



Ministry of Defence

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Dear David,

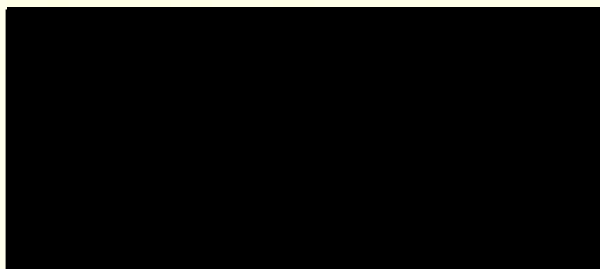
Thank you for your letter of 8 December 2014 in which you allowed the Ministry of Defence additional time in which to consider how to address your Regulation 28 Report following the Inquest into the death of Sapper Dylan Reece Gibson.

As reported in my letter of 3 December 2014 Sapper Gibson's unit, 26 Engineer Regiment, have implemented your recommendation and now hold keys to all buildings and rooms used by the Regiment in the guardroom where they can be accessed by duty staff in case of an emergency.

With regard to the wider MOD estate, I can confirm that we are now updating our Health and Safety risk assessment guidance (contained within Joint Service Publication 375 (JSP 375)) to ensure that all those responsible for conducting site risk assessments on MOD establishments consider procedures for gaining rapid access to locked rooms (including the release of master keys) in emergencies. The amended JSP 375 will also state that these procedures should be tested on a regular basis, including the arrangements for silent hours.

While overall responsibility for Health and Safety within the MOD rests with the Secretary of State, this is formally delegated through Permanent Under Secretary to Top Level Budget holders and Chief Executives, who in turn delegate to Commanding Officers and managers within their own area. In order to address your recommendation, the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, Defence Equipment and Support and Joint Forces Command have all directed that for sites within their control, either:

- Master or spare keys to all rooms will be held centrally in the guardroom (or similar where there is no guardroom); or
- that an alternative method of access to rooms will be available and known to duty staff on site.



The Defence Infrastructure Organisation have confirmed that they will assess the requirement on a site basis where they are Head of Establishment and identify a method of emergency access where appropriate.

I hope these measures are satisfactory and I thank you again for allowing us some extra time to consider how best to meet your recommendation. I am happy for you to copy this response to other Interested Persons and the Chief Corner.

With an good will,



ANNA SOUBRY MP