

Regulation 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)

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

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP, Minister of State for Prisons, MOJ

1 CORONER

I am Tom OSBORNE, Senior Coroner for the area of Milton Keynes

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 23rd December 2019 I commenced an investigation into the death of Kelly Francesca HEWITT aged 24. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 01 April 2021. The conclusion of the inquest was:

That she died from suicide.

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

The deceased, a prison officer, was found on the 18th December 2018 hanging at her home at 32 Appledine Way, Bedford. Paramedics attended and she was confirmed dead. She had been suffering from depression. It was recognised by work colleagues and managers within the prison that she was suffering with her mental health.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows: Concerns were expressed throughout the inquest as to the lack of mental health support available to prison officers. I believe that the provision of mental health support for prison staff should be reviewed.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion 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, namely by 08 June 2021. 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;

The Family
East London NHS Foundation Trust.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Osborne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom OSBORNE
Senior Coroner for
Milton Keynes
Dated: 22 April 2021