

HUMBER BRIDGE BOARD

TELEPHONE: (01482) 647161
FAX: (01482) 640838
EMAIL: mail@humberbridge.co.uk
INTERNET: www.humberbridge.co.uk



FERRIBY ROAD
HESSLE
EAST YORKSHIRE
HU13 OJG

10 May 2018

Her Majesty's Senior Coroner
The Coroner's Court and Office
The Guildhall
Alfred Gelder Street
Hull
HU1 2AA

11 MAY 2018

Dear Professor Marks

Inquest touching upon the death of Kellie Marie TAYLOR formerly known as Kellie Marie DANVILLE

This is the response on behalf of the Humber Bridge Board ("the Board") in respect of the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths dated 20 March 2018 concerning the above.

It is noted by the Board that your concern relates to the quality of the current CCTV system on the Bridge which you believe may have had an adverse impact on the ability of the Board's staff to monitor and intervene in a timely fashion to an individual who may be considering taking their own life.

CCTV can be helpful in enabling our staff to locate and identify, to use the Humberside Police terminology, Emotionally Distressed Individuals (EmDIs) on the Bridge. However, there is no substitute for human intervention, especially in darkness and adverse weather conditions, when CCTV has severe limitations.

The Board takes the issue of EmDIs at the Bridge very seriously indeed and has taken a wide range of measures to protect people at the Bridge, working very closely with the appropriate partners.

The Board has purchased two Impact Protection Vehicles (IPVs) which allows Humberside Police and the Board's staff to quickly deploy to the scene, even mid-span, and with co-ordination via the Bridge Control office, allow them to stop safely in the carriageway protected from traffic by the IPV. This has already improved response times without impacting the safety of all other Bridge users, the Police or Board staff responding to an EmDI. The Board have liaised with the Samaritans in placing a number of signs, the contents of which have been approved by the Samaritans, out on the footpaths at key locations.

The Board is working closely with Humberside Police, and this has resulted in a specialist joint training programme for both Police Officers and Board staff who are deployed to interact with any EmDI. The training includes the appropriate language and behaviour to use when dealing with someone who appears to be emotionally distressed on the Bridge, and also includes how to use the safety harnesses which have been acquired for use by Humberside Police and the Board's staff.

Our Control Room staff have also received training to ensure that they are pro-active in recognising "tell tale" signs of persons entering the Bridge from the footpaths at either end, and deploy staff on to the Bridge to supervise the person if they are concerned or believe they may be an EmDI.

We continually seek to make improvements with regard to our approach to the issue of EmDIs who come to the Bridge. We have been invited to join the Hull & East Riding Multi Agency Suicide Prevention Group. This is co-ordinated by Public Health Hull City Council and Public Health East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Group Members include:- Probation Service, HEY MIND, Humber NHS, Humberside Fire & Rescue Service, NHS Goole CCG, Humberside Police, NHS ER CCG and the Samaritans (Hull & East Riding). We have also been consulted on the draft East Riding Suicide Prevention Plan, 2017-20, which makes reference to prevention plans at the Humber Bridge.

I attended the meeting of the group at East Riding Council Offices in Beverley on 23 February. The meeting thanked the Humber Bridge for all that we have done to improve our approach as regards this issue over the past 12 months.

I hope that this response provides you with the reassurance that you are seeking that the Board are undertaking all reasonable actions with regards this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. B. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M'.

Dr Kevin Moore
Chief Executive
Humber Bridge Board