



#safercambs

To: His Majesty's Coroner.

From: Detective Chief Superintendent [REDACTED]

Date: 12 January 2026

Benedict Blythe – Regulation 28 response

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has undertaken a comprehensive review of its processes following the issues highlighted during the inquest into the death of Benedict Blythe. As a result, a series of improvements have been implemented to strengthen the policing response to sudden and unexplained child deaths, particularly where forensic opportunities may be relevant to establishing cause.

First, full liaison with Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCOs) has been established to ensure that, in all cases of unexplained child death, the potential evidential value of samples found at the scene—such as vomitus or other biological material—is actively recognised and considered. SOCOs have been formally briefed, and the need to assess and seize such samples is now incorporated into the forensic strategy in consultation with the Senior Investigating Officer. This ensures that opportunities to preserve material for the Coroner, the Pathologist, or investigators are not missed.

Second, the Constabulary has amended and re-issued internal procedural guidance and aide-memoire materials relating to child death investigations. These documents have been circulated widely to all officers and staff who may attend such incidents,

reinforcing expectations around early evidence preservation, liaison with medical professionals, and the importance of raising potential anaphylaxis as a consideration where appropriate.

Third, the updated guidance has been incorporated into the Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) departmental newsletter, 'SaferTogether', ensuring that specialist investigators—who manage the majority of child death responses—are fully aware of the changes. Embedding these updates within existing communication channels supports strong organisational understanding and consistent practice across teams.

Finally, the revised processes are now included within ongoing training cycles for child death investigations, meaning all staff involved in frontline or investigative roles will receive regular reinforcement of expectations and good practice standards. This training emphasises the forensic, investigative, and safeguarding considerations required in early decision-making, helping ensure that opportunities to understand cause of death are preserved and that future investigations are informed by best practice.

Together, these measures demonstrate Cambridgeshire Constabulary's commitment to learning from this tragedy and to ensuring that future responses to similar incidents are strengthened, consistent, and aligned with the concerns raised by the Coroner.