



National Offender
Management Service

Equality, Rights and Decency
Group

National Offender Management Service
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Mr David Osborne
Assistant Coroner,
Norwich
69-75 Thorpe Road
Norwich
Norfolk NR1 1UA

14 September 2015

Dear Mr Osborne,

Regulation 28 report concerning the inquest into the death of Davin Short on 4 October 2011 at HMP Wayland

Thank you for your report addressed to Matthew Spooner, Head of Safer Custody and Equality at HMP Wayland, dated 29 June 2015, concerning the inquest into the death of Mr Davin Short. I understand that you have already received a response from [REDACTED]. This was sent because he was not aware that it is our policy for the Equality, Rights and Decency Group to respond to all such reports addressed to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), as we have responsibility for sharing learning from all deaths in prison custody in England and Wales. I would like to bring to your attention some information that was not included in his response, and I am grateful for the additional time that you have permitted me to do so.

The two concerns that you raise in your report are as follows:

(1) During the course of the hearing I heard evidence that the prison did not have electronic system for recording cell bells and it was left to the discretion of individual officers whether to record a cell bell call in the Wing Record. I am therefore concerned that without guidance as to the making of a record of a cell bell call of medical nature an important matter may be overlooked with risk to life.

(2) I also heard evidence that although there were now adequate radios for all three healthcare staff it was not made clear that if a single member of healthcare were on duty he or she must have a radio. I am therefore concerned that without a specific guidance, there is a risk that a single member of healthcare may not have a radio causing delay in responding to an emergency call and possible risk to life.

As you know, each wing at HMP Wayland has a cell call system, but, unlike in some prisons of more recent construction, calls are not recorded electronically, and it is not therefore possible to conduct an analysis of the number of calls or the time taken to answer them. There are currently no plans to introduce a system that permits electronic recording of calls, as this would be prohibitively expensive.

In response to your first concern, the attached Governor's Order was issued at HMP Wayland on 30 June 2015. It instructs staff to record medical issues that occur during the night in the wing observation book to ensure that they are brought to the attention of relevant staff the next day. The Local Security Strategy has been amended to reflect this procedure.

In response to your second concern, as you were informed at the inquest, a new radio system with an additional number of radios has been introduced at HMP Wayland since Mr Short's death. All healthcare staff are now routinely issued with radios upon arrival at the prison and this enables them to respond to emergency calls without delay.

I hope this provides assurance that your concerns have been addressed.

Yours sincerely




NOMS Equality, Rights and Decency Group