

IN THE EAST LONDON CORONER'S COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUESTS INTO THE DEATHS OF ANTHONY WALGATE, GABRIEL KOVARI, DANIEL WHITWORTH AND JACK TAYLOR

BEFORE HM ASSISTANT CORONER HHJ SARAH MUNRO QC

ORDER

Following the Pre-Inquest Review on 15th November 2019 IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The substantive inquest hearings will commence in January 2021;
2. The inquests will be held with a jury pursuant to section 7(2)(b) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 ('the Act');
3. A further pre inquest review will be held on a date to be listed in early 2020;
4. The following individuals and organisations shall be designated as Interested Persons pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act –
 - a. Yinka Adeyemo-Phillips – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - b. Paul Berry – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - c. Nainesh Desai – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - d. Dean Holder – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - e. Eugene McCarthy – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - f. Niall McSheffrey – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - g. Martin O'Donnell – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - h. Jason O'Donohue – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - i. David Parish – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - j. Rolf Shamberger – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - k. Paul Slaymaker – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - l. Ben Tanner – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - m. Jon Taylor – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - n. Debbie Turrell – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
 - o. Peter Sweetman – police officer (designated pursuant to s.47(2)(m) of the Act)
5. The issues contained in the Provisional List of Issues (as amended on 15 November 2019 and appended to this Order) are provisionally deemed to be within the scope of the Inquests.

IN THE EAST LONDON CORONER'S COURT

BEFORE HER HONOUR JUDGE MUNRO QC

**INQUESTS INTO THE DEATHS OF ANTHONY WALGATE, GABRIEL KOVARI, DANIEL
WHITWORTH and JACK TAYLOR**

PROVISIONAL LIST OF ISSUES

The purpose of this document is to identify the issues that will be the focus of inquiry at the inquests.

Many of the issues below relate to the adequacy or otherwise of investigative steps taken or not taken in response to each of the deaths. In considering issues of this nature:

- a. the Coroner will focus on matters that have (or that potentially have) causative relevance to one or more of the deaths; and
- b. the adequacy of investigative actions will be assessed with reference to any relevant policies, guidance and training.

Anthony Walgate

1. **Background:**
 - a. Life, work, family and friends.
 - b. Registration Particulars.
2. **Events leading up to his death. Including:**
 - a. First contact with Stephen Port.
 - b. Meeting Port on 17 June 2014.
 - c. Port's actions and movements from 17 June - 19 June.
3. **His death**
 - a. Time, place and cause of death.
 - b. Identification.
4. **Initial investigation of the death (19- 23 June 2014). Including:**
 - a. Discovery of the body.
 - b. Initial investigative steps taken by Barking and Dagenham Borough officers ("Borough officers").
 - c. Product of initial investigation (including accounts given by witnesses, Forensic Medical Examiner's Assessment and pathology, toxicology, forensics, digital, social media and call data enquiries).

- d. Assessment by investigating officers as to whether the death was suspicious or non suspicious and whether that assessment was appropriate.
 - e. Adequacy of initial investigation in light of what was known at the time.
 - f. Attendance of Homicide Assessment Team (“HAT”); adequacy of advice given by HAT.
 - g. Whether it was appropriate for the Borough to retain primacy for the investigation.
5. **Arrest and investigation of Stephen Port (24 June 2014 – 23 February 2015). Including:**
- a. Circumstances leading to identification of Port as a suspect.
 - b. Application for search warrant and arrest and product of search warrant.
 - c. Adequacy of interviews conducted in respect of Port.
 - d. Adequacy of investigative actions taken in respect of Port (including but not limited to pathology, forensics, CCTV enquiries, toxicology, PNC checks, enquiries as to his movements, enquiries with Antony Walgate’s friends and family).
 - e. Whether, following the identification of Port as a suspect for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, consideration was given to treating Anthony Walgate’s death as suspicious. If not, should it have been?
6. **Investigative steps taken post conviction. Including:**
- a. Examination of the contents of Port’s and Antony Walgate’s laptops and adequacy of that examination (conducted May 2015).
 - b. Whether further investigations should have been conducted as a result of the content of Port’s laptop.

