




HM Prison & Probation Service


Director General Prisons
HM Prison and Probation Service
8th Floor Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

John Hobson
H.M Assistant Coroner for West Yorkshire
Station Approach
Woking
GU22 7AP

22 September 2021

Dear Mr Hobson,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report dated 16 July 2021 addressed to the Ministry of Justice following the inquest into the death of Joanna Daly at HMP New Hall on 02 June 2019. I am responding as Director General for Prisons.

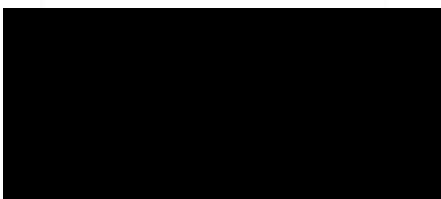
I know that you will share a copy of this response with Ms Daly's family, and I would like to first express my sincere condolences for their loss, every death in custody is a tragedy.

You have expressed concern that there is no specific guidance provided to prison staff regarding what is required to be undertaken during a welfare check.

Since Ms Daly's death, HMP New Hall has introduced new processes to improve the quality of welfare checks. In July 2021, a notice to staff was issued covering First Night Centre welfare checks during night state – most easily described to those not familiar with the term as the time during the night whereby all people in custody are residing within their cells and no activity occurs out of cell. The notice revised previous instructions and clarified that staff must now obtain a response from a resident in the First Night Centre. The notice details the times welfare checks should take place, the purpose of the welfare check and what is required from a welfare check. It also reminds staff to create a record summary for all those in custody during the night state on the National Offender Management Information System (an electronic record of all individuals in custody). These changes have also been included in HMP New Hall's local operating instructions, which were published in July 2021.

Thank you again for bringing your concern to my attention. I trust that this response provides assurance that this is an issue that we take seriously, and that appropriate action has been taken.

Yours sincerely,



Director General for Prisons