

## CASE STUDY: GROSS NEGLIGENCE MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE FOR DIRECTOR



The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has announced it is to charge the director of an electric gate company with gross negligence manslaughter in connection with the death of a six-year-old girl in June 2010.

Semelia Campbell died on 28 June 2010 when she was crushed by electric gates in Manchester.

In response to the incident, and a similar one just a few days later on 3 July 2010, in which a five-year-old, Karolina Golabek, died, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) issued a safety alert on the subject of electric gates.

Commenting on the decision to bring charges against the director in the case of Semelia Campbell, Alison Norton, Specialist Prosecutor handling Special Crime in the CPS, said she had “carefully considered all the available evidence” in the “tragic case” in which the child died after becoming caught in and crushed by an electric gate in the housing development where she lived.

Alison Norton said, “I have now concluded there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest to charge Kristian Kearns, director of the company that automated the gate, with gross negligence manslaughter.”

At time of writing Kristian Kearns was due to appear at Manchester City magistrates’ Court.