REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

	REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS **THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:** 1. **Food Standards Agency,** Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH
1	**CORONER** I am Zafar Siddique, Senior Coroner, for the coroner area of the Black Country.
2	**CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS** I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.
3	**INVESTIGATION and INQUEST** On the 18 June 2016, I commenced an investigation into the death of the late Ms Imama Shahid. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 25 October 2016. The conclusion of the inquest was a short narrative conclusion of accidental overdose of dinitrophenol tablets The cause of death was: 1a Dinitrophenol Fatality
4	**CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH** i) Ms Shahid was admitted to hospital on the 18 June 2016 following a staggered overdose of Dinitrophenol. ii) She had taken approximately six tablets and had purchased these from a company on the internet. It appears she had taken the tablets for at least a period of 48 hours before her hospital admission. The identity and exact details of the company were unascertained. iii) She developed symptoms of confusion, agitation, hyperthermia, sweating and cardiovascular collapse. iv) Sadly, despite intensive medical treatment she died within four hours of admission to hospital on the same day.
5	**CORONER'S CONCERNS** During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you. The **MATTERS OF CONCERN** are as follows. – 1. Evidence emerged during the inquest that the chemical 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP)

	is sold over the Internet as a slimming aid for dieters (including those who are suffering from eating disorders or body dysmorphia) and body builders. 2. This industrial chemical has caused cases of severe illness and deaths in multiple countries in the last 2-3 years. On 29 April 2015 Interpol issued a global alert, in the form of an Orange Notice warning, to law enforcement agencies in 190 countries. 3. While DNP is not a licensed drug, it is still widely sold over the Internet under a variety of names. Websites often refer to the chemical as a 'fat burner', implying its suitability for human consumption, even if the same website also publishes a disclaimer about the dangers of ingesting this chemical. The fact that a product contains DNP will not always be mentioned on the website or product label. 4. Some of the websites selling the products purport to be pharmaceutical companies or claim to make products to GMP standards. Since, however, there is no regulatory control of the manufacture of products containing DNP, or in the jurisdictions where it is sold, there is no guarantee whatsoever.
6	**ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN** In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action. 1. You may wish to consider further highlighting the risks of this drug with a public campaign in partnership with public health providers. 2. In addition you may consider deploying further resources to targeting online distributors to prevent the sale of DNP in these circumstances.
7	**YOUR RESPONSE** You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 26 December 2016. I, the coroner, may extend the period. Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.
8	**COPIES and PUBLICATION** I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons; Family. I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response. The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.
9	**31 October 2016** **Mr Zafar Siddique** **Senior Coroner** **Black Country Area**