



Ministry of
JUSTICE

National Offender
Management Service

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Safer Custody and Public Protection
Group
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Mr A Rebello OBE
Senior Coroner
H M Coroner's Court
Gerard Majella Courthouse
Boundary Street
Liverpool
L5 2QD

17 January 2017

Dear Mr Rebello

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report dated 13 October 2016 addressed to the National Offender Management Service concerning the recent inquest into the death of Roy Hoey on 4 September 2014 at HMP Altcourse.

You have raised concerns about the confusion for the witnesses when different parts of the ACCT guidance were put to them and that this may lead to confusion as to what is required to apply the best practices of safer custody within prisons. Chapter 1 details the circumstances in which you **may** open an ACCT such as if a member of staff receives information or observes behaviour that indicates a change in risk. The policy states that the concerns should be reported and recorded in the appropriate documents. Chapter 5 states that the member of staff **must** open an ACCT if there are these concerns.

NOMS acknowledges the potential for confusion regarding the opening of an ACCT, and this will be resolved in the revision of PSI 64/2011 due for completion by the end of April 2017.

It is not the intention of the policy to require staff to open an ACCT automatically in every circumstance where a risk *may* be indicated but it is expected that they communicate their concerns immediately to the Residential, Daily or Night Operational Manager, consider opening an ACCT plan and make a record of their decision in an appropriate source, for example the observation book and PNOMIS.

I have passed on your concerns to the policy lead responsible for the revision of the policy, and they assure me that the revised version will be much easier for the staff to read and understand.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

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