

26 MAY 2015



National Offender  
Management Service

**Equality, Rights and Decency  
Group**

National Offender Management Service  
4th Floor, Clive House,  
70 Petty France,  
London, SW1H 9HD

Email: [REDACTED]

Simon Wickens  
HM Assistant Coroner  
HM Coroner's Court  
Station Approach  
Woking  
Surrey  
GU22 7AP

20 May 2015

Dear Mr Wickens

**RE: the death of Mr Keith Murphy on 18 July 2013 at HMP Coldingley**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report dated 25 March addressed to Michael Spurr, Chief Executive Officer of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), and Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England, following the inquest into the death of Keith Murphy at HMP Coldingley on 18 July 2013. Your letter has been passed to Equality Rights and Decency Group in NOMS to respond, as we have responsibility for policy on suicide prevention and self-harm reduction and for sharing learning from deaths in custody. I am responding on behalf of both NOMS and NHS England as the two matters that you have raised are of shared concern. I will address each in turn.

First Aid training for prison staff

PSI 01/2014 First Aid describes the process for ensuring effective provision of first aid that enables NOMS to discharge its duty of care to its employees, to prisoners and to visitors to our premises. Governors are required to ensure that at all times such a number of suitably trained first aiders as is sufficient and appropriate for the circumstances at their prison is available. A First Aid risks/needs assessment is undertaken by the local Health and Safety Advisor to determine the appropriate numbers. Governors must ensure that first aiders are trained to levels which are appropriate for the circumstances and hold a valid certificate of competence in either First Aid at Work (FAW) Or Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW).

This policy is being implemented at HMP Coldingley. In order to ensure that a trained member of staff is always available, all Custodial Managers (CMs) are being trained. At present, all but two of the CMs at the prison have been trained, and those two members of staff will be provided with training as soon as they return to duty. HMP Coldingley also uses a monthly closedown of the prisoner regime to provide opportunities for training for the wider staff group and this includes instruction on CPR and on the use of defibrillators.

Out of hour's healthcare provision

At HMP Coldingley there is access to on-site healthcare practitioners from 7.30am – 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am – 5.30pm at weekends. When prisoners require access to healthcare advice outside of these hours the local GP out of hour's service, provided by Care UK, is used. This service offers telephone advice or a visit to the prison to assess the

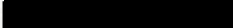
needs of the prisoner as appropriate. This arrangement is considered to be equivalent to what is available in the community. Where prisoners are perceived to require access to emergency and lifesaving care the local Ambulance Trust (South East Coast Ambulance NHS Trust) is called for an emergency response.

The size (531) and nature of the population at the prison, which is composed of prisoners who have been assessed by staff in other prisons as suitable to be accommodated at HMP Coldingley, is not believed to require the provision of on-site healthcare staffing out of hours. A recent Health Needs Assessment, commissioned through the NHS England South East Health and Justice commissioning team, confirms that the existing healthcare arrangements meet the needs of the prisoner population at the establishment.

I hope that this response provides reassurance that the concerns that you have raised have been considered, and that, where appropriate, action has been taken to address them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'S' or 'J' with a vertical line through it, enclosed in a circular scribble.

  
NOMS Equality, Rights and Decency Group