

**Her Majesty's Coroner  
for the County of Dorset**



Senior Coroner: Rachael C Griffin

Assistant Coroners: Brendan J Allen, Grant E Davies  
Richard T Middleton, Debbie S Rookes  
Stephen J Nicholls, Victoria L Cook

1 September 2021

Our ref: [REDACTED]

**REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

**THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO: Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**

**1 CORONER**

I am Debbie S Rookes Assistant Coroner for Dorset for The County of Dorset

**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.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made>

**3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST**

On 5 August 2020 I commenced an investigation into the death of William Buchanan.

The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 1 September 2021.

The conclusion of the inquest was Accident. The medical cause of death was:

1a Pneumonia

1b Left rib fractures

1c

II Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Ischaemic Heart Disease

#### **4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH**

William Buchanan decided to obtain a Leo mobility scooter under the Motability scheme. On 7 July 2020, the store manager of Lifestyle and Mobility undertook a home assessment and completed the Suitability Questionnaire. In the morning on 20 July 2020, the mobility scooter was delivered to Mr Buchanan and the store manager completed a one to one handover. Later that afternoon, Mr Buchanan sustained multiple rib fractures when he had an unwitnessed incident involving his mobility scooter, the exact circumstances of which remain unknown, at his home address. He was conveyed to Poole Hospital. Despite treatment, he developed pneumonia and his condition deteriorated. Mr Buchanan died at Poole Hospital, Longfleet Road, Poole at 19.45 on 27 July 2021.

#### **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 will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

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

(1) Lifestyle and Mobility completed a home assessment including a suitability questionnaire as Mr Buchanan was obtaining his scooter through the Motability scheme. If clients purchase a scooter privately, the company has a detailed questionnaire they complete which has been designed in conjunction with the British Healthcare Trades Association. However, I was very concerned to learn that elderly individuals can purchase mobility scooters online or in other stores without any assessment whatsoever being completed to assess their suitability or competence to use one. This gives rise to a concern that future deaths could occur if action is not taken.

## **6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN**

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, have 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 27 October 2021. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

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.

## **8 COPIES and PUBLICATION**

I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons [REDACTED] I have also sent it to [REDACTED], Environmental Health Officer, BCP, and [REDACTED], Director of Lifestyle and Mobility, who may find it useful or of interest.

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.

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.

1 September 2021

Signature 

Debbie S Rookes Assistant Coroner  
for The County of Dorset