

Neutral Citation No: [2020] NICoroner 1
*Judgment: approved by the Court for handing down
(subject to editorial corrections)**

Ref: 3523-18

Delivered: 15/01/2020

IN THE CORONERS COURT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF
Teresa Duffy

Before: Coroner Mr Patrick McGurgan

[1] The deceased, Teresa Duffy born on 9th February 1986, of 13 Abercorn Road, Derry, was found dead on 10th November 2018.

[2] The deceased had a history of anxiety, depression and drug dependency. She had suffered two drug overdoses in March and May 2017.

[3] The deceased registered with a new GP practice on the 25th September 2018. The deceased advised the new practice that she was on the Subutex programme and she had a list of repeat medications which were all daily dispensing and although she was unhappy with this and wanted weekly dispensing her new GP practice refused to change the regime from daily dispensing.

[4] On the 9th November 2018 the deceased had attended with her GP complaining of pains in her neck. She was prescribed Naproxen and Methocarbamol for this. That evening she was in her flat when her landlady called to see her. The deceased appeared her usual self and made no specific complaints. The landlady left the deceased at approximately 7.30pm.

[5] On the 10th November 2018 at approximately 11.40am the landlady called again with the deceased. She let herself into the flat and discovered the deceased in bed and unresponsive. She contacted emergency services and on arrival it was clear that the deceased had passed away and therefore no resuscitation was attempted. Life was pronounced extinct at 13 Abercorn Road, Derry at 13.08pm on 10th November 2018. A toxicological analysis of a sample of the deceased's blood revealed the presence of a number of drugs. These included; Pregablin, Buprenorphine, Diazepam, Alprazolam, Chlorpromazine, Zopiclone, Olanzapine, Naproxen and Ibuprofen.

[6] A post-mortem was performed and it records and I find that death was due to:

I(a) Aspiration Pneumonia;

Due To:

(b) Mixed Drug Toxicity (Including Pregabalin, Buprenorphine, Alprazolam and Diazepam).