REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

 Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET

1 CORONER

I am Mr Andrew Haigh senior coroner for the coroner area of Staffordshire South

2 CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

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.

3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On 12 February 2015 I commenced an investigation into the death of Irene HAMILTON-PARKER, aged 87 years. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 6 May 2015. The conclusion of the inquest was Accidental death.

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

Mrs Hamilton-Parker died in the early hours of 10th February 2015 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. The previous evening she had been found in flames by her husband at their home in Uttoxeter. Death resulted from the burns she had sustained. She had been attempting to light a cigarette using an inappropriate lighter and had set fire to some easily flammable clothing that she was wearing.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

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.

The Fire Investigator found that Mrs Hamilton-Parker had been wearing clothes which consisted of man-made fabrics that were easily inflammable. I write to enquire if it is possible for any steps to be taken to reduce the flammability of clothing either manufactured or imported in this country. I believe that this is not an isolated case.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action.

7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 15 July 2015. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

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.

8 COPIES and PUBLICATION

I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons (husband of deceased) and Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service.

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.

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.

9 Dated 20.5.2015

Andrew A Haigh HM Senior Coroner Staffordshire (South)