



Keeping our communities  
safe and reassured



From the office of Assistant Chief Constable Investigative Services

Mr Ian Smith  
HM Coroner  
547 Hartshill Road  
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 6HF

H.M.C. JS  
16 JUN 2015  
STOKE-ON-TRENT AND  
NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Direct Line: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
Our Ref: [REDACTED]  
Your Ref : [REDACTED]

Date: 12 June 2015

Dear Mr Smith

**Nicholas ROWLEY (Deceased)**

**Date of Birth: 27/07/1977 Date of Death: 02/10/2011**

With reference to the Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths following the inquest into the death in police custody of Nicholas Rowley dated 15 April 2015, the response to the issues raised by yourself, from Staffordshire Police are as follows :

1. Guidance has been issued to all custody trained staff and our medical services provider, Nestor Primecare, to ensure that a verbal update is given by the medical practitioner to the appropriate Custody Sergeant following any consultation of a detained person by such a medical practitioner within the custody environment. This will be captured within Force Policy which is being reviewed currently, and tested through the monthly QA process already in place.
2. A Custody Training sub-group has been created to oversee the training of all custody personnel. This sub-group will report directly to the Force Custody, Mental Health and Vulnerability Steering Group, which I currently chair. The first meeting of this sub-group will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015, and will include the following personnel :
  - a. Head of Custody
  - b. Learning and Development Manager, People Services
  - c. Custody Managers
  - d. Custody Detention Services Provider (Resource Group – Training Manager)
  - e. Custody Detention Services Provider – Contract Manager

The group will plan and oversee the training programme for custody personnel in Staffordshire, and consideration for joint training will be given for all future subject matter.

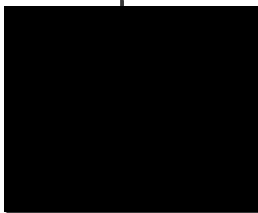
3. Further guidance has recently been issued with regard to the correct levels of observation, although we will consider further training to supplement and enhance this guidance.

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4. Custody Officers and medical practitioners have been instructed to specify the agreed level of observation within the custody record and to avoid the use of such phrases as *'I agree with the current observation level'* or *'Continue observations at the current level'*. This will be monitored within the monthly monitoring process and feedback provided where necessary.
5. Training will be secured by the Force regarding the risks and dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, including Methadone intoxication and alcohol withdrawal. This will be built into the aforementioned training programme.

I believe that we have learned lessons from this very tragic incident and we will continue to strengthen and develop our practices and policy within the custody environment. The scrutiny that is now in place over custody within Staffordshire Police is far greater now that has been previously and we will strive to make our custody facilities as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely



T/Assistant Chief Constable

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