

Our Ref: FB/DIC/A.FLYNN

HM Coroner Ms J Leeming
Bolton Coroners Court
Paderborn House
Howell Croft North
Bolton
BL1 1QY



02 January 2014

Dear Ms J Leeming

Re: Regulation 28 correspondence Mr Anthony Flynn

In response to your report dated 14 November 2013 sent under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and Regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013 and as a result of the inquest into the death by natural causes of Mr Anthony Flynn at HMP Forest Bank; I have reviewed the training of prison officers in relation to escorting prisoners, particularly during hospital visits and the procedures for making clinicians, particularly hospital clinicians, aware of their powers in relation to prisoners attending for treatment within HMP Forest Bank.

I set out below the action which has been taken by the prison and future plans which we are endeavouring to implement in the New Year.

A Safer Custody, Cell Sharing Risk Assessment (CSRA) and Escort & Bedwatch awareness days have been planned to take place on 22nd, 23rd and 24th January 2014. Our aim is to speak to all staff (including non operational staff). Part of the sessions will include an examination of the Escort & Bedwatch paperwork and the conduct expected of staff. Speakers will include; [REDACTED] Safer Custody Manager, [REDACTED] Safer Custody Senior Officer, [REDACTED] Operations Manager and [REDACTED] Quality Assurance and Risk Co-ordinator. Following the event, a small questionnaire will be completed by each member of staff to ensure they have gained sufficient knowledge in each area.

In addition, a programme of training for prison officers who conduct escorts (particularly during hospital visits) is being implemented. This will include a guide to good practice and will reinforce the behaviour we expect of officers whilst performing bedwatch duties. The officers will be made aware that failure to adhere to such standards may result in disciplinary action.

I enclose a copy of the escort/bedwatch booklet which has been prepared to give to staff to remind them of their duties whilst out on escort and to ensure staff are conversant within the arrangements for the removal of restraints where there is an immediate risk to the health of the prisoner or to facilitate essential treatment.

The booklet is also going to be used for training purposes and staff will be asked to sign to say that they have received the training and understand what is expected of them.

A Prison Manager will visit the hospital at least once in each 24 hours. During the visit, there will be an assessment of the current security arrangements to ensure that they remain as previously assessed and where possible take into account the views of medical staff, subject to their availability.

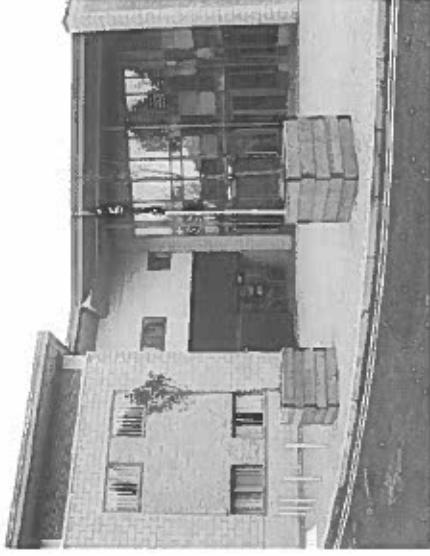
Finally, I was concerned to learn that [REDACTED] letter did not receive the attention that it should have. Accepting entirely that the letter should have been acknowledged and dealt with, an Operational Instruction has been re-issued to remind and reinforce to staff that all correspondence received regarding a prisoner should be sent to the Performance Delivery Unit which will examine, record and liaise with the relevant department to ensure that a coordinated response is provided within a maximum of 20 working days. I enclose a copy of the Operational Instruction which was recently re issued.

I am grateful to you for the matters you have raised and trust you find my response to be appropriate and helpful.

Yours sincerely



Director



- Restraints must not be used to attach a prisoner to furniture or any other fixture and fitting.
- Ensure that an in-patient prisoner wears night clothes and that all day clothes are returned to the prison.
- The prisoner must use plastic cutlery when having his meals.
- If the prisoner is not restrained, position yourself as close as possible, between the prisoner and any exit.
- Two officers should be at the bedside at all times except when using the toilet facilities.
- All escort equipment, including restraints must be checked at least once each hour and the occurrence log and PER signed to that effect.
- A Manager should visit you at least once in each 24 hour period. This visit must be recorded in the occurrence log.
- You should provide the prison with regular reports at intervals of no more than 4 hourly or more frequently in the light of events.
- When restraints are in use, if a Healthcare Professional (e.g. Doctor, Nurse, Ambulance Officer, Paramedic) asks for them to be removed because of a immediate risk to the health of the prisoner, or because the restraints are impeding essential treatment they **must be removed.**
- The escort staff must notify the Duty Manager as soon as possible, in case additional security arrangements need to be made
- Similarly, if a Healthcare professional seeks the removal of restraints because although immediate treatment is not required, they are impeding examination or treatment, the restraints should be removed unless there is a risk of the prisoner escaping.
- Whilst conducting escort and bedwatch duties staff are representing SJS and should remain professional at all times including when taking meal breaks.
- Staff should be courteous to all hospital staff and anyone visiting the prisoner whilst maintaining the security of the escort/bedwatch.

Escort and Bedwatch Guidance

HMP Forest Bank

