



**HM Prison &  
Probation Service**

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21 November 2018

Dear Mr Leach,

**Inquest into the death of Nicola Lawrence**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report of 23 October addressed to the Governor of HMP New Hall, following the conclusion of the inquest into the death of Nicola Lawrence. As Chief Executive Officer I am responding on behalf of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

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

I am grateful to you for bringing to my attention your concern that some prison staff at HMP New Hall have not received cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, either as part of initial training or as refresher training.

You may be aware that our approach is set out in PSI 29/2015 First Aid, which does not mandate first aid training for all staff, but requires Governors of public sector prisons to ensure that there are at all times sufficient suitably trained first aiders available. The appropriate number must be determined by conducting a first aid risk assessment, and first aiders must be trained to levels which are appropriate to the circumstances - to either First Aid at Work (FAW) level or Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) level.

The Governor at HMP New Hall has reviewed the band/grade and number of staff who need to be trained in first aid, and the number of such staff required on duty at times throughout the day. The prison currently has 40 staff trained in FAW and 48 in EFAW, and these numbers are considered to be sufficient to ensure that an appropriate response can be provided in any emergency situation that may arise at any time.

In April 2018, a notice was issued by the Governor to all staff trained in first aid reminding them of the importance of responding promptly to an emergency.

Thank you again for bringing these matters of concern to my attention. I hope that this response provides assurance that lessons have been learned from the circumstances of Nicola Lawrence's tragic death.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Spurr". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Spurr