REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

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THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

- 1. Nottinghamshire County Council
- 2. Derbyshire County Council
- 3. Broxtowe Borough Council
- 4. Erewash Borough Council

1 CORONER

I am Mr Gordon Clow, Assistant Coroner, for the coroner area of Nottinghamshire.

2 | CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

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.

3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On 9 October 2020 I commenced an investigation into the death of Heather Frances Page, aged 23 at the date of her death. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 10 June 2021. The conclusion of the inquest was as follows:-

At the time of her death, Miss Page was suffering from mental ill-health. It is not possible to determine Miss Page's precise intentions at the time of her death. Her actions were impulsive in nature and were a consequence of a disturbance of the balance of her mind as opposed to representing a decision by her to end her life.

4 | CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

On 7 October 2020, Miss Heather Frances Page stepped out in front of a train. The resulting collision caused her death. There was no third party involvement and no evidence of suspicion.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths could occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

The **MATTERS OF CONCERN** are as follows. –

Evidence was heard regarding the section of track adjacent to the Attenborough Nature Reserve. I noted the following issues of concern in relation to this section of track:-

- (1) There are a number of pedestrian crossings along this short stretch of track which involve pedestrians having to walk on the tracks to cross to the other side.
- (2) There has been a high number of fatalities along this short section of track (seven in as many years).
- (3) The nature of that section of track is such that it increases the risks of completed suicide due to the ease of access at multiple points and its proximity to a very popular beauty spot.
- (4) Efforts by Network Rail to reduce / rationalise the number of crossings along that stretch have failed due, in part, to opposition from the relevant local authorities.
- (5) Support or opposition from local authorities and councils will respectively increase or reduce the prospects of the risks inherent in that stretch of track being reduced. In the absence of support from local authorities and councils, Network Rail will be less likely to make an application to close or rationalise crossings along this section of track, given the known opposition from some persons living near, or using, the crossings. If an application is made, it will be less likely to be granted in the absence of support from the relevant local authorities and councils.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe your organisation has the power to take such action.

7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 19 August 2021. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.

8 COPIES and PUBLICATION

I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons:-

- The family of Heather Page
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- The University of Nottingham
- Dr , GP

I am also under a duty to send a copy of your response to the Chief Coroner and all interested persons who in my opinion should receive it.

I may also send a copy of your response to any other person who I believe may find it useful or of interest.

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.

9 **Signed:**

23 June 2021

Mr G. Clow HMAC