



Record of Inquest

Following an Inquest opened on the 17 December 2019, And an inquest hearing at Main on the 30 November 2020 heard before Philip Barlow in the coroner's area for London Inner South ,

The following is the record of the inquest (including the statutory determination and, where required, findings).

1. Name of Deceased (if known)

Ella Roberta ADOO KISSI-DEBRAH

2. Medical cause of death

1a Acute Respiratory Failure

1b Severe Asthma

1c Air Pollution exposure

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3. How, when and where, and for investigations where section 5(2) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 applies, in what circumstances the deceased came by his or her death

Ella Adoo Kissi-Debrah had severe, hypersecretory asthma causing episodes of respiratory and cardiac arrest and requiring frequent emergency hospital admissions. On 15 February 2013 she had a further asthmatic episode at home and was taken to University Hospital Lewisham where she suffered a cardiac arrest from which she could not be resuscitated.

Air Pollution was a significant contributory factor to both the induction and exacerbations of her asthma. During the course of her illness between 2010 and 2013 she was exposed to levels of Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter in excess of World Health Organization Guidelines. The principal source of her exposure was traffic emissions. During this period there was a recognized failure to reduce the level of NO2 to within the limits set by EU and domestic law which possibly contributed to her death.

Ella's mother was not given information about the health risks of air pollution and its potential to exacerbate asthma. If she had been given this information she would have taken steps which might have prevented Ella's death.

4. Conclusion of the Coroner as to the death

Died of asthma contributed to by exposure to excessive air pollution

5. Further particulars required by the Births and Death Registration Act 1953 to be registered concerning the death

(a) Date and place of birth 24/01/2004 Lewisham	
(b) Name and Surname of deceased Ella Roberta ADOO KISSI-DEBRAH	
(c) Sex Female	(d) Maiden surname of woman who has married
(e) Date and place of death 15 February 2013 University Hospital Lewisham Lewisham High Street Lewisham	
(f) Occupation and usual address [REDACTED]	

Philip Barlow

Signature of Philip Barlow Assistant Coroner