

## REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

	<p><b>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</b></p> <p><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</b></p> <p><b>St John's College, Oxford University c/o [REDACTED], Solicitor</b></p>
1	<p><b>CORONER</b></p> <p>I am Professor Fiona J Wilcox, HM Senior Coroner, for the Coroner Area of Inner West London</p>
2	<p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b></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><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b></p> <p>On the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, evidence was heard touching the death of <b>Daniel Brian Mervis</b>. Mr Mervis had died as result of a mixed drug overdose on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 aged 23 years.</p> <p><b>Medical Cause of Death</b></p> <p>I (a) Mixed drug toxicity</p> <p><b>How, when, where Mr Mervis came by his death:</b></p> <p>Daniel had misused drugs from his teens and this progressed to addiction and IV drug use. His addiction relapsed and remitted and required multiple rehabilitations. He also suffered with anxiety, depression and ADHD. In 2019 he was drug free for around 8 months but relapsed again in the last 2 months of his life. This progressed and on 24/10/2019 he arrested following drug misuse. He was resuscitated but self-discharged form hospital. Sadly, he took more illicit substances. He was found deceased in the flat of a known drug dealer, likely to have been supplied drugs by person or persons present at the scene. He could not be resuscitated and was recognised as life extinct at 04:02 by the London Ambulance Service.</p> <p><b>Conclusion of the Coroner as to the death:</b></p> <p>Drug related misadventure.</p>
4	<p>Extensive evidence was taken in court. In summary, of relevance to this report:</p> <p>It was clear that Daniel was using drugs whilst at St John's College. Concerns were raised by Daniel's father [REDACTED], as part of submissions in relation the duty of the coroner to write a Regulation 28 report of the conflict between the College's policy to deal with drug misuse severely, but also at the same time to offer support to individual's</p>

	<p>whose lives are blighted by drug misuse. There is no suggestion that the College should condone illegality, but since drug addiction is an illness, then support by the College may assist students with these issues to access appropriate care, perhaps early on in their addiction and thus help prevent future deaths.</p>
5	<p><b>Concerns of the Coroner:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Oxford University has no overarching policy agreed by all colleges, and that St John's should encourage the University to develop the same.</li> <li>2. That there is an apparent conflict between St John's stated policy to deal with utmost severity with those students who misuse or supply drugs, and the apparent support those students who suffer with drug addiction are offered. This conflict may discourage such students to seek help for their addiction out of fear of the consequences, either legal or disciplinary. A policy of the College which is well publicised and stresses the confidential nature of support offered may mitigate this risk.</li> <li>3. That St John's drug misuse policies should be more widely advertised for example at Fresher's week.</li> </ol>
6	<p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you [AND/OR your organisation] have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report. 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><b>COPIES and PUBLICATION</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">██████████,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By email.</p> <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><b>3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021</b></p>

**Professor Fiona J Wilcox**

**HM Senior Coroner Inner West London**

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**Honorary Professor QMUL School of Medicine and Dentistry**