



Prevention of future deaths report and response publication process

The decision to issue a Prevention of future deaths (PFD) report is a judicial one. To comply with the principle of open justice, the public must be able to access PFD reports and responses, unless there is a compelling reason to restrict access. The scrutiny of PFD reports and responses is also vitally important to society, to enable themes to be recognised, any necessary systemic changes to be put in place, and any promises of change to be enforced. There is therefore a presumption that PFD reports and responses will be published by the Chief Coroner.

If during an investigation, a coroner becomes concerned about circumstances that create a risk of future deaths, Paragraph 7 of Schedule 5, Coroners and Justice Act 2009, provides coroners with the duty to make reports to a person, organisation, local authority or government department/ agency where the coroner believes that they may have power to take relevant action to prevent future deaths. Such reports are known as Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) reports. **STAGE 1 CORONER SENDS REPORT TO RECIPIENT(S), INTERESTED PERSONS AND OTHERS WHO MAY FIND IT USEFUL OR OF INTEREST.**



If a recipient of the report, interested persons or anyone who considers their right to private and family life is affected by the content of a report may make representations about:

- the decision to publish.
- whether redactions are needed.
- any specific redactions requested; and
- any other matter that may be relevant to the Chief Coroner's publication decision.

These representations should be sent in accordance with the Chief Coroner's publication policy: [\[link\] to the coroner who make the report with 56 days.](#)

A person or organisation providing a response to a PFD report should send any representations regarding publication to the coroner who made the report. These representations can be made either before or at the same time as the response is provided. The coroner will pass any representations to the Chief Coroner.



STAGE 2 THE RECIPIENT(S) OF THE REPORT SEND THEIR RESPONSE TO THE CORONER WITHIN 56 DAYS (UNLESS AN EXTENTION HAS BEEN GRANTED)

If the Coroner has granted an extension for a response, the Coroner's Office **must** inform the Chief Coroner's Office of the new response due date.



STAGE 3 56 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE REPORT (PLUS ANY EXTENSION IF GRANTED), THE CORONER'S OFFICE WILL SEND TO THE CHIEF CORONER A COMPLETE BUNDLE OF ALL AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS; which must include the PFD report as issued, any responses as received and any representations made to the coroner on either the publication of the report or responses.



STAGE 4 THE CHIEF CORONER'S OFFICE ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF CORONER WILL PROCESS THE BUNDLE. All representations received will be considered by the Chief Coroner. Any redaction required in line with the publication policy with be actioned.



STAGE 5 REPORTS AND RESPONSES WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE FOLLOWING WEBPAGE [Reports to Prevent Future Deaths | Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#)



After a report or response has been published, representations about the publication decision can be sent to the Chief Coroner directly.

The relevant email address is: chiefcoronersoffice@judiciary.uk.

STAGE 6 THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO DO NOT RESPOND TO PFD REPORTS ARE PUBLISHED on the Chief Coroner's webpages, if appropriate (link: [Non-responses to Prevention of Future Death \(PFD\) reports - Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#)). Once a response is received the entry will be removed from the list.