

Op Lilford 2 – Review of non-suspicious GHB related deaths

310. As part of the Stephen Port murder investigation, the SIO identified 58 GHB related deaths in London between 1 June 2011 and the 18 October 2015. Whilst no obvious links between these deaths and Stephen Port were identified, in light of the missed opportunities in the original Stephen Port investigations, as Gold Commander I made a decision that all 58 deaths should be reviewed. The primary aims of conducting these reviews were to identify if any of the deaths were suspicious and required reinvestigation, and to identify any learning or good practice.
311. In recognition of the concerns raised by many LGBT+ people and groups, the MPS worked with independent advisors to develop the terms of reference for the reviews as well as the review process. The reviews examined all GHB related deaths that had previously been categorised as 'sudden' or 'unexplained' and where GHB poisoning had been confirmed.
312. A small team of specialist homicide investigators commenced the reviews in February 2017, and a five stage review process was adopted:
- Stage 1 - Incident mapping and analysis of hotspots or clusters of deaths
 - Stage 2 - Triaging and basic investigation
 - Stage 3 - Mature progress review using consistent standards to examine key investigation strands
 - Stage 4 - Data analysis to identify hotspots, patterns or trends, and linked series.
 - Stage 5 - Case closure
313. The individual review of each death was presented to a formal case closure panel chaired by myself. Panel members included the SIO for the Stephen Port murder investigation, the Detective Chief Superintendent Head of the MPS Homicide and Major Crime Command, the SCRG and two independent advisors from the MPS LGBT+ Independent Advisory Group.
314. The intention of the panel was not to disregard the finding of any previous inquests, but rather to determine whether a death might be suspicious and would therefore warrant further investigation. The closure panel process took two full days, during which review officers presented their findings and the panel examined each case. The conclusion of the panel was that all the deaths were non-suspicious and none involved Stephen Port.