



National Offender
Management Service

28 JAN 2015

[REDACTED]
Head of Custodial Contracts & PECS
National Offender Management Service
3rd Floor, Clive House
70 Petty France
London SW1H 9EX

Mr C P Dorries
HM Senior Coroner
The Medico-Legal Centre
Watery Street
Sheffield
S3 7ET

27th January 2015

Dear Sir

RE: Peter Stanley Deceased (ref 14cmj210.Stanley)

I write to acknowledge receipt of your Regulation 28 notice which you have redirected from our contractor Geo Amey to myself as Head of the Prisoner Escort Custody Service (PECS).

Although PECS only implement policy on safer custody which is set by NOMS centrally rather than redirect your notice for a third time I am content to respond on behalf of the wider organisation and have copied the appropriate policy lead into this correspondence.

I note your recommendation that a prisoner escort record (PER) is routinely handed over from the police to the private escort contractor when the prisoner is produced before the Magistrates which contains details of risks, self harm issues, medical attention and warning markers and that this information should be routinely shared with the Youth Offending Service.

I can confirm that PECS entirely accepts your recommendation and we have reviewed our contractor's operational policies to ensure that their staff understand and adhere to this in future.

We already contractually require Geo Amey to comply with NOMS policy which in this case is set out in Prison Service Instruction 64/2011 (Management of prisoners at risk of harm to self and others (Safer Custody)).

PECS has agreed with the police via ACPO that information on risk relating to detainees (including risk of self-harm and suicidal intent) is communicated via the Prisoner Escort Record (PER) form. It is this information supported by the receiving staff's own dynamic assessment of risk that informs the form of care the individual will receive. This may in exceptional circumstances include the removal of clothing, continuous observation by staff etc but this is not the normal default position. Our policy and adherence to it is subject to periodic review by NOMS Internal Audit and external assessment by HM Inspectorate of Prisons as part of their Court Custody Expectations visits.

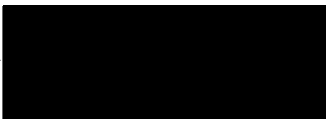
The content of the PER form can be shared with any appropriate party who needs access to the prisoner in order to conduct interviews or assessments. We have taken steps to remind Geo Amey that employees of the Youth Offending Service clearly fall into this category. This will be reinforced in staff briefings and safer custody training going forward.

NOMS is currently reviewing the format and content of the PER form as part of our work with the Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody. I will ensure that the findings of this inquest are communicated to the NOMS team involved in this work.

I will also feedback any learning and outcomes of this meeting to NOMS Safer Custody Team in order that it can contribute to the development of our own policies and procedures going forward.

I can confirm I have no issue with this response being shared in full with the Chief Coroner.

Yours faithfully.



Head of PECS

cc:  SCDM Geo Amey PECS contracts
 NOMS Safer Custody