

**Assistant Chief Constable
National Policing Lead for Custody**

**GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE**



Mr A Walker
HM Coroner for the Northern District of
Greater London
North London Coroners Court
29 Wood Street
Barnet
EN5 4BE

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

12th March 2014

Dear Mr Walker

REGULATION 28 LETTER – WAYNE SPENCER MALCOLM BROAD

I write in response to the above as the National Policing Lead for Custody to address recommendation (1), which falls within my remit.

I note your recommendation that Hertfordshire ought to have a substance misuse team available at the police station, similar to that which would be provided within the Prison Service. Unfortunately this is not a facility that police forces have available; the cost and relatively short timescales of police detention mean this is not a viable or cost effective option for Forces. We do however take our duty of care for the welfare of detainees very seriously and provide medical care in custody which effectively triages our detainees to assess that they are fit to be detained and are kept safe.

However, in this arena things are changing rapidly. You will be aware Lord Bradley undertook a review of mental health and the justice system in 2009 and one of his recommendations was to transfer the commissioning responsibility for police custodial healthcare to the NHS. The national police Custody business portfolio support the current work in English forces to undertake this transfer and sit at the national Police Healthcare Oversight Board, jointly chaired by Home Office and Department of Health to oversee the transition. The legislative change for this is set for April 2015.

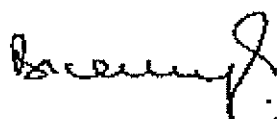
All English forces are now engaged with specialist NHS commissioners who already commission services in prisons, to ensure the appropriate specification of police custodial healthcare, improve clinical governance of healthcare services and improve the care pathways to and from Accident and Emergency services. It is noted that Hertfordshire is part of a 4 force consortium who are going through a tender process at this time.

Furthermore, NHS England are also rolling out Liaison and Diversion services in police custody and courts to ensure that those people with mental health issues and associated substance misuse are appropriately signposted and diverted to manage their longer term health needs and thus reduce reoffending.

Thus we believe that healthcare services in police custody are going through a step change in service provision, with the introduction of NHS expertise to ensure appropriate timely service with clinicians with the right skill sets. This is supported by clinical IT infrastructure and care pathways to acute and community care. Whilst these provisions in the future may still not include bespoke substance misuse teams in police custody centres they will seek to provide a more bespoke and joined up health care package within and outside the custodial setting.

I hope this addresses your concerns. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.


Assistant Chief Constable