

Last night (27 April), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published a report into the Met's response to the lessons from the Stephen Port murders.

Between 2014 and 2015, four young men, Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor, were murdered by the rapist and serial killer Stephen Port. Port received a life sentence with a whole life order in November 2016.

In 2021, inquests into the deaths of the four men found [failings by the Met contributed to the deaths of three of the men](#).

The report published last night has found that there is still more work to do, especially in officer training, supervision and record keeping, to ensure that the errors made in his case cannot happen again. The report was commissioned by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), following an inspection which was carried out between June and November last year.

Accepting that more still needs to be done, **Assistant Commissioner Louisa Rolfe** said:

"The deaths of Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor were a tragedy and we are sincerely sorry we failed them and their families. While, as the inspection report acknowledges, we have worked hard since the murders to understand what went wrong and improve how we work, it highlights more we need to do.

"We have to get the basics right. That's around how we train and support our officers to investigate deaths, identify suspicious circumstances and understand how protected characteristics may impact on those investigations.

"It's vital that all officers and staff are familiar with our [death investigation policy](#). We have reviewed and updated our training for frontline officers and have begun a programme of enhanced training for their supervisors.

"We are also moving quickly on family liaison. We know we fell short in this case and the families did not get the service they needed or deserved. It is important we look again at this area to see what more we need to do to support families through such difficult times.

"We will fully consider the recommendations made by HMICFRS and ensure these are not just fully addressed but embedded into our working practices. This is what we have been doing with previous recommendations from the coroner and the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

**AC Rolfe** concluded:

"I know that many of you will be very concerned by the findings of this report, particularly members of our LGBT+ community. I want to reassure you all that we are sincere in our desire to make real change to minimise the chance of a case like this ever happening again. I do not underestimate the damage that this case has caused to London's LGBT+ communities and we are working closely with our LGBT+ Network and IAG to regain the trust of our communities, both inside and outside of the Met."