


REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>1. Rt Hon Theresa May MP Home Secretary and Member of Parliament for Maidenhead House of Commons London SW1A 0AA</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am David W G Ridley, Senior Coroner, for the Coroner area of Wiltshire & Swindon</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 25 July 2013 I commenced an investigation into the death of Christopher Michael SCOTT aged 23 years at the time of his death. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 26 November 2013. The conclusion of the inquest was that Christopher's death was drug related. I determined that Christopher died as a result of;</p> <p>1a) Multiorgan failure and Bronchopneumonia 1b) Alpha methyltryptamine (AMT) toxicity.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>I determined that he took two pills containing the drug (AMT) on the evening of the 21st July 2013 however I could not rule out that he did not take further pills containing the drug the following day. Christopher was admitted to the Great Western Hospital in Swindon early evening on the 22nd July 2013, his condition further deteriorated and he died on the afternoon on 24th July 2013 as a result of developing multiorgan failure and bronchopneumonia both of which was attributable to the toxic effects of AMT.</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 will 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>(1) During the course of the evidence I read out a toxicology report that referred to other deaths involving AMT. I exhibited 2 Internet research results that related to other AMT deaths. Slightly unconventionally I exhibited these internet results as 'C2' and 'C3' (copies attached) to further support this report with a view to the prevention of future deaths. The first report 'C2' referred to the death of Adam Weeks in November 2011. His Inquest in March 2012 confirmed his death due to AMT intoxication and whilst the report makes reference to the Coroner writing to appropriate authorities prior to Christopher's inquest I did speak with that Coroner who indicated that he had not make</p>

	<p>such a report (r43 report under the Coroners Rules 1984). Document 'C3' refers to three other deaths in respect of which AMT appears to have been involved during 2012 and 2013. As it stands at the moment AMT is a "legal high" and I am concerned that as it is currently a legal drug that it is readily available to be purchased for example over the internet and in the community at large. The effects of AMT can vary from person to person but clearly the effects can be deadly as the examples show including of course Christopher's death.</p>
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action and I would be grateful if you could please review the position insofar as AMT is concerned with a view to considering as to whether or not this drug should become a controlled drug having regard to the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (as amended).</p>
7	<p>YOUR RESPONSE</p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 22nd January 2014. I, the Senior Coroner, may extend the period.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons, [REDACTED] (Mother & Father)</p> <p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.</p> <p>The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
9	<p>27th November 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Senior Coroner for Wiltshire & Swindon</p>

A CORONER is calling on authorities to ban AMT – a drug commonly used for recreational use – following the death of a 21-year-old Gillingham man after a party.

Adam Weeks, of Loddon View, was out with friends at a pub in Stour Provost on November 19 last year when he collapsed and an ambulance was called, an inquest at Shepton Mallet heard last week.

Mr Weeks was taken to Yeovil District Hospital but died the following day.

A pathologist's report showed evidence of amphetamines, cocaine and AMT – alpha methyltryptamine – and confirmed his death was due to AMT intoxication.



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East Somerset Coroner Tony Williams said there had been a history of recreational use of the AMT drug since the 1960s, but this was the first death of its kind recorded in Dorset.

In recent years AMT had been widely promoted and was available to buy from websites – and was not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act, said Mr Williams.

He said a report from Mr Weeks's GP confirmed that he had assured his social worker he was working, had stopped taking drugs and was "taking control of his life".

But on November 19 he went out with friends to a party at Stour Provost and was seen taking drugs. When the group went home he collapsed at Gillingham and an ambulance was called. Police arrived and a nurse handed them a tablet which was found to be AMT.

Mr Williams said he had personally been in contact with police and given them full details relating to Mr Weeks's death and the police were now "putting that information into their system".

He said he felt it was now appropriate for him as coroner to write to all of the appropriate authorities, advising them to review their policy and consider adding AMT to their list of illegal drugs.

Mr Williams recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Read more: <http://www.thisissomerset.co.uk/Torch-carriers-miles-home/story-15588409-detail/story.html#ixzz2INyTBawM>

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C23.

Teenager dies in hospital after taking legal high called AMT which he bought online

- Teenager's mother found him 'in a bad way' in his bedroom and dialled 999
- He was rushed into intensive care and placed in a medically-induced coma
- But 17-year-old died in hospital yesterday after four days in intensive care
- He is the third believed to have died in Hampshire as a result of taking AMT

By [Suzannah Hills](#)

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A 17-year-old boy has become the latest to die from taking the legal high AMT after buying it online from Holland.

