



Office of HM Coroner
for Bedfordshire & Luton

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

	<p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>Mr Philip SIMPKINS Chief Executive Bedford Borough Council Borough Hall Cauldwell Street Bedford. MK42 9AP</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am Ian Pears, Acting Senior Coroner for 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 24 July 2018 I commenced an Investigation into the death of Stephen James LAWSON, aged 62 years. The Investigation has not yet concluded and the Inquest has not yet been heard.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>The deceased was witnessed to jump from the Fourth Floor of the Lurke Street Multi Storey Car Park, in the town centre, Bedford, when he struck a balcony on the way down causing him to land head first. His death was confirmed at the scene by Paramedics.</p>

<p>5</p>	<p>CORONER’S CONCERNS</p> <p>During the course of the Investigation my inquiries 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) This is not the first person to have jumped from this car park; (2) It is surprisingly easy to gain access to the external barrier wall; (3) If a person accesses the space between the crash barrier and the external wall, the crash barrier can be used as a step to cross the external wall; (4) There are very few ‘Samaritans’ signs, and these generally are only visible if a pedestrian is exiting the car park
<p>6</p>	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action.</p>
<p>7</p>	<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 08 October 2018. I, the Coroner, may extend the period.</p> <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.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] (cousin) <p>who may find it useful or of interest.</p> <p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your Response.</p>

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.

9 **Dated 13 August 2018**

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IAN PEARS
Acting Senior Coroner
Bedfordshire & Luton