

Ms Joanne Kearsley
Her Majesty's Senior Coroner
County of Greater Manchester – North District
The Phoenix Centre
L/Cpl Stephen Shaw MC Way
Heywood
OL10 1LR

[by email]

18 November 2019

Dear Ms Kearsley,

Prevent Future Deaths Report for Michael Hoolickin (Deceased)

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 August 2019 in relation to the Inquest into the death of Michael Hoolickin, along with the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths.

I was not previously aware of this incident, and I am very sorry to learn of the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Hoolickin. You will appreciate that I am unable to comment on the specific facts of this case, but I can address your concerns regarding policing practice more generally. I understand that you have made contact with the chief constables of Greater Manchester Police and Lancashire Constabulary, both whom will no doubt wish to respond separately in addressing the issues you have raised with specific reference to the actions of their respective forces.

It is important to understand the distinct role of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). As you know, each chief constable is ultimately responsible for operational matters within their own force area, which includes all of those issues referred to within the matters of concern you have raised. Whilst the NPCC seeks to encourage chief constables to work collaboratively in the national interest (for example, the way in which forces implement policies or practice), the NPCC does not have the authority to direct a chief constable to take (or not to take) a specific course of action. That said, we do recognise the need for consistency across forces whenever possible, which we know can lead to better outcomes for the public. The way the NPCC



achieves this is by allocating specific areas of national responsibility to different chief officers in various forces across the country. These chief officers act as the NPCC's national lead on specific matters of policy and practice on behalf of their colleagues across all forces.

Your report raises a number of very important matters of concern:

1. *Serious Further Offence Reviews*
2. *Curfew Requirements*
3. *Police National Computer and Licence Conditions*
4. *Integrated Working*
5. *Integrated Offender Management Cohort Meetings*

In order to provide a useful response to the matters of concern you have raised, it has been necessary for me to consult with a number of national leads across several portfolios. I am unfortunately not able to provide you with a full response to all of your concerns today because some of those I have consulted with are still in the process of considering the matters of concern, and no doubt further consulting with subject matter experts. However, I hope you are willing to accept this letter in part response to the issues raised.

I have discussed the matters of Integrated working (concern 4) and Integrated Offender Management (concern 5) with the national lead for this area, Deputy Chief Constable Jon Stratford of Gloucestershire Constabulary. DCC Stratford advises me that unlike Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Integrated Offender Management (IOM) operates on a non-statutory basis. The agencies involved commit to joint working voluntarily in furtherance of their individual aims and because it is in the public interest for them to do so. This means that the precise nature of each IOM scheme is very much a function of the local partnership landscape, circumstances and priorities. The resultant diverse range of ways of working does not lend itself to strict codification at a national level, however IOM guidance does exist, and I have attached to this letter two "IOM Key Principles" guidance documents that have been designed to provide best practice guidance within which local schemes can operate.

The guidance documents attached do specify the need for effective information sharing. For example, paragraph 1.6 of the 2015 document states that "all necessary Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs), protocols and processes are in place to ensure swift and appropriate real time sharing of information and intelligence". However, the precise ISA and ways of working must be built around the needs and ways of working of each individual scheme, which is impractical to provide at a national level. The guidance also describes cohort selection in detail, again emphasising the requirement for this to be tailored to meet local needs.



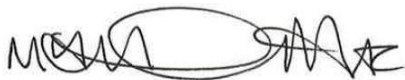
Being statutory in nature, MAPPA arrangements will always have primacy over IOM schemes although, as set out in the Key Principle documentation, IOM working can be useful in complementing the measures agreed in MAPPA.

I am therefore content that sufficient IOM guidance does exist to support forces alongside the statutory requirements of MAPPA, but as I described earlier, it is a matter for each chief constable to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place within their force. In order to encourage learning from this Inquest, it is my intention to share your report, this response and the IOM guidance with chief constable colleagues in all forces across the country, in case there are areas of practice within their own force which they feel may benefit from review.

I am sorry that at this stage I have been unable to provide you with a response to matters of concern 1, 2 and 3. I assure you these are being carefully considered by subject matter experts, and I will endeavour to provide a full response to these recommendations in the coming days.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on the areas of concern you have identified. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further queries about the content of this letter.

Yours Sincerely,



Martin Hewitt QPM
Chair, National Police Chiefs' Council

