



National Offender
Management Service

**Equality, Rights and Decency
Group**

National Offender Management Service
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Email: [REDACTED]

Mr Tony Brown LLM
HM Senior Coroner
North Northumberland
17 Church Street
Berwick-Upon-Tweed
TD15 1EE

December 2014

Dear Mr Brown,

**Regulation 28 Report concerning the inquest into the death of Vincent Oliver
on 4th July 2013 at HMP Birmingham**

Thank you for your report addressed to the Director [REDACTED] dated 9 October concerning the inquest into the death of Vincent Oliver who died at HMP Northumberland on 4th July 2013. Your letter has been passed to Equality, Rights and Decency Group in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), to respond to as we are responsible for the policy on suicide prevention and self-harm management and for sharing learning from deaths in custody.

You raised concerns at the inquest about staff receiving responses from prisoners when they are unlocked.

PSI 75/2011 Residential Services at chapter 2.3 offers the following guidance,

“The appropriate arrangements will depend on the local regime, but there need to be clearly understood systems in place for staff to assure themselves of the well being of prisoners during or shortly after unlock. For example, if a prisoner is expected to leave their cell for an activity shortly after being unlocked, then it will be sufficient for there to be a check on any prisoner who does not do so. Where prisoners are not necessarily expected to leave their cell, staff will need to check on their well-being, for example by obtaining a response during the unlock process.”

In order to address this issue HMPS Northumberland have introduced a system for recording in writing that wellbeing checks of prisoners have taken place throughout the day. The wing diaries have been amended to reflect the change and the system was in place from Sunday 16th November 2014. I attach copies of the relevant Director's Order and Notice to Prisoners.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Sarah Anderson

NOMS Equality, Rights and Decency Group