



Secretary of State for the Home Department  
The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
2 Marsham Street  
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SW1P 4DF

Please reply to:  
Contact: Victoria Statham  
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Our ref: vs/dr  
Date: 25 September 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

### **Inquest into the death of Zane Gbangbola**

Spelthorne Borough Council has debated a Notice of Motion relating to the death of Zane Gbangbola at a Full Council meeting, which was held on 10 September 2020.

The Notice of Motion stated as follows:

This Council is deeply concerned that the tragic events surrounding the death of 7 year old Zane Gbangbola, and the paralysing of his father have not been adequately dealt with. The tragedy occurred during the floods of 2014 when an old waste site behind the family's house was inundated with water. We believe crucial evidence on the potentially toxic nature of the site has been ignored. The recent claims of the dumping of toxic waste behind the house by a nearby military institution, only serves to make it more important that the truth behind this terrible incident be uncovered.

To this end within 14 working days this Council resolves to;

- 1) Write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department in the strongest possible terms expressing its deep unease and anger at the way this issue has been dealt with so far and
- 2) Call for an immediate, full Independent Panel Inquiry (similar to Hillsborough) into this tragedy and all the events surrounding it.

That

- 3) This letter to the Secretary of State is open to be signed by the leaders of all political groups on Spelthorne council and
- 4) The letter is featured prominently on Spelthorne council's website and in attendant Council publicity.

This notice of Motion was passed unanimously by the members of Spelthorne Borough Council.

The signatories below wish to reiterate the statements contained in the Notice of Motion above and we call upon you to take such action as is necessary for such Independent Panel Inquiry to take place. You are directed to the recording of the Extraordinary Council meeting of the 10 September which demonstrates the strength of feelings of the members of this Council have on this issue <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ovu8QH0Zl>.

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Your ref: vs/dr  
Our ref: PO2020/28034/CD

10 November 2020

[v.statham@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:v.statham@spelthorne.gov.uk)

Dear Victoria,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on behalf of Spelthorne Borough Council, about the death of Zane Gbangbola. I am replying as the Minister responsible for policy on flooding.

I have previously corresponded with the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP on this tragic case and would again like to express my personal condolences to Zane's parents.

The position remains as it was when I wrote to Kwasi on 23 April 2020 with regards to next steps. If Zane's parents believe that there is new evidence available, they should consider making an application to the Attorney General asking her to apply to the High Court to quash the inquest and order a fresh coroner investigation.

The High Court would take this course of action if it believed that it would be in the interests of justice. An application can be made to the Attorney General's Office at any time after a coroner's inquest has concluded. Whilst Zane's parents should seek their own independent legal advice on this, further information is available from the Attorney General's Office website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/attorney-generals-office/about>

I believe that this remains the proper process to follow in this case. I appreciate that this will come as a disappointment, but it is only right that all other legal processes should be exhausted before we can consider an Inquiry.

REBECCA POW MP

