

**IN THE SURREY CORONER'S COURT**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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**The Inquests Touching the Death of Keith John MURPHY  
A Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

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|   | <p><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</b></p> <p>Michael Spurr, The National Offender Management Service, (in relation to paragraph 5 (1))<br/>The Chief Executive of NHS England (in relation to paragraph 5 (2))</p>  |
| 1 | <p><b>CORONER</b><br/>Simon Wickens HM Assistant Coroner for Surrey</p>   |
| 2 | <p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b><br/>I make this report under paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 5 to The Coroners and Justice Act 2009.</p>  |
| 3 | <p><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b><br/>The inquest into <b>Keith John Murphy's</b> death was opened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 was resumed with a jury on 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2015. The Jury returned their conclusion on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015.</p> <p>The jury found the cause of death was:<br/>1a – Ischaemic Heart Disease<br/>1b – Coronary Artery Atheroma/ SPICE (Synthetic Cannabinoid) Toxicity</p> <p>The Jury returned box 3 as:</p> <p>On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, Keith John Murphy was pronounced dead by paramedic staff at 20.37hrs at Shaftsbury Road, Bisely. Mr. Murphy's death was caused by Ischemic Heart Disease and Coronary Artery Atheroma. He had a history of both smoking and also drug use in later life. Mr. Murphy displayed uncharacteristic behaviors such as aggression, abnormal movements, dehydration and profuse sweating. He also admitted to using 'Spice'. The ingestion of a synthetic cannabinoid had a more than minimal contribution to Mr. Murphy's death.</p> |

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|   | <p>And their conclusion was;<br/>Natural Causes hastened by the use of synthetic cannabinoid.</p>  |
| 4 | <p><b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</b></p> <p>On the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, Keith John Murphy was noted by other prisoners and staff to be physically ill and to be acting in such a manner that appeared to indicate he might have taken some form of drug. He later admitted to another prisoner and a member of staff he had taken SPICE. As a consequence of him refusing to take medical advice to attend hospital, he was locked in his cell. Later Mr Murphy was found on the cell floor and an ambulance was called. Prison Officers attempted to assist Mr Murphy until the paramedics arrived. There was some confusion over whether the defibrillator was working or not. Such was the extent of the Ischemic Heart Disease that any assistance in the circumstances would have been unlikely to have saved Mr Murphy.</p> <p>The inquest further heard that between the hours of 7am and 6.30pm prisoners had access to on site Healthcare staff and Prison Staff had the benefit of their guidance when dealing with prisoners. After this period reliance is placed upon either Thamesdoc or an Ambulance being called with the associated time delay in their arriving at the prison. The Court further heard that in a prison of over 500 inmates, from 6.30pm to 7am one person would be available who was first aid trained.</p> |
| 5 | <p><b><u>CORONER'S CONCERNS</u></b></p> <p>During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed a number matters that gave rise to a concern that circumstances creating a risk of other deaths will continue to exist in the future unless action is taken.</p> <p>The <b>MATTERS OF CONCERN</b> are as follows. –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Action is required to ensure that Prison Officers and Staff with direct access to prisoners have basic first aid training, CPR training and familiarisation with the use of a defibrillator.</li> <li>2. Action is required to ensure someone from Healthcare is available beyond the current arrangement of 7am – 6.30pm to provide an</li> </ol>   |

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| 6 | <p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe that the National Offender Management Service and NHS England have the power to take such action.</p>  |
| 7 | <p><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of its date; I may extend that period on request.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for such action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p> |
| 8 | <p><b>COPIES</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of this report to the Interested Persons in the Inquest and the Chief Coroner.</p>  |
| 9 | <p><b>Signed:</b></p> <p><i>Simon Wickens</i></p> <p><b>DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015.</b></p>  |