



REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)

AFTER INQUEST

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| | <p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>1. [REDACTED] Chief Executive – Durham County Council</p> |
| 1 | <p>CORONER</p> <p>I am Mr Jeremy Chipperfield, Senior Coroner for the coroner area of County Durham and Darlington.</p> |
| 2 | <p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.</p> |
| 3 | <p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 7th January 2026, I commenced an investigation into the death of Kay Wilson, aged 78 years. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 6th March 2026. The conclusion of the inquest was Accidental Death (by drowning).</p> |
| 4 | <p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>The deceased drowned shortly after 23:30 hrs on 6 December 2025 when, having been in a public area above the east bank of the River Tees near "County Bridge" in Barnard Castle, she accidentally passed through a gap in a protective stone wall and fell about 9 metres onto rocks and then passed into the river. The river, heightened by recent rainfall, swept her away.</p> |
| 5 | <p><u>CORONER'S CONCERNS</u></p> <p>During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths could occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows:</p> <p>A breach in the stone wall running north above the riverside from the east side of "County Bridge", Barnard Castle, provides unrestricted and unguarded access from a public area to a vertical drop of approximately 9 metres onto rocks and the River Tees below. [REDACTED]</p> |
| 6 | <p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe your organisation has the power to take such action.</p> |
| 7 | <p>YOUR RESPONSE</p> |

