigation plan. The Fire Investigation Officer undertakes their own inspection as part of this process and produces a report of their findings which they submit to the Police.

In addition, Fire and Rescue Services undertake their own fatal fire reviews, usually chaired by the Director or Assistant Director with responsibility for fire prevention. A fatal fire review report is then produced which includes any learning that can be taken from the incident. Where appropriate, this will be shared with other Fire and Rescue Services and relevant information may also be shared with external stakeholders (e.g. Safeguarding Boards, the Health and Safety Executive and Trading Standards) as part of the fire investigation process.

Yours sincerely,



Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention