



Ministry of JUSTICE OXFORDSHIRE CORONERS OFFICE

National Offender Management Service

- 2 JAN 2015

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National Offender Management Service
Offender Safety, Rights & Responsibilities
Group.
4th Floor (post point 4.12),
Clive House
70 Petty France
London SW1H 9HD

Mr D M Salter
Senior Coroner for Oxfordshire

29 December 2014

Dear Mr Salter,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 July addressed to Ian Young, Governor of HMP Bullingdon, concerning the inquest into the death of Marcin Stoga at Bullingdon on 24 April 2013. Your letter has been passed to Equality, Rights and Decency (ERD) Group, part of the National Management Service (NOMS), as we have responsible for policy on suicide prevention and self-harm management, and for sharing learning from deaths in custody. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to this letter. Unfortunately your letter was not received at HMP Bullingdon until 30 September and although I understand the Treasury Solicitor contacted your office to say that a response would be sent as soon as possible, this did not happen. I am very sorry that I have not been able to send you a reply before now.

In your Regulation 28 report, you expressed your concern that on Mr Stoga's arrival at HMP Bullingdon, the Prisoner Escort Record (PER) was not shared with prison officers or healthcare staff who initially interviewed and assessed Mr Stoga. The PER is the key document for ensuring that information about the risks posed to and by prisoners on external movement from prisons or transferred within the criminal justice system is available to those responsible for their custody. I am aware that you invited submissions on your draft Regulation 28 report to which the Treasury Solicitor responded on 18 July confirming that since the inquest into the death of Mr Stoga, the Deputy Governor had put in place a checklist to assist in the assessment of risk of self-harm and suicide. This checklist is completed by the Reception Receiving Officer and a healthcare professional when a prisoner returns from court, and acknowledges any risk information received, for example the Prisoner Escort Record. At that time, the checklist was being piloted at the prison, and I can now confirm that this checklist is being used routinely as part of the reception procedures at HMP Bullingdon.

You will, I am sure be interested to know that a Pilot Regional PER forum has met twice in the second part of this year at HMP Winchester attended by a wide range of key stakeholders and operational practitioners. The forums remit is to consider and develop improvements to the PER whilst addressing the recommendations from the HMIP Thematic Review and related ones from the Independent Police Complaints Commission and HM Coroners in response to deaths in custody. Whilst the Regional forum reports to a National Steering Group there has been much progress and it is intended to trial two revised PER's in the South Central Area in early 2015. The first is a "National" PER document for use by court escorts and for inter prison transfers and a "Local" PER for use in hospital and Police escorts. A key development for the National document is the inclusion of the Suicide and Self Harm Alert form within the core document and for both the National and Local document the introduction of an eye catching "Red Flag" page to record and capture any

risk/vulnerability information. This will provide all persons coming in to contact with the prisoner to record any concerns regarding the prisoner's welfare.

Your second concern related to evidence that Mr Stoga had not been assessed for risk of self harm on return from his court appearances. PSO 3050 "Continuity of Healthcare for Prisoners" states that "

6.2 Events that require a prisoner to leave the prison and pass back through prison reception can have a significant impact on the health of a prisoner. Examples of such events are as follows:

- * Court appearance
- * Sentencing at court
- * Return from home visit

6.3 For those prisoners passing through reception, prisons must have protocols in place for screening them for any potential healthcare, or suicide/self-harm issues

Evidence at the inquest confirmed that prisoners returning from court are seen by the Duty Reception Nurse to ascertain any change in circumstances, and assess whether there has been any impact on their risk of self-harm/suicide or to their mental health. In addition, staff can refer prisoners to healthcare at any time where they have concerns about a prisoner's mental health. Any returning prisoner subject to an ACCT, can be referred for a mental health assessment at any stage within the process.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.