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pirc

Police Investigations &
Review Commissioner

PIRC Investigation Findings

Death of 22 year old male

1 April 2018, Glasgow

BACKGROUND

About 0912 hours on Sunday 1 April 2018, a 22-year-old man died when he lay down in front of a train near Jordanhill Railway Station, Glasgow.

Earlier that morning, Police Scotland officers responded to a report of the man standing on the parapet of a bridge in Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow, behaving in an agitated manner.

Officers found the man and identified that he was suffering from mental ill health issues. After speaking to the man's family on the telephone, officers took the man home, however when they arrived there, the man managed to run away from the police.

The police officers gave chase but lost sight of the man in an area adjacent to the railway track. Police Scotland immediately classified him as a high risk missing person and several police officers undertook a search for the man.

A short time later a train driver spotted the man on the railway track near Jordanhill Railway Station but was unable to stop the train in time. The man was struck by the train and died from his injuries.

REFERRAL TO THE PIRC

On 3 April 2018, the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC) was instructed by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, 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

The PIRC investigation examined the actions of Police Scotland officers from the time of their initial contact with the man, until the subsequent discovery of his body on railway tracks near to Jordanhill Railway Station, Glasgow.

As part of the investigation, PIRC investigators requested statements from police officers and police staff who had played a part in the incident. Police Scotland identified a number of witnesses who were Service Advisors or Controllers from the Contact, Command & Control Division.

The Commissioner notes that a member of police staff who was a witness refused to provide a statement to both officers of Police Scotland and to PIRC investigators.

The Commissioner considers that, where a member of the public has died or suffered serious injury, it is reasonable to expect that any police officer or member of police staff who is a witness to events or played a part in the police action, should co-operate with any subsequent investigation and provide an account of their actions.

PIRC FINDINGS

Following investigation the Commissioner found that:

- The 22-year-old man died as a result of injuries sustained after being struck by a train on a railway track in Glasgow.
 - The man suffered from mental ill health including depression and anxiety.
 - On 26 August 2017 the man had previously threatened to commit suicide by jumping in front of a train.
 - The man was known to and recorded on Police Scotland's systems as a vulnerable person.
 - Police Scotland officers responded promptly to the report of the man on Queen Margaret Drive Bridge, Glasgow and traced him within six minutes of the telephone call being received.
 - Police Scotland officers correctly followed the guidelines contained in the Mental Health and Place of Safety Standard Operating Procedures in taking the man to his home in order to make a full assessment of his needs.
 - Police Scotland officers took all reasonable steps available to them at the time to trace the man after he ran off.
 - A member of police staff refused to co-operate with the investigation and provide a witness statement.
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