



BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE
Protecting People and Fighting Crime
Together

JON BOUTCHER
CHIEF CONSTABLE

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6th April, 2016

Mr. T. Osborne,
Senior Coroner for Bedfordshire & Luton,
The Court House,
Woburn Street,
Amphill,
Beds.
MK45 2HX

Dear Mr Osborne,

Thank you for the letter from your offices dated 12 February 2016 enclosing a report to prevent future deaths pursuant to Regulation 28 of the *Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013* following the inquest touching upon the death of Eitvydas Zdanys.

Bedfordshire Police approach such reports with the upmost seriousness. We are always keen to enhance good practice within the force wherever possible. Therefore upon receipt of your report we launched an investigation into the events of the night of 2 August 2015. In particular the force have sought input from a paramedic trainer, who was asked to review the body worn footage and consider what lessons can be learnt from this incident.

The body worn camera was worn by the police officer giving first aid to Mr Zdanys at the incident. He remained with Mr Zdanys until the paramedics arrived. One other female officer was also present for this period. It is clear that the officers were faced with a challenging emergency situation whereby a seriously injured individual was wearing a helmet and leathers, had his leg trapped by the motorbike and was reasonably suspected to have suffered major head and spinal injuries.

The two above mentioned officers were provided with first aid training when they joined the force, which included a component on when and how to give CPR. Notwithstanding the risks of head or spinal injury officers are trained that if the signs of life cease, CPR should be commenced. First aid and CPR training is refreshed for every officer annually.

The reviewing paramedic trainer considers that some of the initial steps taken by the officers were satisfactory. They checked for a pulse and for breathing. They moved the motorbike and put Mr Zdanys in the recovery position. There was however a delay in providing CPR once it was considered the Mr Zdanys was no longer breathing.

The first responder at the scene has informed that he was concerned not to move Mr Zdanys for fear of exacerbating any injuries he had already sustained and another officer who was on the phone to the ambulance controller was passing on the advice given to them which was not to move Mr Zdanys and to

await the arrival of the paramedic. A member of the public, who claimed to be an army medic, was also providing advice at the scene that Mr Zdanys should not be moved. All this advice clearly confused the situation. Nevertheless the first responder accepts that a point came when he should, in accordance with his training, have commenced CPR despite the risks involved.

The abovementioned officers will shortly receive training on when and how to administer CPR so that they are better equipped to make the right decisions should such an emergency decision arise in the future. Furthermore all officers will be reminded during their annual refresher training of when it is necessary and appropriate to commence CPR.

Our investigation has further sought to consider why the officers failed to commence CPR at the appropriate time. Clearly this was a stressful and difficult situation. We however consider that such issues could have ameliorated substantially by better management of the scene on the night. Channels of communication were not clear. A member of the public was allowed to interfere with police operations. We therefore propose to train all officers further as to the management of scenes following a RTC where a major injury is suspected.

We hope that our actions to date and our plan of action in the future reassures you that we are seeking to make important improvements following this tragic incident. We note that you are satisfied that that delay in administering CPR did not contribute to the death in any way.

Please do not hesitate to contact me further if I can assist in any way.

May I also take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the force to extend my condolences to the Mr Zdanys family following this very sad road traffic accident.

Yours sincerely,



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On behalf of Jon Boutcher,
Chief Constable QPM Mst (Cantab)