



for Bedfordshire and Luton

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

	<p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>The Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 1 Victoria Street London SW1H 0ET</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am IAN PEARS, Acting Senior Coroner, for the Coroner Area of Bedfordshire & Luton</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.</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 24th February 2017 I commenced an Investigation into the death of BRIAN DAVID BETTERTON aged 79 years. The Investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 24th August 2017. The conclusion of the Inquest was ACCIDENTAL DEATH. The medical cause of death was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I (a) Carbon Monoxide Poisoning1 (b)1 (c)II Atherosclerosis
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>At an unknown date an unknown person fitted a new fuse box to the property known as [REDACTED]</p> <p>Subsequently a Product Recall Notice was issued for Electrium Miniature Circuit Breakers due to a potential risk of burning.</p> <p>On the morning of the 20th February 2017 the Electrium Miniature Circuit</p>

	<p>Breaker at the deceased's home began to short and a small smouldering fire occurred resulting in carbon monoxide being released. The Deceased died in his bedroom from carbon monoxide exposure. His body was discovered several hours later when a passer-by noticed it was very dark in the deceased's kitchen; in fact this was soot coating the glass. The fire had extinguished itself causing relatively little damage.</p>
5	<p>CORONER'S CONCERNS</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Product Recall relates to a product supplied between April 2009 and February 2010 2. The Product Recall did not come to the attention of the deceased. 3. In the majority of cases the end user of the product will not have purchased or fitted the product. 4. The Product Recall therefore is dependent upon identifying the person who actually purchased the product. 5. The purchaser is likely to be a professional electrician, yet is not required to keep a register of such items that he/she purchased and fitted nor is he/she required to inform the supplier/manufacturer of the details of the end user. 6. As a consequence it seems that the Product Recall was always likely to be ineffective. (It would be interesting to know how many products the manufacturer thought were affected and how many responses they had to the Product Recall Notice). 7. It seems to me that these concerns are not unique to fuse boxes, but that there are many potentially lethal products which are fitted into domestic properties which are purchased by a third party rather than the occupier.
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy has 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 30th October 2017. I, the coroner, may extend the period.</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.

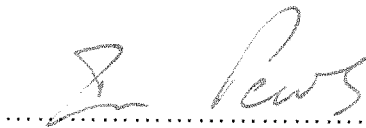
8 **COPIES and PUBLICATION**

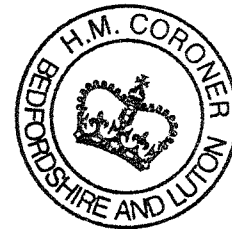
I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons (██████████ daughter of the deceased). I have also sent it to **Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** who may find it useful or of interest.

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.

Dated 11th September 2017





IAN PEARS
Acting Senior Coroner
for the Coroner Area of Bedfordshire & Luton