

IN THE SURREY CORONER'S COURT

IN THE MATTER OF:

**The Inquest Touching the Death of Linda Joan Gillchrest
A Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

	<p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, 39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU2. ebay UK Ltd, Hotham House, 1 Herron Square, Richmond upon Thames, TW9 1EJ
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>Mr Richard Travers, HM Senior Coroner for the County of Surrey</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I make this report under paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 5 to The Coroners and Justice Act 2009.</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>The inquest into the death of Linda Gillchrest was opened on 3rd September 2020. It was resumed and concluded on 18th December 2020.</p> <p>The medical cause of Mrs Gillchrest's death was: 1a. Sodium Nitrite Poisoning</p> <p>The inquest concluded with a short form conclusion of: Suicide.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>On the 19th July 2020 Linda Gillchrest was found by a neighbour in bed at her home address in Guildford, Surrey, there were no signs of life. She had not been seen for two days. The emergency services were called and</p>

	<p>death was recognised at 23:31 hours that same day. A quantity of Sodium Nitrite, which Mrs Gillchrest had bought on-line, was found in the bin situated in the kitchen at her home address. Toxicological tests found high levels of Sodium Nitrite in her blood, which could not be explained by diet. Further, Mrs Gillchrest had bought an ebook which gave detailed and clear instructions as to how to self-administer a fatal dose of Sodium Nitrite.</p>
5	<p>CORONER'S CONCERNS</p> <p>During the course of the inquest, evidence was heard that in May 2019 Mrs Gillchrest bought an e-book online from the USA, titled The Peaceful Pill eHandbook, from a website of the same name. The book gave very clear and precise instructions as to how to self-administer a fatal dose of Sodium Nitrite, including the amount required and a timeline to death. In that same month, for less than £5:00, pounds, Mrs Gillchrest purchased, on the auction site 'www.ebay.co.uk', a quantity of Sodium Nitrite that was in excess of that recommended in The Peaceful Pill eHandbook as being required for a fatal dose. Both purchases were made without any restriction being imposed by the sellers.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A publication such as The Peaceful Pill eHandbook, that contains detailed instructions as to how to end a human life, is available to be purchased online without restriction. • Sodium Nitrite is available to be purchased in lethal quantities from a UK website for less than £5:00, again without restriction. • No protection is afforded to vulnerable people prior to them making such purchases. <p>Consideration should be given to whether any steps can be taken to address the above concerns.</p>
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe that the people listed in paragraph one above have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p>YOUR RESPONSE</p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of its date; I may extend that period on request.</p>

	<p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for such action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p>COPIES</p> <p>I have sent a copy of this report to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. See names in paragraph 1 above2. [REDACTED]3. [REDACTED]4. [REDACTED]5. The Chief Coroner <p>In addition to this report, I am 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 at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
	<p>Signed: Richard Travers</p> <p>Dated this 4th day of January 2021</p>