



HM Prison & Probation Service

Ms Alison Mutch OBE
H M Senior Coroner
Coroner's Court
1 Mount Tabor Street
Stockport
SK1 3AG

[mailto: coroners.office@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:coroners.office@stockport.gov.uk)

HM Prison and Probation Service
Post Point 14.05
Southern House
Wellesley Grove
Croydon
CR0 1XN

10 December 2019

Your reference: 5702/CH

Dear Senior Coroner,

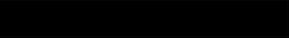
Thank you for your Regulation 28 report addressed to the Ministry of Justice, dated 2 October, following the inquest into the death of Philip Vernon Owen.

We are grateful for your observations on the circumstances of Mr Owen's death: it is important that we learn the lessons from any case where the actions of an offender have led to tragic consequences. You identified communication of information about the level of risk posed by the offender as an important factor in enabling the court to take proper account of risk when passing sentence. To ensure that such communication is effective, it is essential that systematic arrangements are in place to ensure regular and frequent liaison between the courts and probation providers. Securing and maintaining a high standard of court liaison has been the subject of detailed joint working between the judiciary and Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS). On 20 July 2018, a Probation Instruction (PI 05/2018) was issued setting out the arrangements that have been agreed between the Ministry of Justice and the Senior Presiding Judge. There is a mandatory requirement for liaison both at national level – including through the National Improvement Team and the National Sentencer Probation Forum – and at local level, including through liaison meetings in the Crown Court and the Judicial Delivery Groups (magistrates' courts). The PI also makes provision for problem resolution in the Crown Court and the magistrates' courts. It can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.justice.gov.uk/offenders/probation-instructions/PI_05_2018_Liaison_Arrangements.doc

I hope that the measures I have described provide assurance of the HMPPS's commitment to working with sentencers to address issues of shared concern, including risk assessment and appropriate sentencing.

Yours sincerely,



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