



Home Office

Home Secretary

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Ms Alison Mutch
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6 July 2021




Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report of 15 March into the death of Joe Peter Robinson. I am replying in my capacity as the Minister for Crime and Policing. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your report.

I would like to express my regret for Mr Robinson's death. Any death related to drug misuse is a tragedy and we are committed to supporting the Department of Health and Social Care in understanding the complex factors involved in order to inform both national and local action to protect individuals from these harms.

As I am sure you will be aware, this government could not be clearer in saying that these unlicensed events are illegal. Such events encourage multiple harms such as criminal activity, safeguarding concerns, and risks to public health, particularly during a global pandemic.

The police have a variety of powers under public order legislation to deal with illegal raves, including powers to direct people to leave events and to arrest those who do not comply with the direction.

However, decisions about what and who to deploy and how to deal with specific unlicensed music events (UMEs) is an operational matter for the police. It is appropriate that the government does not directly involve itself in operational matters.

We have been in touch with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) in regard to this report. We understand that GMP have shared lessons learned with NPoCC and the National Police Chiefs Council have published national guidance in relation to UMEs.

The Government remains committed to tackling the harms caused by drug misuse. That is why, in January, we announced £148 million of new funding to support a system-wide approach to tackling illegal drugs. This includes £40 million to tackle drug supply and county lines, £80 million on drug treatment services in England, and £28 million on Project ADDER, which will pilot an intensive approach to enforcement, treatment and recovery in five areas with some of the highest rates of drug misuse.

Thank you for work leading the inquest into Mr Robinson's death, I hope this letter addresses the concerns set out in your report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priti Patel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP