



Home Office

Home Secretary

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6th January 2023

*Dear James,*

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2022 regarding the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths which was sent to the former Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP.

I would like to express my sympathies to the family of Khalid Seneen Yousef. I also wish to apologise for the very long delay in responding to you about this report. I have asked my office to investigate the circumstances surrounding your previous correspondence of June, September and October which we have no record of receiving.

I note that you have already received detailed responses from the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police and from the National Medical Director of NHS England in response to your concerns.

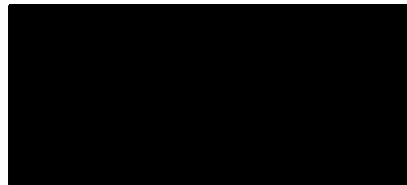
The commissioning of Liaison and Diversion Services is a matter for NHS England. The tendering and commissioning of all police custody healthcare services is the responsibility of Police and Crime Commissioners and their forces and it is for them to take decisions on how to allocate resources based on their local knowledge and experience. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for the Home Office to comment or intervene in either of these two services.

I can confirm that NHS England continues to provide national support and oversight to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) in respect of healthcare being delivered in police custody suites, which includes maintaining the integrity and standards for the NPCC Police Custodial Healthcare Service Specification and its alignment with NHS England's Liaison & Diversion national service specification. This supports NHS England's undertaking to voluntarily provide support to our colleagues in policing. NHS England confirm, that to the best of their knowledge the service specification is used by all forces as part of their tendering for new custodial services and is regularly reviewed by a variety of stakeholders including the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine and other distinguished medical experts and police custody leads, in order to ensure that any policy or legislative changes are reflected.

It is reassuring to note that West Midlands Police acknowledge that operational improvements can be introduced in respect of your findings in the report. It is important to also note that in addition to those changes, that when someone passes the threshold from the Liaison and Diversion service to identify, assess and report on a person's vulnerability and moves towards a crisis situation the police can seek a Mental Health Act assessment via the local authority duty. This process can be supported by the police healthcare provider and by the Liaison and Diversion service on a voluntary and supportive basis within current service specifications.

I can also confirm that Home Office officials work very closely with the NPCC, NHS England, the Department for Health and Social Care on a range of different issues relating to mental health and how healthcare partners and the police can work together most effectively. Currently, they are collectively working on how to improve escalation processes between the police and NHS and how mental health is managed in the custody environment with a view to the NPCC issuing guidance on effectively managing these referral pathways.

I trust that this provides some reassurance to you.



**Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP**