

independent and effective investigations and reviews



Police Investigations &  
Review Commissioner

DECEMBER 2018

# PIRC Investigation Findings

Death of 28-Year-Old-Man  
Troon  
28 May 2018

## **BACKGROUND**

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In the late evening of Monday 28 May 2018, the body of a 28-year-old man was recovered from a large pool of water at Craighiehill Quarry, Troon. The man had jumped into the water at 2030 hours that night but had not resurfaced. The cause of death was drowning.

Craighiehill Quarry is a disused quarry which is owned by a private company, who have sole responsibility for the safety and security of the quarry. The quarry is protected by boundary fencing. Notices are attached to the gate and boundary fences warning that the quarry is private property, is dangerous due to the potential for falling rocks and that the pool of water should not be entered. There are lifebuoys situated on posts surrounding the water for safety.

The quarry has not been in use for the past six years. Historically, during the summer months and periods of good weather, there have been numerous reports of both adults and children swimming and jumping from the rock faces into the pool of water despite the obvious dangers.

A number of reports have been made to Police Scotland over the past 3 years expressing concerns regarding people using the quarry.

At 1453 hours on Monday 28 May 2018, the Quarry Supervisor contacted Police Scotland to report he had carried out an inspection and found evidence that people had been using the quarry over the weekend. He asked police to give the area attention while on patrol, but did not request that they attend at that time.

There was no indication in the call that anyone was at the quarry at that time. Due to other local demands on policing no resources were available at that time and as there had not been any other calls about the quarry by around 2000 hours, the incident was closed.

About 2030 hours that day, friends of the man saw him jump into the pool at the quarry but he did not resurface. Police and other emergency services were contacted. They attended the scene and the man's body was later recovered from the water.

## **REFERRAL TO THE PIRC**

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On 31 May 2018, the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner (PIRC) was instructed by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), in terms of Section 33A (b) (ii) of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (as amended) to carry out an investigation.

## **PIRC INVESTIGATION**

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The PIRC investigation focused on the circumstances leading up to the incident, in particular the background of the earlier reports to Police Scotland and the fact that no staff were available to respond to the concerns expressed in the call from the Quarry Supervisor on the afternoon of 28 May 2018.

PIRC investigators obtained statements from relevant police officers, police staff and civilians. They also seized and examined command and control incident logs, telephone and Airwave recordings, briefing papers and associated documentation.

## **PIRC FINDINGS**

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Following investigation the Commissioner finds:

- The Craigiehill Quarry is owned by the Hillhouse Quarry Group Ltd which has sole responsibility for the safety and security of the quarry.
- During the period of January 2015 to May 2018 there have been 11 reports made by the Hillhouse Quarry Group Ltd and members of the public, to Police Scotland, about people using the quarry.
- The police response to all previous reports made to Police Scotland has been appropriate and proportionate to the circumstances reported.
- The police response to the report made to Police Scotland at 1453 hours on 28 May 2018 was appropriate and proportionate to the circumstances reported.
- There is no evidence that if the police had attended the quarry on the afternoon of 28 May 2018 that the subsequent death of the man later that evening could have been prevented.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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No recommendations were made.