REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)

NOTE: This form is to be used after an inquest.

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

- **1.** Mr Michael Spurr, Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, 8th Floor, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ
- Governor at HMP Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury, Dorset

1 CORONER

I am Rachael Clare Griffin, Senior Coroner, for the Coroner Area of Dorset

2 CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.

3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On the 17th September 2016, an investigation was commenced into the death of Andrew Craig, born on the 1st November 1985.

The investigation concluded at the end of the Inquest on the 12th June 2018.

The Medical Cause of Death was:

1a Toxic Effects of Buprenorphine and Diazepam

The conclusion of the Inquest was misadventure.

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

On the 16th September 2016 Mr Craig, a serving Prisoner at HMP Guys Marsh, was found in a collapsed and unresponsive condition in his cell, B57 on the Wessex Unit at the Prison. Mr Craig suffered with back pain and he had disclosed that he was obtaining non-prescribed, prescription drugs on the Unit which he was taking illicitly.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows:

1. During the inquest evidence was heard that:

- i. The use of drugs on the Units are HMP Guys Marsh is rife and these drugs can be transferred between inmates at any time when the cells are unlocked due to their association with each other. At this time, there are Officers or staff on duty who will be able to monitor such activity.
- ii. When Prisoners are locked in their cells at HMP Guys Marsh, some can open their windows sufficiently to allow them to hang out an item, such as a bed sheet, to which is attached an item that is then transferred to a neighbouring cell by swinging the bed sheet between the cells. This is a manner in which drugs are distributed at the Prison. Evidence was heard that the windows which allow this are not sufficiently secure.
- iii. Although during the night state at the Prison there are Officers on duty, there is a reduced number of staff compared to the day state of the Prison. At night Staff do at times patrol the Prison, but there is not continuous monitoring of such activity.
- iv. Certain windows in prisons can be restricted so that the supply of drugs is not possible in this way. Vented windows can also be used, hower these may not be the best alternative available.
- v. An application was submitted by the Governor at HMP Guys Marsh in January 2017 to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) for a major maintenance bid which included the cell windows at HMP Guys Marsh. No response has been received by HMP Guys Marsh in relation to this request. The windows therefore continue to pose a risk in relation to drug supply at HMP Guys Marsh.
- 2. I have concerns with regard to the following:
 - i. There is an ongoing problem with the use of drugs at HMP Guys Marsh and there have been a number of recent deaths either confirmed to be, or suspected to be, due to drug use.
 - ii. Although the Prison are working to address this, further consideration needs to be given to restricting the supply of such drugs. I would request that to prevent a future death consideration be given to alternative windows being installed, or the current windows being adapted, at HMP Guys Marsh in order to reduce the supply of drugs when Prisoners are locked in their cells. This is due to the fact that I am concerned that there could be a future death as a result of the supply of drugs via the windows.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion urgent action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you and/or your organisation have the power to take such action.

7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, 20th August 2018. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.

8 COPIES and PUBLICATION

I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons:

- (1) Southerns Solicitors MacKenzie House, 66-68 Bank Parade, Burnley, Lancashire BB1 1UB on behalf of the family
- (2) Hill Dickinson LLP, The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London, EC2A 2EW on behalf of Care UK.
- (3) Government Legal Department, One Kemble Street, London, WC2B 4TS on behalf of the Ministry of Justice

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.

The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.

9	Dated	Signed	gned loom loom
	25 th June 2018	Rachael C Griffin	schael C Griffin

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REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

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- Mr Mike Parish, Chief Executive of Care UK, 29 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0ES
- Governor at HMP Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury, Dorset

1 CORONER

I am Rachael Clare Griffin, Senior Coroner, for the Coroner Area of Dorset

2 CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

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5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

The **MATTERS OF CONCERN** are as follows:

- 1. During the inquest evidence was heard that:
 - i. The use of drugs on the Units are HMP Guys Marsh is rife and these drugs can be transferred between inmates at any time. One of the occasions when prescription drugs can be concealed in order that they can distributed by Prisoners, is following the dispensing of medication at the Healthcare Unit's medication hatch.
 - ii. Evidence was given by the Head of Healthcare, that there are 3 allocated times during the day when Prisoners collect medication. During these times, there are around 70 prisoners collecting their medication. The room can be quite chaotic and loud, and prisoners can be in close contact clambering over each other. She described the hatch as overloaded. This is an ideal scenario to pass medication to one another without detection.
 - iii. In addition, during the routine medication dispensing, there are no checks done to confirm that Prisoners have actually swallowed the medication. This can allow them to retain the medication for redistribution.
 - iv. At the last inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons these issues were raised and attempts have been made to improve the situation. There are now Prison Officers at the Healthcare department during dispensing times, but usually only one Officer stood in the room where the medication hatch is located and another outside the room. Despite these changes, Mrs Jameson advised that the arrangements at medication dispensing times continue to be an ongoing problem that facilitates the illicit supply of prescription drugs in the Prison. She advised that the process could be made safer and more secure. Similar concerns were also raised by one of the Prison GPs
 - v. Mrs Jameson also gave evidence that the Prison is overwhelmed with illicit drug use, particularly psychoactive substances and that the Healthcare team receive 3 emergency calls a week at HMP Guys Marsh to assist in resuscitating Prisoners from drug overdoses.
- 2. I have concerns with regard to the following:
 - i. There is an ongoing problem with the use of drugs, both prescription and illicit drugs such as psychoactive substances, at HMP Guys Marsh and there have been a number of recent deaths either confirmed to be, or suspected to be, due to drug use.
 - ii. Although the Prison are working to address this, further consideration needs to be given to restricting the supply of such

drugs. I would request that to prevent a future death at HMP Guys Marsh, there is a review of the policies and procedures by both the Prison Staff and the Healthcare Staff regarding the dispensing and monitoring of the mediation administration at the medication hatch to ensure compliance and reduce distribution to others.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion urgent action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you and/or your organisation have the power to take such action.

7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, 20th August 2018. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

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9 Dated Signed Rachael C Griffin