

OFFICE OF H.M. CORONER FOR

SOUTH YORKSHIRE
(West District)

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CORONER

Telephone: SHEFFIELD (0742) 738721



MEDICO-LEGAL CENTRE,
WATERY STREET
SHEFFIELD
S3 7ET

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19 February 19 91

Our Ref: SLP/LL

Your Ref: LDMJ/CD

Mr L & D M Jones



Dear Mr Jones

Thank you for your letter dated 12 February 1991, the contents of which I have noted and have read with care.

Whilst I would not for one moment question the seriousness with which you view the points raised, I do not think that it is either right or appropriate for me to enter into a dialogue with you regarding the issue which you have raised.

However, in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding, I do have to say that it is not my intention to call either Dr Ashton or Dr Phillips.

I have also read your penultimate paragraph. Whether or not you apply for a judicial review is a matter entirely for you and/or your advisors and I do not think that I should comment on this either.

Yours sincerely

S L POPPER
H M Coroner

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SP:PI 16. JUN 11

IMPORTANT

Please note that from 4 August 1990 the Royal Liverpool Hospital's new number will be.—

TEL: 051-706 2000 (all depts.)
or for Forensic Pathology

direct on 051-706 4301

Please use direct number from the above data to prevent switchboard congestion.

Liverpool

ATH.

DOT STREET

TEL: 051 — 709 0141 EXT. 2800

TELEX NO: 627095 UNILPL G

FAX: 061 708 6502

JB/SA

11th March, 1991

Mr. M. Humphreys,
Brian Thompson & Partners,
Solicitors,
5th Floor,
Richmond House,
Rumford Place,
Liverpool,
L9 9SW

Dear Mr. Humphreys,

Re: Hillsborough Disaster, April 1989

Thank you for sending me the relevant documents in this matter, comprising the post-mortem examination report of Professor Alan Usher in respect of his examination of the body of Richard Jones and the transcript of part of the medical evidence given in the early part of the Inquest, at Sheffield, in April, 1990.

I have not seen any of the video evidence of the events which took place at Hillsborough on the day in question, although I did, like millions of others, see television pictures transmitted on the day of the disaster. The comments I make are in answer to questions raised by Mr. Leslie Jones, father of Richard Jones, one of the Hillsborough victims, when he spoke to me by telephone last week:-

I am fully in agreement with Professor Usher with respect to his conclusions regarding the cause of death, in the case of Richard Jones. The post-mortem findings are exactly those one would expect in someone who has died from asphyxia consequent upon compression of the chest and Professor Usher's conclusions are logical and objective. I might add that Professor Usher is a very experienced forensic pathologist, of international high repute.

It is quite impossible to state exactly how long it will take a healthy young adult to die if his chest is being severely crushed, thereby producing asphyxia by restriction of chest movement, but I would concur with Professor Usher's estimate that consciousness would be lost after 30 seconds of significant continuous restriction of chest movement and that death would occur after four to six minutes of significant continuous restriction of chest movement.

If significant continuous restriction of chest movement began at 3.00 p.m. on the fatal day, then it would be reasonable to conclude that a person so affected would be dead by 3.06 p.m., and unquestionably so by 3.15 p.m. However, it may well be that in a particular case, perhaps in many cases, significant restriction of chest movement did not begin until several minutes after 3.00 p.m. and that the restriction of chest movement was not continuous, but intermittent. If that were so, and there is reason to believe that it

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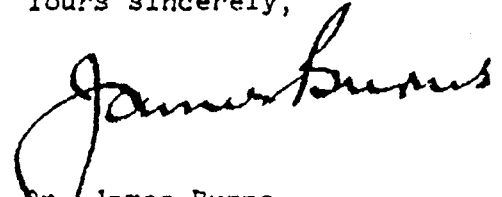
Mr. M. Humphreys

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11th March, 1991

testimony), death, when it occurred, may well have taken place several minutes after 3.15 p.m. Furthermore, in the case of a person removed from the enclosure at, say, 3.10 p.m. and who was unconscious, but not brain dead, and was then placed in a position other than the correct "recovery" position, or who, having been placed in the correct position, such a position was not maintained, a feared consequence, an inadequate airway, may well have produced a prolonged state of unconsciousness, with death eventually occurring at a much later time than 3.15 p.m.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. James Burns,
Home Office Pathologist.