

Regulation 28: Prevention of Future Deaths report

Jonathan Jesutofumi Adebanjo (died 24.7.2019)

	<p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>Mr Will Tuckley Chief Executive London Borough of Tower Hamlets Town Hall Mulberry Place 5 Clove Crescent London E14 2BG</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am: Edwin Buckettt Assistant Coroner Inner North London Poplar Coroner's Court 127 Poplar High Street, London E14 0AE</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I make this report under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, paragraph 7, Schedule 5, and The Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, Regulations 28 and 29.</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On the 30th July, 2019 an investigation was opened by Assistant Coroner Bourke into the death of Jonathan Jesutofumi Adebanjo who died aged 23, on the 24th July, 2019 at Shadwell Basin, London, E1.</p> <p>The investigation progressed to an inquest which I conducted on the 20th November, 2019. I made a determination at the conclusion of the inquest that the deceased had drowned as a result of an accident whilst swimming in Shadwell Basin.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the 23rd July, 2019 at about 5.45pm, the deceased used a ladder to descend into the water at Shadwell Basin in order to swim. 2. After a short while he sank below the water line and drowned. 3. His body was not found until the morning of the 24th July, 2019. 4. The deceased was not local to the area and the day he died was the first time he and his friends had visited the area.
5	<p>CORONER'S CONCERNS</p> <p>During the course of the inquest, the following 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>Evidence was given by the police at the Inquest that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is responsible for the area. 2. Although swimming is actually prohibited at the location, people do swim there in hot weather. 3. The water in Shadwell Basin is murky with poor visibility underwater with rubbish and discarded items below the surface. 4. There is an undercurrent at the Basin. 5. The area where the deceased was swimming was not covered by CCTV. 6. The fixed signs which indicate that swimming is prohibited are fairly small and can be missed if the area is busy. <p>I am concerned that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The signs indicating that swimming is prohibited at the location should be larger and more obvious; (b) The content of the signs should indicate the reason why swimming is dangerous, namely the poor visibility, the presence of the undercurrent and the presence of rubbish and discarded items below the surface.
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion, action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe that 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 24th January, 2020. 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 following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHJ Mark Lucraft QC, the Chief Coroner of England and Wales; • [REDACTED] [address withheld] <p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.</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>DATE 22nd November, 2019</p> <p>ASSISTANT CORONER EDWIN BUCKETT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SIGNED BY</p>