



**Ministry of
JUSTICE**

National Offender
Management Service



National Offender Management Service
North East Area

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14th January 2016

Statement for HM Coroner in relation to the Emergency Code Protocol

Sir

Following the death of Mr Kevin Anthony Forster on 14th September 2015, while in custody at HMP Durham, the following actions have already been taken by the prison to ensure all staff have a full understanding of the Emergency Code Protocol which covers the use of Codes Blue and Red. These steps were taken prior to the Inquest occurring and were in response to the comments made by the Prison Probation Ombudsmen Report and also from the prison's own learning exercise that was undertaken following this death.

All current staff either directly employed, those employed by HM Prison Service or non-directly employed, those employed by partner agencies for example G4S and Manchester College have signed to say they have full understanding of the protocol and how to implement it. Line managers have satisfied themselves prior to staff signing that the staff members are fully aware as to how the protocol works by gauging their verbal responses to the protocol.

All staff have been issued with pocket sized cards explaining the protocol.

All residential areas which are the wings on which prisoners live have displayed the protocol in bold colours in prominent places which are A4 size. These posters can be located in the wing main offices which everyone attending a wing must report to.

A Governors Notice to Staff has been issued to ensure that all new staff either directly or non-directly employed attend the Safer Custody department and receive a full explanation of the Emergency Code Protocol

as part of the joining process. When safer custody staff are satisfied they have full understanding they sign to this effect and are issued with a pocket size card from the Safer Custody department.

The Emergency Protocol has been an agenda item on monthly team meetings with staff and the protocol fully explained. It is also discussed at the Safer Prisons meeting as part of a wider discussion on deaths in custody. The Deputy Governor has addressed the emergency protocol issue with all functional heads at meetings and this has been cascaded to staff by line managers

The Governor has issued a notice to staff which has been sent out by email and is on the intranet.

The Governor also used a full staff meeting to raise this issue with staff.

Yours Sincerely

A Turpin

Mrs Alison Turpin
Head of Safer Prisons and Equalities HMP Durham