



**CFOA**  
Chief Fire Officers  
Association

The professional voice of the  
UK Fire & Rescue Service

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Mr Christopher Wilkinson  
Assistant Coroner  
West Sussex Record Office  
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West Sussex, PO19 1DD

RECEIVED  
05 NOV 2015

4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Mr Wilkinson

**Re: Inquest into the death of John HILLS – 23 June 2015**

Thank you for your letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and follow up letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> October; my apologies for our delayed response. The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on this important issue. As CFOA's lead officer for home safety, I have been asked to respond on behalf of CFOA President Peter Dartford.

For the sake of clarity, I must point out that CFOA has no regulatory or enforcement powers which require change from fire and rescue service. However, we do provide advice and guidance to fire and rescue services and are keen to ensure we learn lessons at every opportunity and share vital safety messages.

The dangers posed by emollient creams has been highlighted before, and a number of fire and rescue services already include warnings about flammable emollient creams as part of their fire safety messages, in particular targeted towards older people. We have taken steps to disseminate the information from this particular case (and the previous information relating to the 2007 case) to all fire and rescue services through our internal communications channels.

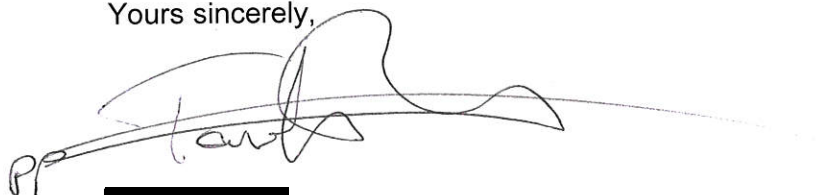
CFOA also run our own safety campaign weeks and regularly promote safety messages online and via the press. We will use these channels to promote safety warnings relating to these creams.

CFOA are currently working closely with NHS colleagues on the development of an expanded version of the usual fire service Home Fire Safety Check, called a "Safe and Well" visit. This will take account of a wider range of health and safety issues, and make use of the 670,000 or so home visits undertaken by services each year to promote undertake health interventions. We will be sure to consider emollient creams as one of the issues to be included as part of these visits.

We would also support any move to ensure that these creams are properly labelled by the manufacturer, as well as efforts to ensure doctors and pharmacists are aware of the potential hazards to ensure they can give appropriate advice to patients.

This matter will be considered in greater detail by the CFOA Home Safety Committee with a view to establishing what further ways we can promote safety messages around the use of paraffin based emollient creams.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PP Stank', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

  
CFOA Home Safety Lead