



**Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency**

Mr John G Tomalin
HM Deputy Coroner
Exeter and Greater Devon Coroner's Office
Room 226 Devon County Hall
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RECEIVED - 8 JAN 2015

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Your ref:
Our ref:

7 January 2015

Dear Mr Tomalin

Rebecca Jodie CURTIS-SMALL Deceased – DOD 31.12.2013
Inquest: 9 October at County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter. Regulation 28 Report

I am writing to you as a follow up to my previous correspondence dated 19 December 2014 requesting a time extension for my response to you whilst I consulted other SAR colleagues. I have now completed that work.

In particular, I have spoken with the RNLI regarding their published guidance document of 2007 regarding the advice on placement of water safety signs and beach safety flags. This document was produced for the use of local authorities, beach owners and operators to assist them in specifying and installing new signs and flags as a part of their control measures to improve beach safety. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) was a contributor to this guidance along with the National Beach Safety Council; National Water Safety Forum, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The exact placement, content and maintenance of the signage at Croyde Beach is not the responsibility of the MCA or the RNLI and I am unable to comment on the historical placement arrangements. With regard to evidence that the signs on this particular beach could have been better placed I do understand that the exact placement of signage is often a compromise due to demands of requirements by planning and local authorities, beach owners or operators or environmental, financial or other constraints.

The MCA is absolutely committed to reducing the incidents of drowning through education, supervision, rescue response and, where appropriate working with other organisations. I know that in 2015 RNLI is increasing its investment into a comprehensive, integrated, community approach to lifesaving interventions which will include working with those involved with Croyde beach to assist with their risk assessment process to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the risk is mitigated. I can assure you that MCA will proactively engage with the RNLI on this issue and offer support where necessary.

Yours sincerely

Richard Martin OBE
Chief Coastguard



HM Coastguard

