

Ms Leila Benyounes
Assistant Coroner for Gateshead and South Tyneside
Coroner Office, Town Hall and Civic Offices
Westoe Road, South Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE33 2RL

12 March 2024

Dear Ms Benyounes,

Inquest: Joanna Daria Kowalczyk

At the conclusion of the inquest on 22 January 2025 investigating Joanna's sad death you issued a report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

Your report was issued to, amongst others, the General Chiropractic Council (GCC) indicating that we respond by 25 April 2025. This is our response.

The GCC was an interested party at the Inquest. Our investigation into the actions of the chiropractor involved in the treatment of Joanna are ongoing.

We acknowledge the Regulation 28 report and that we consider [our role in ensuring] that 'consideration to obtaining medical records should always be given before assessment, particularly where recent medical treatment or investigations has been undertaken.'

It is our intention to carefully consider your findings and ensure that any action that can be taken to prevent a further death or harm to patients in similar circumstances will be.

To support us in doing so, we have established an expert group, comprised of experts from within and outside of the profession to undertake a review. The membership of the group together with its draft terms of reference and expected timeline is enclosed.

We expect the work to take place between now and the summer of 2025, with the final report and recommendations being considered by the General Chiropractic Council at its meeting on 1 October 2025. Progress will also be reported to Council in public at its meetings on 19 March and 18 June 2025.

I am happy to provide further information to you, colleagues or other parties.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Executive and Registrar