



# Ministry of JUSTICE

National Offender  
Management Service

[REDACTED]  
Equality, Rights and Decency Group  
National Offender Management Service  
4th Floor, 70 Petty France,  
London SW1H 9EX  
t: 0300 049 7051  
[REDACTED]

Mr Nicholas Rheinberg  
Senior Coroner for Cheshire

19 August 2016

Dear Mr Rheinberg

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report addressed to the Governing Governor of HMP Risley, concerning the recent inquest into the death of Kevin Dermott on 19 May 2014 at HMP Risley. Your report has been passed to the Equality, Rights and Decency (ERD) Group at NOMS headquarters, as we have responsibility for the policy on suicide prevention and self-harm management and for sharing learning from deaths in custody. I have consulted with the Governor in formulating this response.

You have identified a number of matters of concern regarding the implementation of the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process at the prison, and I will explain the steps that are being taken to address them.

The level and depth of management checks on the ACCT process have been increased. All ACCT documents are checked daily by Offender Supervisors, and an additional weekly check by a Custodial Manager is being introduced. The Head of Safer Custody will also be checking a sample of ACCT documents each week, and will continue to do so until he is satisfied that the standards have improved and that the relevant processes are embedded.

A Governor's Order will be issued setting out clearly which member of staff is responsible for which ACCT documents at which time, encouraging personal ownership and ensuring accountability. Staff who have not completed an ACCT document satisfactorily will be asked to account for their actions, and, where necessary, action will be escalated through a verbal warning, written warning or investigation for misconduct as appropriate. In support of this, all Offender Supervisors and Custodial Managers are being briefed about the importance of the ACCT process.

In order to ensure that any concerns that are raised about a prisoner are being acted upon, staff have been informed that they must contact the Safer Custody department, who will organise an immediate ACCT review for that day. If the named Offender Supervisor cannot attend it will be escalated to the "Oscar" group (comprised of three Offender Supervisors), and where they are not available it will be further escalated to the duty Custodial Manager (who is available 24 hours).

I hope that this provides you with reassurance that your concerns are being acted upon. HMP Risley will have these changes in place by the end of September 2016.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]