



Alison Mutch OBE  
HM Senior Coroner  
Coroners Court  
1 Mount Tabor Street  
Stockport  
SK1 3AG



02<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Dear Mrs Mutch

Re: Your letter dated 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 refence Paul Anthony Daniels; your reference 5886/CLB

With reference to the above please find listed below the actions being taken by the Arboricultural Association to advise its membership, the wider arboricultural audience and relevant partner organisations of the tragic events relating to Mr Daniels death.

1. Publish a summary of the events (as described in your regulation 28 notice) to our membership via a safety bulletin notice (copy attached). This will be done electronically to our 2500 plus members. We will circulate this safety bulletin to relevant partner organisations namely the ICF and ISA.  
This will be completed by the end of February 2018
2. We will also publish the safety bulletin in our quarterly magazine (Spring Issue – published 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018).

As can be seen from the safety bulletin we are reminding arborists to use the correct methods and techniques whilst ensuring the correct training, preparation and planning is in place.

Whilst having these measures in place will help to reduce risks that aerial tree workers are exposed to, the measures relating to adequate aerial rescue provision would not have prevented this type of accident in these circumstances.

The deceased is described as an experienced tree surgeon; however, no explanation has been provided regarding the circumstances as to how both his life line and flip line were not correctly attached, which we believe to be the main cause of him falling. (Aerial rescue provision will not prevent falls from height)


Aerial tree climbing requires individuals to apply personal control measures, as opposed to collective controls potential offered by other systems. e.g. Mobile Elevating Work Platforms. This inevitably brings in a factor of human error, be that a lack of concentration, time pressure, stress, fatigue, feeling unwell, etc.

Reducing the risk of future deaths from human error in this respect revolves around supervision, auditing and the measurement of operator proficiency.

The Industry Code of Practice for Arboriculture Tree Work at Height makes specific references to these requirements, but as we haven't seen any evidence presented as to how these have, or have not, been followed we are at present unable to comment further in this respect.

To ensure completeness we have copied AFAG and [REDACTED] (HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety; Forestry, Arboriculture and Agricultural Machinery Team) with this response,

Yours sincerely,

  
Stewart Wardrop  
Chief Executive Officer

[REDACTED]