




Senior Coroner for Lancashire & Blackburn with Darwen

	<p><b>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</b></p> <p><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO: Secretary of State for the Home Department and copied to the Family, the Senior Coroner for East London and Lancashire Constabulary</b></p>
1	<p><b>CORONER</b></p> <p>I am Dr James Adeley, Senior Coroner for <b>Lancashire &amp; Blackburn with Darwen</b></p>
2	<p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b></p> <p>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. <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7</a> <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made</a></p>
3	<p><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b></p> <p>On 16 June 2020 I commenced an investigation into the death of James Michael Lacey, otherwise known and living as Victoria Lacey aged 21 years of age. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 24 November 2021. The conclusion of the inquest was suicide.</p>
4	<p><b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</b></p> <p>James/Victoria Lacey who was living both the male and female existence, purchased [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] on 19 May 2020 from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a meat preservative but may be also used for suicide as it prevents oxygenation of the blood. [REDACTED] may be sold in much lower concentrations or purity. The evidence of Dr [REDACTED], forensic toxicologist, was that this was a rapidly increasing method of suicide as the compound was readily available, it was quick and easy to administer, is effective and painless and from other evidence once administered, very difficult to reverse. On 13 June 2020 Victoria Lacey took [REDACTED] [REDACTED], a dose more than sufficient to cause fatality, together with other preparations advised by certain sites on the Internet and ended her life. A detective inspector from Lancashire Constabulary confirmed that there were no suspicious circumstances.</p>
5	<p><b>CORONER'S CONCERNS</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The <b>MATTERS OF CONCERN</b> are as follows. –</p> <p>(1) relatively small quantities of [REDACTED] can easily be purchased</p> <p>(2) a. [REDACTED] is currently a “reportable substance” or “reportable poison” under Part 4 of Schedule 1 to the Poisons Act 1972. As a result, under certain circumstances, sellers are under an obligation to report suspicious transactions, disappearances, and thefts of the substance, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of State (s.3C Poisons Act 1972).</p> <p>b. However, this is a much less rigorous degree of control than is exercised over “regulated poisons” under the terms of the legislation. Those substances, which are listed in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Act, are subject to requirements including licensing, record-keeping of sales, and other restrictions in relation to the general public.</p>

	<p>c. Both the regulated poisons and reportable poison lists can specify “concentration limits” which restrict the obligations imposed by the legislation to chemicals in concentrations at or above that limit. For example, ammonia is “reportable” in concentrations at or above 10% weight in weight (w/w) and phenols are “regulated” at or above 60% w/w. The power to specify a concentration can ensure that low concentrations of substances are not subject to the regime but higher (and therefore more dangerous levels) are subject to scrutiny.</p>
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6	<p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by <b>Friday, 11 February 2022 (additional days have been added due to the Christmas and New Year period)</b>. The coroner, may extend the period.</p> <p>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.</p>
8	<p><b>COPIES and PUBLICATION</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons the family. I have also sent it to the Senior Coroner for East London and Lancashire Constabulary who may find it useful or of interest.</p> <p>I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.</p> <p>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.</p>
9	<p>Dated 29 November 2021</p> <p>Signature</p>  <p>Senior Coroner for <b>Lancashire &amp; Blackburn with Darwen</b></p>