
BY EMAIL ONLY TO:

Prime Minister

Secretary of State for Health & Social Care

Home Secretary

Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology

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TELEPHONE: 020 7650 1200

YOUR REF:

OUR REF: MVA/MVA/01437031/1

DATED: 16 October 2025

Dear Prime Minister & Secretaries of State,

Statutory Inquiry into [REDACTED] Deaths

We act for the families of:

- Hannah Aitken
- Vlad Caisley
- Bethany Langton
- Grace Nevens
- Imogen Nunn
- Tom Parfett
- Aimee Walton.

All of these much loved people died having ingested [REDACTED]¹ which they bought online, some from the same supplier months apart. All of them were under 25 years old.

We write on our clients' behalf to request that you exercise your powers under s.1 Inquiries Act 2005 to hold a statutory public inquiry into the large but undetermined number of deaths through ingestion of [REDACTED] purchased online.

Over 100 people, mainly young adults with a history of mental ill-health, are known to have died in the last 5 years having purchased [REDACTED] online. There have been approximately 30 reports by Coroners issued to prevent risks to future lives in relation to [REDACTED], with further reports being issued in relation to the forum, the majority of which have been sent to the Home Office, the Department of Health & Social Care ('DHSC') and/or the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology ('DSIT'). Despite this young people continue to die. Your Departments have often provided repetitive responses, pointing to the other as the responsible body, with no meaningful action being taken either to address the ongoing risk to lives or even understand the scale of the risk and harm.

In many of these tragic deaths of young people it was clear where information about [REDACTED] was being obtained, with guides easily available online promoting [REDACTED] as a painless and guaranteed method to end life. Many of these guides

¹ [REDACTED] is a reportable substance under the Poisons Act 1972 and has limited non-commercial use. It is fatal in small quantities.

appeared on one suicide forum, [REDACTED], where openly accessible threads discussed *inter alia* finding suicide partners, provided encouragement to end life and an unmoderated echo chamber highly dangerous for children, young adults and those with mental ill-health. This was repeatedly drawn to the attention of DSIT (and its predecessor, DCMS), with approximately 30 Prevention of Future Death Reports raising concerns about suicide forums. Again, despite this, [REDACTED] for example, remained easily available, including to children, until several months ago.

The Coronial system cannot consider the adequacy of the regulatory framework, nor make recommendations for meaningful change. Inquests are about a single death and cannot consider wider patterns or consider the effectiveness of post death investigations. As the report being published by Molly Rose Foundation on Monday, in conjunction with our clients and others, clearly demonstrates, there have been 'Missed chances, lost lives' and the personal and societal cost is substantial.

Your Government has an obligation to ensure that there are adequate systems to protect against known risks to life. Our clients believe that despite concerns being repeatedly raised over the course of years, the current system remains inadequate.

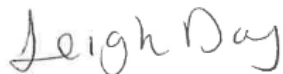
Accordingly our clients, together with Molly Rose Foundation, INQUEST and others (see **enclosed** Annex) consider there can be no doubt these are matters causing public concern and a statutory public inquiry is required to look at how so many chances were missed, the lives that could have been saved, and how the ongoing risk to future lives can be addressed.

It is only through a statutory public inquiry that it will be possible to consider fully the systems and processes that were and should be in place to identify and respond to the growing use of [REDACTED] to end life, and to understand the scale of the harm caused and how this was facilitated by information and engagement online.

A statutory public inquiry would be in line with the goals of the Government's Suicide Strategy, protect future lives – in particular of young people – and ensure the Government is better equipped to act more promptly in future in response to emerging methods of suicide and growing harms. It would also provide the best and only opportunity for understanding the number of lives that have been lost in the same way.

Should you require any further information, or be willing to meet our clients to discuss this request further, please contact Merry Varney of this office.

Yours faithfully,



Leigh Day

On behalf of:

Peter, Amanda & Matt Aitken – Hannah's parents and brother

Graham Caisley & family – Vlad's father and family

Shelley MacPherson – Bethany's mother

Sharon Nevens – Grace's mother

Louise & Ray Nunn – Imogen's parents

David Parfett – Tom's father

Adele, Ozlem and Martin Walton – Aimee's sister and parents

ANNEX

Supporting the call for a statutory Public Inquiry are:

Further affected families:

1. Family of Zoe Lyalle
2. Family of Poppie Rogers

Organisations in support:

1. Families and Survivors to Prevent Online Suicide Harms
2. Molly Rose Foundation
3. INQUEST
4. CALM – The Campaign Against Living Miserably
5. Thomas William Parfett Foundation
6. The Centre for Countering Digital Hate
7. The Jordan Legacy