



# Ministry of JUSTICE

National Offender  
Management Service

**National Offender Management Service**  
Equality, Rights & Decency Group.  
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Clive House  
70 Petty France  
London SW1H 9HD

Her Majesty's Coroner M E Hassall  
Senior Coroner Inner North London

10 November 2015

Dear Ms Hassall

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report dated 16 September and addressed to the Governor of HMP Pentonville concerning the recent inquest into the death of Adil Habib who died on 31 October 2014. Your report has been passed to the Equality, Rights and Decency Group (ERDG) in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), as we have responsibility for the policy on suicide prevention and self-harm management and for sharing learning from deaths in custody.

In your letter you raise concern that the national training for search and restraint does not cover those situations where a prisoner is at risk of choking after attempting to conceal an item during control and restraint procedures. You will be aware that the Chief Executive of NOMS accepted the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's recommendation that clear guidance and training be given on the safe use of force, including pain compliance techniques, when resistant prisoners have items in their mouths, which might compromise their breathing. In the response, NOMS confirmed that a DVD was being produced to aid staff training in the safe use of force, in conjunction with current medical advice, and that NOMS would consider the best way to include specific guidance within the DVD on what action should be taken where items are concealed in a resistant prisoner's mouth.

I can confirm that the DVD has been completed and that the accompanying training material has been prepared and is out for consultation with key stakeholders. I can also confirm that the DVD includes medical advice related to the use of control and restraint and covers:

- Principles of safe restraint
- Medical complications of restraint
- Mechanics of breathing
- Restraint asphyxia
- Medical conditions and risk factors
- Medical emergencies

The DVD will be sent to all prison Governors by Christmas along with a Notice to Governors advising them of the content and that it should be made available for all operational staff to view. The content will be reinforced in due course when all operation staff receive updated control and restraint training from the National Control & Restraint Instructors. It is expected that the roll out of training will commence in January 2016. All Prison Officer Entry Level Trainees (POELTs) will receive training relating to the contents of this DVD from in December.

I hope you find the contents of this letter have been helpful in providing some assurance that the concerns that you have raised have been, or are being, addressed by NOMS.

Yours sincerely

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