

RECEIVED

R1968.10

11 NOV 2013



National Offender
Management Service

H.M. CORONER

**Equality, Rights and Decency
Group (ERD)**

National Offender Management Service
4.12 Clive House,
70 Petty France,
London, SW1H 9EX.

G U Williams LLB
HM Senior Coroner for the County of Worcestershire
The Court House
Bewdley Road
Stourport on Severn
Worcestershire
DY13 8XE

Your ref: GUW/TW/R1968.10

7 November 2013

Dear Mr Williams,

Death of Mr Reggie Johns on 20 October 2010

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report of 16 September addressed to the Governors of HMP Hewell and HMP Bristol. NOMS Equality, Rights and Decency Group (ERD) is responding to this report as we have ownership of suicide prevention and self-harm management policy in prisons. This letter is also being sent on behalf of the Governors of HMP Hewell and HMP Bristol.

You identified a number of concerns in your report. These have been taken very seriously and I have provided details below about the action that has been taken to address these issues since Mr Johns' death.

Recording Information

You were concerned about the sharing and recording of information by staff at the two prisons when Mr Johns transferred from HMP Bristol to HMP Hewell via Redditch Magistrates Court.

Since Mr Johns' death, HMP Bristol has introduced a system whereby their safer custody team contacts the receiving establishment via email and telephone whenever a prisoner on an open ACCT transfers out of the prison to make the receiving establishment aware of the prisoner's perceived risk of harm. In addition, the escort contractors are also now informed of those prisoners on open ACCTs prior to being transferred out to court or other establishments. These conversations are recorded on Prison-NOMIS and the enclosed Governor's Order has been issued to remind staff of their responsibilities in this area.

At HMP Hewell the enclosed Staff Information Notice entitled 'C-NOMIS Case Notes' has been issued since Mr Johns' death to remind staff of the need to make quality records on C-NOMIS of all conversations with prisoners and/or their families which are relevant to ensuring the safe management of that prisoner.

A new local safer custody guidance document has been also issued at HMP Hewell since Mr Johns' death to accompany PSI 64/2011. Within this guidance there is a section about information recording which states:

*All staff at HMP Hewell have a responsibility to inform the relevant people if they have received information from any source that indicates a change in the potential for a prisoner to harm themselves. If you have received such information, you must immediately pass this on to the Residential, Daily or Night Operational Manager. You can also open an ACCT Plan and make a recording in an appropriate source, e.g., observation book, NOMIS or an SIR. Always report this information – **you could save someone's life.***

Multi-disciplinary ACCT Reviews

You highlighted that the ACCT review at HMP Hewell upon Mr Johns' arrival was not multi-disciplinary and no member of the healthcare team was in attendance or spoken to prior to the meeting taking place.

Since Mr Johns' death, the enclosed Operational Orders have been issued entitled 'Chairing ACCT Reviews' and 'ACCT Reviews' which provide guidance for selecting appropriate ACCT case managers, and confirm that it is the case manager's responsibility to ensure that each review is multi-disciplinary with views from all appropriate departments being taken into consideration.

Access to ACCT Documents

You identified that when Mr Johns arrived at HMP Hewell the nurse who carried out a medical assessment did not have access to his ACCT document.

I am aware that you are now in receipt of Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust's response to your report, which confirms that ACCT documents are now made available to nursing staff in reception in all cases when a prisoner arrives at HMP Hewell on an open ACCT. In addition to that response, I have enclosed a copy of a joint document which has been produced by HMP Hewell and Worcestershire Primary Care Trust which provides guidance to discipline and healthcare staff about the importance of working together and sharing information appropriately about the prisoners in their care.

I hope that you find this response helpful and reassuring.

Yours sincerely,


NOMS Equality, Rights and Decency Group