

Report for the Coroner

This meant that the bodies of both the deceased could be returned to the United Kingdom.

The 'Release for Burial' forms signed by Madame Coujard are attached at **Appendix Y**.

In respect of Diana, Princess of Wales, at 4am Professor Bruno Riou and his surgical team decided to discontinue resuscitation and death was pronounced. Professor Riou completed a death certificate noting at that time that there were medical/legal obstacles.

The death certificate for Diana, Princess of Wales cannot be located in France. However, a blank 'template' death certificate has been attached at **Appendix Z**, with the relevant parts translated. This would have been identical to the form completed by Professor Riou.

By noting that there were medical/legal obstacles, Professor Riou was merely indicating that death was not as a result of natural causes and had been due to an accident. It did not mean that a crime had been committed, or that there were any suspicious circumstances.

This administrative matter is dealt with in a statement from Detective Sergeant Philip Easton from Operation Paget, who details his conversation with Professor Riou. It is attached at **Appendix AA**.

As a result of Professor Riou's written comments on the death certificate, the Princess of Wales' body required an examination by a legal physician, i.e. Professor Lecomte.

Madame Coujard, the Deputy Public Prosecutor, in accordance with article 74 of the Penal Procedural Code, requested that Professor Lecomte carry out external examinations on both deceased passengers. Professor Lecomte carried out these external examinations in accordance with this judicial request. She found nothing suspicious.

Her findings were communicated to both Madame Coujard, who completed the 'Release for Burial' forms, and to Professor Riou, who completed a further two forms in respect of Diana, Princess of Wales as follows:

- 1) '*Fiche Individuelle*' (Individual sheet), which is a second certificate that includes hospital administration information and the time of death, this being other information not required on the death certificate. This document, with the relevant parts translated, is at **Appendix BB**, and
- 2) '*Modèle de certificat de mort accidentelle*' (Accidental death certificate template) noting on it that death was accidental and therefore no longer posed any medical-legal problem. Professor Riou completed this form after the external examination which expedited the repatriation process. This is at **Appendix CC**.