



HM Prison & Probation Service

Director General of Operations
HM Prison and Probation Service
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Philip Barlow
Assistant Coroner for Inner South London
HM Coroner's Office
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12 January 2023

Dear Mr Barlow,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 8 November 2022, addressed to the Governor of HMP Belmarsh and the Chief Executive of Oxleas NHS Trust. I am responding on behalf of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) as Director General of Operations.

I know that you will share a copy of this response with Mr Saliuka's family, and I would first like to express my condolences for their loss. Every death in custody is a tragedy and the safety of those in our care is my absolute priority.

Following evidence heard at the inquest, you have raised concerns that there was no clear documentation detailing the adjustments needed for Mr Saliuka's disability and that there was a lack of disability awareness amongst staff.

I am aware that Oxleas NHS Trust is providing a separate response, however I wish to assure you that HMPPS is committed to the providing the necessary care for those in custody with disabilities. Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 32/2011 is the national policy for ensuring equality and it mandates that Governors must ensure that efforts are made to identify whether a prisoner has a mental or physical impairment of any form and that procedures are in place to record this information, while maintaining confidentiality.

On arrival at HMP Belmarsh all prisoners are assessed by a member of healthcare staff in the First Night Centre, and prisoners are encouraged to disclose any disabilities they may have. It is recognised that not all prisoners will be aware of or wish to disclose this information, so staff will make every effort to identify whether a prisoner has a mental or physical impairment of any form. If any disabilities are evident or disclosed, healthcare staff must make the appropriate referrals and record this information on a prisoner's record. Healthcare staff must also advise operational staff working on the First Night Centre of any immediate action that is required, such as making reasonable adjustments for the prisoner.

You will be aware that all reasonable adjustment assessments for HMP Belmarsh prisoners are completed by the Royal Borough of Greenwich Social Care Team (RGB). The timeframe for assessments may vary but RGB aim to assess prisoners within 2-7 working days. Once the adjustments have been confirmed, a care plan and all other requirements

will be put in place and the prisoner will receive a letter detailing the adjustments. Healthcare staff will document and upload the care plan and any other relevant documents onto a prisoner's healthcare record on SystemOne, with an entry detailing the required adjustments also being made on the NOMIS case management system, so that this can be accessed by operational staff.

In respect of your second concern, throughout 2023 HMP Belmarsh will be holding monthly training sessions alongside Oxleas NHS Trust and RGB for all operational staff. These sessions will focus on encouraging staff to think differently about disability, including those that may not be visible, and to take action to improve how they engage with disabled prisoners to ensure their needs are met, and the necessary support is offered. We will also remind staff on how to access the documentation detailing any adjustments, and the importance of doing so.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention. I trust that this response provides assurance that action is being taken to address this matter.



Director General of Operations