



HM Prison & Probation Service

Safer Custody and Public Protection Group

Her Majesty's Prison and
Probation Service
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24 August 2017

Grahame Short
Senior Coroner for Central Hampshire
Coroner's Office
Castle Hill
The Castle
Winchester
SO23 8UL

Dear Mr Short,

Pre – Inquest reviews into the death of Sean Plumstead

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report addressed to The Governor, HMP Winchester, dated 9 August 2017, following the pre-inquest review hearings into the death of Sean Plumstead in September 2016.

Your report has been passed to Safer Custody and Public Protection Group (SCPPG), which has responsibility for the policy on suicide prevention and self-harm management and for sharing learning from deaths in custody.

The Governor takes her responsibility towards preventing future deaths very seriously and wishes to assure you that the concerns you raise have been addressed.

Her responses are laid out below.

1) HMP Winchester does have recordings of all telephone calls made by Mr Plumstead and will provide you with a copy as directed. HMP Winchester have always had copies of the calls but the system on which calls are accessed to be listened to is encrypted.

HMP Winchester does not have a dedicated typing resource. The prison have taken on a temporary member of staff to access the encrypted PIN system, which has just the one point of listening, to transcribe the calls. Once completed, copies will be made available to all interested parties.

They will be catalogued and stored within a secure storage facility.

In addition HMP Winchester have implemented a new protocol for information and evidence gathering from prison departments within specified timeframes. If these are not adhered to, matters will be escalated to the Governor.

The Governor is clear that these processes should prevent HMP Winchester from being in a similar position again.

2) The recordings of interviews with the two staff members have been located. The interview discs had been left unsecured and the Governor's secretary had secured them. Now the discs have been sourced, they have been transcribed and the transcripts have been shared with Government Legal Department and will be forwarded to yourself.

The Governor accepts that the discs should not have been left unsecured and apologises for the delay in sending you the transcripts of them.

As a result of this, the Head of Business Assurance at the prison is carrying out a review of accounting systems and storage of internal investigation material at HMP Winchester with a view to identifying and rectifying areas of weakness.

3) A secure storage facility for documentation regarding any death in custody was not previously available. This has now been ordered and it's security handling will be written into the current contingency plan for deaths in custody and managed by the Safer Custody team.

All material will be catalogued as evidence prior to its storage.

I hope that this response provides you with reassurance that HMP Winchester recognises the concerns you have raised and has addressed them.

The Governor confirms that she is happy to answer any further questions that may arise either from yourself, or from Mr Plumsteads' family.

Yours sincerely



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