


15 June 2015

Mr J. P Ellery
Her Majesty's Senior Coroner for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Area
H. M. Coroner's Service
3rd Floor Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ



Re: Daniel Lee Hodgin deceased

Inquest 14 April 2015 at the Coroner's Court, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

Thank you for your letter of 20 April enclosing a report under Regulation 28 of the Coroners' (Investigation) Rules 2013. I was very sorry to hear of Mr Hodgin's death and, on behalf of the Environment Agency, I extend my condolences to his family.

You express concern in your report that *"No clear system was established whereby the Environment Agency notified, or was required to notify, Shropshire Council as to the water level or likelihood of the water level reaching 1.95 meters at the Welsh Bridge gauge."* Our response is as follows:

The Environment Agency is a non- departmental public body, established by the Environment Act 1995. It undertakes a wide range of activities to protect and enhance the environment under statutory powers and duties. These include a flood and coastal risk management role.

This flood and coastal risk management role includes a statutory power to provide and operate flood warning systems under section 166 of the Water Resources Act 1991.

The purpose of the flood warning system we operate is to reduce the impact and effects of flooding on people and property. A direct warning service is offered to some communities when flooding is possible or expected. We send messages directly to those who sign up for this service by a text message or phone call to the numbers they have provided.

A 'Flood Alert' will be issued to customers in Shrewsbury for the River Severn in Shropshire when the river level monitoring gauge at Welsh Bridge is forecast to exceed a level of 2.7m ALD (At Local Datum).

This is the lowest threshold of direct warning for the town which was agreed historically in consultation with the Shrewsbury Flood Forum. It is when roads, homes and businesses generally start to get affected by flooding in the town.

We understand that people and organisations in Shrewsbury and elsewhere along the river Severn may be interested in a wider range of water levels.

These interests include boat owners, marinas or operators of infrastructure such as Shropshire Council. We operate a live river level service on the internet for this purpose.

We have spoken to Shropshire County Council to help them make full use of the information that we provide. We have produced a technical briefing note for the council, to help them implement a system for closing the gate at Dorset Street using the live information we put on the internet.. The briefing note is enclosed with this letter.

*Yours sincerely,
Jonathan Robinson*

Jonathan Robinson
Executive Director Resources & Legal Services

Enc: Technical Briefing Note: Dorset Street Gate, Shrewsbury