



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

[REDACTED]
**Head of Highways, Traffic and
Parking**

[REDACTED]
West London Coroner Service
25 Bagleys Lane
London
SW6 2QA

Telephone: 01708 433769
email:

[REDACTED]
Textphone: 01708 433175

Date: 23 June 2025

Also by email

Dear Sir, Madam,

Inquest: Liam Stephen Allan, Deceased. D.O.D 27 August 2022

We are in receipt of the HM Coroners Prevention of Future Death Report ("the Report") in relation to Mr Liam Allan, deceased, case 25548493.

I note you have sent the report to all London boroughs with Thames River frontage. Other boroughs will have inland waterways, parks with lakes and rivers and other sections of rivers and streams under their ownership as land or riparian owner. I note you did not send the report to the Port of London Authority (PLA), who are responsible for river safety generally, or the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, who have a presence on the River Thames and respond to emergency incidents, or the Coastguard.

A few years ago the PLA set up the Tidal Thames Water Safety Forum. You may wish to consider sending the Coroner's report to that group. For the reasons given below the London Borough of Havering ("the Council") is not a member.

As you go toward central London from the east, along the River Thames, the environment changes from that in Havering to continuous sections of Thames Path and public space next to the river. In Havering there are relatively short sections of accessible Thames Path (neither council owned nor highway maintained at public expense), private wharfs and built up industrial areas.

There are no bridges or river crossings over / under the Thames in Havering's part of East London.

It is noted the Coroner has referenced three Matters of Concern which I address in turn below.

1. Inadequate Lighting of Buoyancy Aids

As far as my enquiries have determined, the Council does not own any Thames Riverside buoyancy aids. The provision, maintenance and any lighting of buoyancy aids will often fall to riparian land owners. The Council does own inland bodies of water and publically accessible places next to these. Consideration and review of risk assessments as to the provision of life buoys at these sites was recently given. Further consideration as to the lighting of these will now be given and this will be completed within three months of this letter. The report findings will be reviewed as part of risk assessment processes going forward. The report findings have also been shared with known riparian owners in case they have publically accessible lifesaving equipment.

2. White Stripes Applied to Buoyancy Aids to increase visibility

Whenever the Council procures new buoyancy aids we will ensure the purchase is as per the relevant British Standard foremost and the application of a white stripe(s) will be required.

3. Communications between Emergency Services

We consider this to be a matter for the emergency services to address. For this reason, no action by the Council is proposed.

In addition to our response to your Matters of Concern above we will also ensure all relevant departments within the Council are made aware of your Report. As part of the review of the Local Plan, the Local Planning Authority will consider whether there is scope to include a policy for developers developing land adjacent to water to provide and maintain lifesaving equipment, so as to secure incremental improvements wherever possible.

Yours sincerely



Head of Highways, Traffic and Parking