

**Mr G Irvine
Area Coroner
Walthamstow Coroner's Court
Queen's Road
Walthamstow
E17 8QP**

14 April 2020

Dear Mr Irvine,

Ref [REDACTED]

The Resuscitation Council UK has reviewed and discussed the recommendation made in the Regulation 28 Report dated 12 March 2020.

Although defibrillators can be set to start up in either automatic or manual mode, the latter is preferred. This is because when used correctly, studies have shown that a manual mode results in greater chance of return of spontaneous circulation and subsequent survival to hospital discharge, compared with an automatic mode. Manual defibrillation is therefore recommended for advanced life support, as delivered by ambulance paramedics.

We are concerned, therefore, that recommending start-up in an automatic mode may actually worsen overall outcome. The resuscitation standards expected of ambulance paramedics are to deliver manual defibrillation and we would support the remedial actions taken by LAS in relation to local training, labelling and guidelines to ensure appropriate resuscitation practice is safely and effectively applied in future cardiac arrests.

We hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,



Professor [REDACTED]
Honorary Treasurer RCUK