

Edinburgh mum found dead 48 hours after having second Covid vaccine as husband devastated

Gordon Tait, Chief Reporter 21:49, **30 Apr 2021**

A MUM was found dead in bed 48 hours after having her second Covid vaccine.

Tragic Karen Tully, 59, felt dizzy and reported having a headache in the wake of her follow-up AstraZeneca jab.



Karen Tully tragically died



Credit: The Sun

Husband Richard Tully has been left devastated.

The asthma sufferer, who only returned to her job as a police 999 call handler on Monday after shielding for a year, took paracetamol before husband Richard, 63, left for work on Thursday.

But he discovered his wife of 37 years lifeless when he returned three hours later to the couple's home in Colinton, Edinburgh.

The shattered school coach driver said: “She had her jab on Tuesday morning and went to work that night. But she wasn’t feeling great so she came back early.

“She looks at screens all the time at work so we thought it was that. On Wednesday night, she went to work for 9pm but felt dizzy so I picked her up an hour later.

“I left for work about 6am on Thursday and gave her a cup of tea and a couple of tablets for her sore head. When I left she was fine. I came back just after 9am and that’s when I found her.”

Ambulance crews raced to the pad but Karen was pronounced dead at the scene.

A post mortem will be carried out to establish the cause of death. The mum of one had been on the official shielding list since the pandemic began last March.

She rarely headed out other than to walk beloved labrador Amber. But when restrictions lifted last week, Karen returned to nightshift work at Police Scotland’s Bilston Glen contact centre in Midlothian.

Richard said his wife had a sore arm following her first jab but was healthy until the second dose. And he revealed computer engineer son Robert, 25, and Karen’s mum Winifred Emerson, 96, have been left distraught by the tragedy.

He added: “Karen was just so full of life. She got on with everybody. My son has had his first jab but he’s called his doctor and says he’s having second thoughts about the second one. He doesn’t know if he wants to take it.”

The AstraZeneca vaccine has been linked with rare blood clots. But this is believed to be the first reported death of anyone so soon after having their second jab.

Last month, solicitor Neil Astles, 59, from Warrington, Cheshire, died two weeks after his first AZ dose in a suspected blood clot tragedy.

Chief Superintendent Roddy Newbigging paid tribute to former medical secretary Karen, who joined the Bilston centre 15 years ago.

He said: “She provided a highly professional service. She will be sorely missed by all of her colleagues and the thoughts of Police Scotland are with her family.”

A force spokesman said the death was being treated as “unexplained”.

He added: “A report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.” A total of 2,802,152 first doses have been administered in Scotland and 1,224,861 second jabs.