# **REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)**

NOTE: This form is to be used after an inquest.

# REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS RE: Andrew William Telford Coates Deceased

RE: Andrew William Telford Coates Deceased THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

- 1. Diane Wood, Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council
- 2. Assistant Director Environment and Community Services

### 1 CORONER

I am David Llewelyn Roberts, Senior Coroner for the coroner area of Cumbria.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014 an investigation was commenced into the death of Andrew William Telford Coates aged 41 years. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016. The conclusion of the inquest was:-

Cause:

1a) Effects of Explosion and Fire

Conclusion: Accidental death

### 4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

On the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014 between the hours of 15.00 and 15.30 at Larch Cottage, Ecclerigg, Windermere, Cumbria in an outbuilding known as the Fireworks Store located on the property, an unexplained explosion rendered Andrew William Telford Coates unable to exit the Fireworks Store. Fire consumed the building. This resulted in a fatal level of carbon monoxide inhalation.

# 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 MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. -

The Fireworks Store at Larch Cottage was, in 2008, licenced under the terms of the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005. The premises had been subject to a Registration since 2004.

It is questionable as to whether what amounted to a wooden shed comprised within a vehicle garage was a suitable structure for a firework store, particularly one licenced for 1000 kg.

Evidence was given that the store contained a large amount of other material some of it combustible and access could only be made to the store via an adjoining compartment containing two petrol driven machines. It seemed that this state of affairs had obtained for a number of years, notwithstanding apparently compliant inspections.

In addition the licence granted was deficient in that it effectively licenced the entire property instead of designating a specific site. The licence did not specify the type of firework or explosive to be stored.

The effect was to give authority to store explosives of any type up to a net explosive quantity of 1000 kg. The records of inspections were sketchy.

The construction and none firework content of the store at the very least exacerbated the ensuing fire.

### 6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you [AND/OR your organisation] have the power to take such action.

In the light of the evidence from the Inquest, to fully and carefully review the decision making and inspection process of explosive stores in the county. This to include the manner of construction and content of the structures, and the scope of the licences granted.

### 7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016. 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:-

South Lakeland District Council Vauxhall Motors

9

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.

28th January 2016 Signed David Ll. Roberts

## **REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)**

NOTE: This form is to be used after an inquest.

# REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

RE: Polly Sarah Connor Deceased THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

- 1. Diane Wood, Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council
- Assistant Director Environment and Community Services

### 1 CORONER

I am David Llewelyn Roberts, Senior Coroner for the coroner area of Cumbria.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014 an investigation was commenced into the death of Polly Sarah Connor aged 46 years. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016. The conclusion of the inquest was:-

Cause:

1a) Effects of Explosion and Fire

Conclusion: Accidental death

### 4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

ON the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014 between the hours of 15.00 and 15.30 at Larch Cottage, Ecclerigg, Windermere, Cumbria in an outbuilding known as the Fireworks Store located on the property, an unexplained explosion rendered Polly Sarah Connor unable to exit the Fireworks Store. Fire consumed the building. This resulted in a fatal level of carbon monoxide inhalation.

# 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 MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. -

The Fireworks Store at Larch Cottage was, in 2008, licenced under the terms of the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005. The premises had been subject to a Registration since 2004.

It is questionable as to whether what amounted to a wooden shed comprised within a vehicle garage was a suitable structure for a firework store, particularly one licenced for 1000 kg.

Evidence was given that the store contained a large amount of other material some of it combustible and access could only be made to the store via an adjoining compartment containing two petrol driven machines. It seemed that this state of affairs had obtained for a number of years, notwithstanding apparently compliant inspections.

In addition the licence granted was deficient in that it effectively licenced the entire property instead of designating a specific site. The licence did not specify the type of firework or explosive to be stored.

The effect was to give authority to store explosives of any type up to a net explosive quantity of 1000 kg. The records of inspections were sketchy.

The construction and none firework content of the store at the very least exacerbated the ensuing fire.

### 6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you [AND/OR your organisation] have the power to take such action.

In the light of the evidence from the Inquest; to fully and carefully review the decision making and inspection process of explosive stores in the county. This to include the manner of construction and content of the structures, and the scope of the licences granted.

### 7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016. 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:-



#### Vauxhall Motors

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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Signed: David LI. Roberts