



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Nicholas Rheinberg
Assistant Coroner
Preston and West Lancashire Coroners Court
2 Faraday Drive,
Fulwood,
Preston
PR2 9NB

09 January 2018

Dear Mr Rheinberg,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report of 29 November 2017 following the inquest into the death of Christopher Talbot at HMP Preston on 28 November 2014. You have addressed the report to the Governor and to Ministers, and I am responding because the matters of concern that you have raised are all within my area of responsibility. I am grateful to you for bringing them to my attention.

I know that you will share a copy of this response with Mr Talbot's family and I would like first to express my condolences for their loss. Every death in custody is a tragedy, and the safety of those in our care is my absolute priority.

Reception officer training

You have drawn attention to the importance of ensuring that training for reception officers includes their having access to PSI 07/2015 Early Days in Custody – Reception, First Night in Custody, and Induction to Custody.

Every member of staff in reception at HMP Preston has been provided with a copy of the PSI and set an objective to read and comply with it in their Staff Performance and Development Record. Line managers will monitor the achievement of this objective. Copies of the PSI are also available in the reception area.

You may also wish to be aware that we have introduced revised suicide and self-harm prevention training for all staff in HMPPS, and that at Preston staff working in reception are being given priority as this is rolled out.

Resuscitation aids

Your next concern is that not all staff at Preston carry resuscitation aids. Emergency boxes containing resuscitation aids are currently available on all residential units at the Prison, and there are plans for all staff with prisoner contact to be issued with them by June this year.

Sharing learning from deaths in custody

Your third concern is that staff at HMP Preston are not notified about the manner of each non-natural death that occurs. The establishment's contingency plans have been amended to instruct managers to provide relevant information to all staff in the event of future deaths at the prison.

We are committed to sharing learning from the circumstances of deaths as widely as possible across the estate; indeed, we frequently issue national learning bulletins to raise staff awareness of risks identified from them.

National instructions on procedures at night

Finally, you suggest that an instruction issued at HMP Preston about procedures at night could be issued nationally. We have reviewed the content of this local instruction, and found that it has been drawn from existing national policies, including PSI 64/2011 Safer Custody, PSI 24/2011 Management and Security of Nights and PSI 63/2011 Management of the Local Security Strategy. As a result I am satisfied that no further action is necessary, as the relevant instructions are already in place across the estate.

Thank you again for bringing these matters of concern to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Michael Spurr". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael Spurr