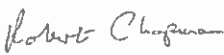


	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO: SC Johnson and Son, Frimley Green Road, Frimley, Surrey, GU16 5AJ Tel: 0800 353 353</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am Mr Robert Chapman Assistant Coroner for the County of Cumbria</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I 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. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 20/04/2017 I commenced an investigation into the death of Kathleen Erica Holme. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on the 29th August 2017.</p> <p>The Inquest conclusions, as recorded on the attached Record of Inquest was</p> <p>The cause of death: 1.a. Burns and smoke inhalation 1.b. Fire at her home</p> <p>The circumstances that were found to have been proved were: Mrs Holme liked to use candles in her bedroom and also an automatic aerosol air freshener. On the 26 March 2017 there was a fire in her bedroom at her home address. She was rescued and taken to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, but was certified dead there. She died from burns and smoke inhalation.</p> <p>The conclusion of the inquest was that: Mrs Holme died an accidental death</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>Mrs Holme and her son had been drinking alcohol on the 25 March 2017 in a public house in Kendal. The amount that she had to drink may have affected her ability to save herself when the house was on fire.</p> <p>After leaving the public house they went home and subsequently Mrs Holme went to bed. She was a frequent user of candles in her bedroom, and had some on a tray on the floor. In her bedroom she used a Glade automatic battery operated air freshener.</p> <p>There was a fire at her home in the early hours of the 26 March 2017, and neighbours tried to rescue her. Fire officers attended and were able to extract her from the house, but she died of burns and smoke inhalation.</p> <p>██████████ Fire Investigator with the Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service attended and investigated the fire. The seat of the fire, where Mrs Holme was found, was near to the door from the bedroom into the upstairs hallway. At the seat of the fire they found the tray with candles and also in the immediate vicinity, a Glade automatic battery operated air freshener and some clothes, all of which were badly burned in the fire. A number of other Glade air freshener aerosols for use in the automatic air freshener, were found in other areas of the bedroom and some had been burnt.</p> <p>Tests undertaken at the Barrow Fire Station found that if the contents of the automatic air freshener were sprayed across a naked flame then a large flame was produced approximately 20cm long (approximately 8 inches). The evidence from ██████████ given at the Inquest, was that in view of the position of the candles, the automatic air freshener and the clothes, the spray from the automatic air</p>

	<p>freshener could have been ignited by the candles and the resultant flame then ignited the clothes. I have spoken again to [REDACTED] and he said that they found in their tests that even if the distance between the candle and the air freshener was further extended, it was possible to get a flame 12 inches or more long, and that could ignite flammable materials. The nearer the distance the stronger the flame, and the further away the more likely that the flame would be a flash flame.</p> <p>I have seen that both the box containing a new Glade automatic air freshener and the aerosol itself have warning signs and words, warning that the spray is not to be used near naked flames.</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) Whether the manufacturer is aware and understands the extent of the risks of the use of a Glade Automatic Air Freshener Spray near to naked flames, and specifically the distance which the flame can extend.</p> <p>(2) Whilst there are both warning signs and wording on the box containing a new spray and on the aerosol to be fitted to it, I am concerned that the words warning of the dangers of use near a naked flame is not sufficiently large and prominent to draw the dangers to a users attention.</p> <p>(3) There were no warning signs on the body of the automatic air freshener. Once the box containing the new air freshener was discarded a user would have only the information printed on the aerosol as a warning.</p>

6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you SC Johnson and Son have the power to take such action.</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 14 November 2017. I, the 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:</p> <p>██████████ (daughter of Mrs Holme)</p> <p>I have also sent it to the following, who may find it useful or of interest.</p> <p>The Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service ██████████ Phoenix Road, Barrow in Furness LA14 2NS The Health & Safety Executive, Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 7HS The Buckingham and Surrey County Trading Standards Department ██████████ Consort House, Queensway, Redhill RH1 1YB</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>18/09/2017</p> <p> Mr Robert Chapman Assistant Coroner County of Cumbria</p>