




John Adrian Gittins
Senior Coroner for North Wales (East and Central)

	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO: The Office of the First Minister to the Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am John Adrian Gittins, Senior Coroner for North Wales (East and Central)</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 the 10th of November 2017 I commenced an investigation into the death of Carl Sargeant (DOB 27.7.68 DOD 7.11.17) The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on the 11th of July 2019 The conclusion of the inquest was one of suicide, the cause of death being 1(a) Hanging</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>Carl Sargeant was a Welsh Government Minister who was removed from office on the 3rd of November 2017 amid allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards women. At that time he had some mental health issues and was on anti-depressants. The circumstances of his removal from office and the considerable media interest which ensued resulted in a significant deterioration in his mental well-being and he took his own life on the morning of the 7th of November 2017.</p>
5	<p><u>CORONER'S CONCERNS</u></p> <p>During the course of the inquest the evidence 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> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That in the future, persons of a high profile who are removed from a role in Government, and whose removal from office will attract significant media interest, may not be provided with appropriate channels of support regardless of whether or not that person has any mental vulnerabilities or the reason for the loss of their role.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This concern is regardless of the fact that they may continue as Assembly Members.</p>

6	<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>
7	<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 the 5th of September 2019. 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>
8	<p>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the legal representatives of following Interested Persons – The Widow and Son and extended Family of the Deceased The Labour Party</p> <p>I have also provided copies of my report to the media.</p> <p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response and I shall also share your response with the above mentioned parties.</p> <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.</p>
9	<p>Dated 11th July 2019</p> <p>Signature  Senior Coroner for North Wales (East and Central)</p>