



Ministry of JUSTICE

National Offender
Management Service

Senior Caseworker: Safer Custody
Casework
Safer Custody and Public Protection
Group
National Offender Management Service
4.15 Clive House
70 Petty France
London SW1H 9EX

Mr Brendan Allen
HM Assistant Coroner for the County of Dorset

BY EMAIL ONLY

15 December 2016

Dear Mr Allen

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent a Future Deaths, addressed to the Governor, James Lucas, concerning the recent inquest into the death of Wayne Cornlauer at HMP Portland on 24 October 2014. Your Report has been passed to the casework team in the Safer Custody and Public Protection Group (SCPPG) in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), as we have responsibility for the policy on suicide prevention and self-harm management and for sharing learning from deaths in custody. This letter is shared with you following consultation with colleagues at Portland, and I am very grateful to you for allowing us a short extension to finalise this response.

I note your concern that all staff at Portland need to be aware of the local Night Order which has been amended to include reference to the emergency codes and the requirement to call an ambulance promptly when staff use such a code.

I can confirm that the relevant Notice to Staff was re-issued on 28 September 2016. This reminds all staff that an emergency code, either Red or Blue, must be called when there are serious concerns about the health of a prisoner, and that on receiving either emergency code the gate staff are required to request an ambulance. The Notice to Staff also confirms the nature of the injuries that should prompt the use of each of the emergency codes, and the further information that it is helpful to pass on to assist the local Ambulance Service. In addition, the local emergency code protocol has been distributed to all areas of the establishment and is displayed in prominent areas for easy reference, including the communications room.

In addition to a copy of the emergency code protocol and the Notice to Staff, all existing staff will receive a personal briefing from their head of function. The induction programme for all new staff is being updated to include guidance on the local emergency protocol.

Finally, the prison and the South Western Ambulance Service are intending to undertake a joint exercise in the near future to reassure both organisations that staff understand the local protocol and will follow required procedures in a real emergency.

I hope this letter reassures you that the Governor of Portland has taken steps to ensure that all operational staff are familiar with the local emergency code protocol.

Yours sincerely

pp. *Sae*

