

South Yorkshire  
Mayoral Combined Authority  
11 Broad Street West  
Sheffield, S1 2BQ

16 January 2026

Emailed to: [Chiefcoronersoffice@judiciary.uk](mailto:Chiefcoronersoffice@judiciary.uk)

Dear Judge Durran,

**Re: Letter from Oliver Coppard to Chief Coroner Alexia Durran**

You will no doubt be aware of the tragic road traffic incident that took place on 13th December on Todwick Road in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and the subsequent errors in victim identification. These events have understandably caused deep concern across our communities and attracted significant public and media attention.

We share a responsibility to learn from these circumstances and ensure that our systems are as robust if nothing else, for the sake of victims and survivors. While my role is to hold the Chief Constable to account, I know that real progress comes from collaboration and transparency.

I would be grateful for your assistance in providing clarity on certain processes and procedures within the Coroner's Office, specifically those relating to the formal identification of deceased persons. With that in mind, I would welcome your insight on:

- Any early lessons that may inform national guidance and strengthen identification procedures;
- Whether identification processes in South Yorkshire differ from other parts of the country, particularly around the use of photo identification, and the level of autonomy afforded to local coroners.
- How you intend to work with the IOPC in carrying out their investigation.

I fully appreciate that some aspects may fall within the scope of the IOPC investigation or forthcoming inquest proceedings. Nevertheless, recent developments make it important that we understand the processes in place and identify opportunities for improvement.

For completeness, Kilvinder Vigurs, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, has already written to HM Coroner Nicola Mundy for a local perspective. However, your own views and observations would be invaluable in helping us move forward.

My motivation is to seek clarity and build confidence in the system. If a conversation would be helpful, I would be pleased to arrange this at your convenience.

In the interests of transparency, I will be releasing this letter publicly.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Oliver Coppard  
South Yorkshire's Mayor