



# College of Policing

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Peter J Bedford  
Senior Coroner for Berkshire  
Reading Town Hall  
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**[Via email]**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Mr Bedford

**REF: PJB MILLS**

I am writing in response to your letter of 17 March 2016 and Regulation 28 Report into the death of Mr Philmore Mills at Wexham Park Hospital, Slough on 27 December 2011.

The role of the College of Policing is to develop knowledge, education and standards within policing to improving the service provided to the public. To support this the College sets standards for the learning, delivery and assessment of personal safety training. The College keeps this guidance under continual review and has updated and amended it in line with learning that has arisen from operational incidents, legal and coronial findings.

A suite of standards and learning products are available designed to safeguard the safety of police personnel and members of the public. The products are focused on avoiding conflict situations where possible. However, guidance on they include guidance on how to restrain people in the most effective and safest way is also included. Chief constables will use these standards and products to train their staff.

The College is a permanent representative of the national Self Defence & Restraint (SDAR) Working Group and together with the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead continues to engage with partners, including leading healthcare professionals, to help ensure the latest medical, legal and tactical developments are considered. The risks associated with the conditions know as Acute Behavioural Disorder (ABD) and Positional Asphyxia (PA) are firmly embedded in wider police training, and remain central tenets of mandatory Personal Safety Training.

Your specific matters of concern and our response are outlined below:

- 1. National training products in use at the time made no reference to the tactic of containment as an option for managing a subject who is displaying signs of excited delirium.**

It is important to note that the concept of 'containment' affects many strands of policing (tactical communication, hostage negotiation, Public Order, Firearms etc.) and is not limited to Personal Safety Training. The common factor to each of these strands is the National Decision Model (NDM), which helps to ensure timely and consistent 'use of force' decisions - often in complex and fast-moving events. The NDM also helps to ensure that officers' actions are proportionate, lawful, accountable and necessary in the circumstances.

These important wider issues, which include concepts such as containment, are central to the National Personal Safety Manual, training and guidance.

The delivery of Personal Safety Training, including the risks associated with ABD and PA, were subject of a recent national quality assurance programme, led by the College. This piece of work was commissioned by the National Policing Lead to help enhance the policing response and ensure compliance with the National Personal Safety Manual. This undertaking has led to the production of a national training video, which reinforces the medical implications of restraint and good practice elements including the tactic of 'containment'. This video is scheduled to form part of the national Personal Safety Training Programme for 2016/17.

Having reviewed your observations and for completeness, a specific reference to 'containment' will be added to the ABD/PA chapter of the National Personal Safety Manual to make explicit what is currently implicit.

- 2. National training products in use at the time did not provide information that the medical consequences of the use of the take down procedure as a means of restraining a subject could, in certain circumstances, include the risk of death as well as the risk of injury.**

The focus of the College in situations where confrontation between the police and the public is a realistic proposition is the safety of all. The use of a prone restraint remains an option for police officers, and although the technique presents challenges, it still represents a necessary tactical option in this type of situation.

Whilst the medical implications contained within the National Personal Safety Manual contain the inherent risks of harm to subjects who are restrained in a prone position further clarity will be added to reinforce that, in certain circumstances, there is a risk of death. I shall ensure that these are included within the next scheduled update.

I hope that this letter provides reassurance that the concerns raised in this report are addressed. I would like to thank you for drawing this matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Marshall  
Chief Executive