The teenager died yesterday morning following four days in intensive care at Southampton General Hospital after consuming the drug known as alpha-methyltryptamine (AMT).

The teenager's mother found him 'in a bad way' in his bedroom and dialled 999. He was rushed into intensive care and placed in a medically-induced coma after swallowing the pill last Wednesday.

The boy, from Southampton, Hampshire, has not yet been named.



Tragedy: A 17-year-old boy placed in an induced coma for four days has died in hospital after apparently taking a legal high he bought online

His death comes a little over a month after **medical student Doug Ferguson, 19, died after apparently taking the drug while celebrating the end of his university year.**

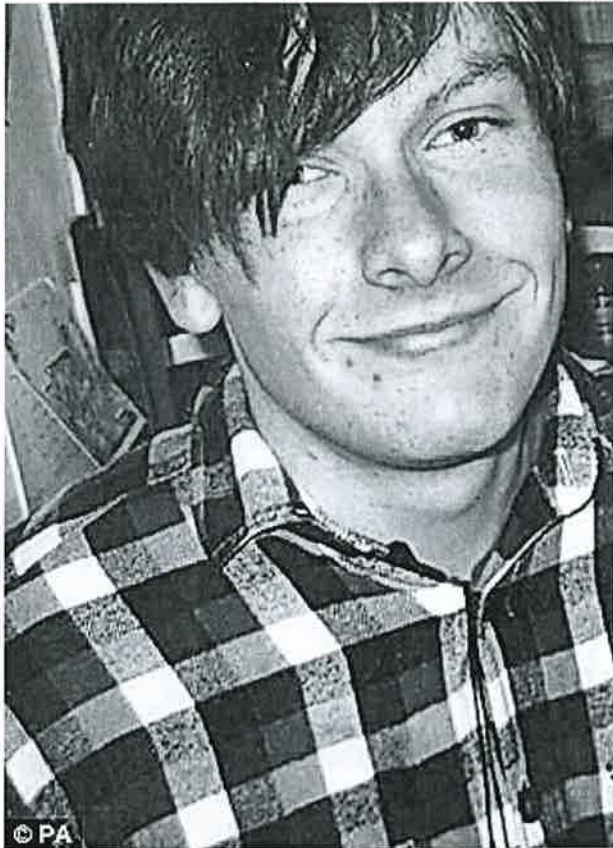
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- 'The Troll Hunter': Mother-of-five spends six hours every night trawling internet to expose online bullies
- Event rider, 26, dies after he is crushed by his horse during packed competition
- Novice explorer, 31, on his first Arctic expedition froze to death in 161mph snowstorm which ripped his tent exposing him to -70C temperatures

Friends of the student, from Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, called 999 in the early hours of the morning and he was taken to hospital, but doctors were unable to save him.

A 33-year-old man from Andover also died last year after apparently taking the drug.

AMT, which was originally produced as an anti-depressant, can be bought online for just £30 a gram.



Doug Ferguson is believed to have died after taking the legal high AMT while celebrating the end of term

Users experience a state of euphoria and increased energy levels. But the drug has devastating side effects, including paranoia and aggressive behaviour..

Hampshire Police Detective Constable Jonathan Hyland warned people about the consequences of taking legal highs.

He said: 'The clear issue is people who state they have a strong view about not taking controlled drugs are importing and purchasing drugs they read on-line are a substitute for controlled drugs.

'People incorrectly believe these "legal highs" are then both safe and appropriate alternatives to street drugs.

'Just because something is not illegal does not make it safe.

'Unfortunately, it appears anyone can call anything a "legal high" and sell it as "safe".

'It only becomes clear it is not safe when someone becomes severely harmed by taking it and subsequent investigations reveal substances within the compound can be lethal.

'This is the third exceptionally serious case involving AMT in Hampshire since 2012.

'If you are considering taking any type of non personally prescribed drug, I would urge you to consider for a few minutes before you use the substance.

'Think about how your family would feel, finding you in need of critical medical attention.'

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Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2397167/Teenager-dies-hospital-taking-legal-high-called-AMT-bought-online.html#ixzz2lScKzVZ>

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