



**CORONERS SOCIETY OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

**ANNEX A**

**Regulation 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)**

NOTE: This form is to be used **after** an inquest.

**REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT DEATHS**

**THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:**

- 1 [REDACTED], Chief Executive Officer NHS Brighton and Hove  
Clinical Commissioning Group,
- 2 [REDACTED], Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove City Council
- 3 [REDACTED], Chief Executive of Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust
- 4 [REDACTED], Director of Adult Social Care Brighton and Hove City  
Council
- 5 [REDACTED], Chief Executive of Change Grow Live (Surrey and  
Borders NHS Trust)
- 6 Nadine Dorries MP, The Minister of State for Patient Safety, Suicide  
Prevention and Mental Health

**1 CORONER**

I am Veronica Hamilton-Deeley, Senior Coroner for the area of Brighton and Hove.

**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 06/03/2021 14:28 I commenced an investigation into the death of Nicholas Jonathan SPOONER aged 42. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 25 June 2021. The conclusion of the inquest was:

Nicholas Spooner died of COVID-19 pneumonitis. It is likely that this was acquired in the community, but he was asymptomatic in the community. He fell from the window of his room on the third floor. From the evidence I found that he had removed the window restrictors to open it. In the fall he sustained multiple potentially survivable injuries. He was operated on the 13th and 14th February with a view to further surgery on 17th. This did not take place because Nicholas became symptomatic with COVID-19 and died as a direct result of that.

**4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH**

Nicholas Spooner was a 41 year old man with long standing dual diagnosis of mental ill health and polysubstance abuse. He was moved to Brighton for his own safety but this more exposed this vulnerable man to destructive elements which he did not have the ability to resist. He was well served by those with the immediate care of him and those trying to support him. Unfortunately there is not sufficient resource to provide the care and treatment which might have changed the outcome for him.

## 5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

The MATTERS OF CONCERNS are as follows:

Specialist dual diagnosis service needed with outreach facilities including drop-in and day centres to provide support for those in mental health crisis which is inextricably entwined with their substance abuse and who are often denied that mental health support.

## 6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

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.

## 7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 21 September 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:

1. [REDACTED], mother of Nicholas Spooner
2. Mr Sajid Javid, Health Secretary
3. [REDACTED], Chief Constable of Sussex Police
4. Justlife Brighton
5. [REDACTED], Chief of Medicine University Sussex Hospital NHS Trust
6. [REDACTED], Chief Executive Officer University Sussex Hospital NHS Trust
7. Dr [REDACTED], GP at Arch Healthcare Brighton

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.

VERONICA HAMILTON-DEELEY DL,  
LL.B.  
Her Majesty's Senior Coroner  
for the City of Brighton & Hove

THE CORONER'S OFFICE  
WOODVALE, LEWES ROAD  
BRIGHTON  
BN2 3QB



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.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Veronica Hamilton-Deeley".

**Veronica Hamilton-Deeley**  
**Senior Coroner**  
**Brighton and Hove**  
**Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021**