Gabriel Kovari

7. **Background:**
- a. Life, work, family and friends.
 - b. Registration Particulars.
8. **Events leading up to his death. Including:**
- a. First contact and moving in with Port
 - b. Gabriel Kovari’s actions and movements from 22 - 28 August 2014.
 - c. Port’s actions and movements from 22 - 28 August.
9. **His death:**
- a. Time, place and cause of death.
 - b. Identification.
10. **Initial investigation of the death (28 August - 8 September 2014). Including:**
- a. Discovery of the body.
 - b. Initial investigative steps taken by Borough officers.
 - c. Product of initial investigation (including pathology, toxicology, CCTV enquiries, witness enquiries, any digital, social media and call data enquiries).
 - d. Adequacy of investigative steps taken (prior to the discovery of Daniel Whitworth’s body) in light of what was known at the time.
 - e. Adequacy and consequences of the decision to treat the scene as non-suspicious.
 - f. Whether any consideration was given or ought to have been given to whether Gabriel Kovari’s death was linked to Anthony Walgate’s.
11. **Investigation following Daniel Whitworth’s death (20 September 2014 – 19 June 2015). Including:**
- a. Enquiries undertaken following identification of Gabriel Kovari as the Gabriel Kline referred to in the ‘suicide note’ in respect of Gabriel’s actions and movements from 22 - 28 August.

- b. Adequacy of those investigations.

Daniel Whitworth

12. Background:

- a. Life, work, family and friends.
- b. Registration Particulars.

13. Events leading up to his death. Including:

- a. First contact with Port.
- b. Meeting Port on 18 September.
- c. Port's actions and movements from 18 - 20 September.

14. His death:

- a. Time, place and cause of death.
- b. Identification.

15. Investigation of the death (20 September 2014 – 19 June 2015)

- a. Discovery of the body.
- b. Investigative steps taken by Borough officers.
- c. Product of investigation (including accounts given by witnesses – whether formally or informally recorded, CCTV enquiries, pathology, toxicology, forensic evidence, missing persons investigation, identification of Gabriel Kovari as 'Gabriel Kline', digital, social media and call data enquiries).
- d. Assessment by investigating officers as to whether the death was suspicious or non suspicious and whether that assessment was appropriate and / or whether it should have changed at any point in light of what was known at the time.
- e. Adequacy of investigation in light of what was known at the time.
- f. Attendance of and advice given by HAT; adequacy of advice given by HAT.
- g. Whether it was appropriate for the Borough to retain primacy for the investigation.
- h. Whether any consideration was given or ought to have been given to whether Daniel Whitworth's and Gabriel Kovari's deaths were linked to Anthony Walgate's.

Jack Taylor

16. Background:

- a. Life, work, family and friends.
- b. Registration Particulars.

17. Events leading up to his death. Including:

- a. First contact with Port
- b. Jack Taylor's actions and movements from early hours of 13 September 2015 until his death.
- c. Port's actions and movements 13 - 14 September 2015

18. His death:

- a. Time, place and cause of death.
- b. Identification.

19. Initial investigation of the death (14 September - 14 October 2015). Including:

- a. Discovery of the body.
- b. Investigative steps taken by Borough officers.
- c. Product of investigation (including searches, witness accounts, pathology, toxicology, forensics, CCTV enquiries, call data enquiries).

- d. Adequacy and consequences of the decision to treat the scene as non-suspicious.
- e. Adequacy of investigation in light of what was known at the time.
- f. Whether any consideration was given or ought to have been given to whether Jack Taylor's death was linked to Anthony Walgate's and / or Gabriel Kovari's and Daniel Whitworth's.

Generic issues

- 20. Whether any investigative failures or shortcomings that may be established had any causative relevance to one or more of the deaths (in particular with consideration of (i) the date or approximate date by which additional or alternative investigations could reasonably be expected to have been carried out and, (ii) what information it can reasonably be inferred would have resulted).
- 21. Whether the police investigations of any of the four deaths were affected by prejudice or lack of understanding in respect of the sexuality of Mr Walgate, Mr Kovari, Mr Whitworth, Mr Taylor or Mr Port.
- 22. If so, whether this had any causative relevance to one or more of the deaths.
- 23. Whether any investigative failures or shortcomings that may be established are attributable to failings by senior officers (either in the Borough or at SC&01), and if so to what extent.
- 24. The adequacy of training given to officers conducting investigations.
- 25. The adequacy of understanding in respect of and training given to MPS officers on the use of GHB, chemsex and related drugs in criminal activity.

Amended 15 November 2019