

Mr Sean Horstead
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
Coroner Service
Lawrence Court, Princes Street,
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AoMRC response to Coroner's REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

Academy of Medical
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Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Coroner Service
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Dear Mr Horstead

Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths

We acknowledge the tragedy that is the death of any young adult and agree that this is immeasurably worse if that death was avoidable. Our sympathies go out to the families of Averii [REDACTED]

The Coroner's report cites as one of the matters of concern that might lead to future deaths if action is not taken, as 'Inadequate training of doctors and other medical professionals re eating disorders'.

As the report acknowledges, the underlying causes of mental health issues including eating disorders and anorexia nervosa are complex, and training is one part of the system factors that underly failings that can contribute to these tragic events.

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges is the coordinating body for the UK and Ireland's 23 medical Royal Colleges and Faculties. We ensure that patients are safely and properly cared for by setting standards for the way doctors are educated, trained and monitored throughout their careers. Individual royal colleges are independent organisations who are responsible for training their members in their particular specialty. Each college develops its own curriculum that must be approved by the General Medical Council (GMC).

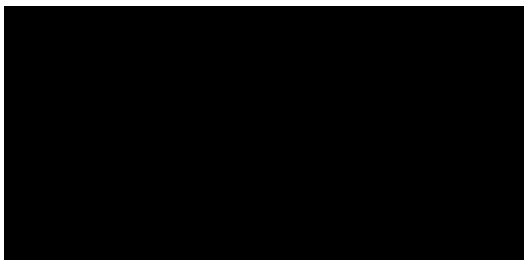
Postgraduate medical education is but one aspect of lifelong training for doctors, and the Medical Schools Council has oversight of undergraduate training. Initiatives which focus solely on improving training curricula, whether for undergraduate or postgraduate doctors, important though they may be, will fail to address the bulk of the existing medical workforce who are not in formal training. Continuing Professional Development must also be considered, including Train the Trainer provision in order to ensure that doctors at all stages of their careers are kept up to date with all relevant knowledge.

One of the Academy's roles is to bring colleges together to identify and share best practice and ensure this is disseminated across all colleges. This includes education and training, guidance, and policies. We generate resources that our member organisations are free to take up or not, as they choose; we cannot mandate uptake.

We are keen to do all we can to improve the training of doctors, as part of wider efforts to ensure such tragic circumstances are not repeated. However, we are a small organisation, dependent on external funding to perform much of this role. We have been granted a small amount of funding from the GMC to work with all relevant colleges to create a suite of shared curricula content. This will cover many areas of training and ensure high standards across the various medical disciplines. This resource would then be offered to all colleges. Following the PHSO report and contact with Baroness Parminter, eating disorders and anorexia nervosa are high on the longlist list of topics we wish to tackle as capacity and resource permits. We have alerted the Royal College of Psychiatrists about this work and they are very keen to lead on development with our support, and we would draw on any other relevant, high quality guidance that is available, such as the King's College guidance referenced in your report. The MARSIPAN guidance would be a key underpinning, as we wish to build on best practice rather than creating something new.

We look forward to working with the other agencies highlighted in your report to do all we can to ensure that these tragic events are not repeated.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer