

Mrs Heidi J. Connor
Senior Coroner for Berkshire

by email

9th February 2023

Dear Mrs Connor

Regulation 28 report, Neal Terence Saunders

Thank you for providing the College of Policing with your Regulation 28 report in respect of the tragic death of Neal Terence Saunders.

I would like to assure you that we take the recommendations in your report extremely seriously and will ensure that the learning from this incident is incorporated into our training and guidance.

The College is currently implementing a new mandatory training package for Public and Personal Safety Training (PPST) along with an updated national curriculum and Authorised Professional Practice (APP). The nationwide roll out of this programme will commence in April 2023 and all forces must achieve implementation by April 2024. This will result in police forces delivering PPST to a common national standard which will be subject to an ongoing quality assurance process by the College. The training is a two-day annual package which is delivered in person and is focused on supporting learners with information retention.

The new PPST has a strong focus on de-escalation and communication skills. The training is based around scenarios which incorporate identifying and managing vulnerability, dealing with signs of medical emergency and requesting appropriate medical emergency responses. This will include important content to equip officers and staff to recognise and respond appropriately when faced with ABD.

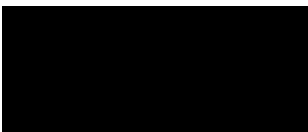
In respect of the six points in your report, our response is as follows:

1. 'Prolonged restraint' is not currently defined. This issue has been tabled for discussion at the national Clinical Governance Panel and we will look at ways to use clinical expertise to inform work in conjunction with College PPST leads.

2. The new PPST content will be clear that the guidance applies to those who are restrained in any circumstances, including people who are under arrest.
3. We will ensure that the revised training and guidance makes it clear that the response from the ambulance service is a matter for them, and the important point for policing is to ensure that relevant information is communicated so that ambulance despatchers can make appropriate decisions on prioritisation.
4. References to 'chemical sedation' will be removed from training.
5. & 6. The new PPST delivery has been carefully developed and refined following a 12-month pilot. We are confident that this will be an improvement on previous training and will deliver a nationally consistent approach.

The aforementioned new scenario based training is designed in order to 'embed' learning and make the training true to life.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer
College of Policing

