



# HM Prison & Probation Service

**Director General of Operations**  
**HM Prison and Probation Service**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London SW1H 9AJ

13 February 2023

Miss Laurinder Bower  
HM Area Coroner  
Nottingham Coroner's Service  
The Council House Old Market Square  
Nottingham, NG1 2DT

Dear Miss Bower

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 20 December 2022, addressed to the Governor of HMP Nottingham following the inquest into the death of Alexander Michael Braund on 10 March 2020. I am responding as the Director General of Operations for HMPPS. I understand that NHS England is responding separately.

I am aware that you will share a copy of this response with the family of Mr Braund, and I would 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.

I will first address the matter of concern that you raised solely for HMPPS, which is that there continues to be a misunderstanding across discipline staff at HMP Nottingham as to what constitutes a code blue or code red situation, and in what circumstances a cell can be entered by a prison officer for the purpose of preserving life.

A number of new measures including a robust training programme have been implemented to address these concerns. An annual training plan for staff has been introduced, and this includes training on the role of staff during a medical emergency, including the specific issues of the correct use of the emergency codes and the expectations about when staff should enter a cell during a patrol state. Staff received this training in May and September 2022 and it will be repeated at least twice yearly. An additional measure introduced in February 2022 is for all staff who join HMP Nottingham, irrespective of their grade or department, to be given a pocket size card that clearly explains the codes and what to do in an emergency.

A process is now in place to review all incidents included in the daily briefing sheet, and where it is found that the process was not followed, the member of staff concerned is identified and their behaviour is addressed, through targeted training or guidance and/or through the performance management system. Senior Management Team members conduct monthly night visits and use these to check staff understanding of their responsibilities and to reiterate the importance of the medical emergency response procedures.

The matter of concern raised for both HMPPS and Healthcare concerned the absence of a safe joint system of care (between discipline and healthcare staff) for supporting and managing acutely unwell patients who remain in the prison setting, rather than being transferred to a dedicated healthcare facility. I can confirm that the Head of Healthcare and the Governor of HMP Nottingham arranged a joint training event for all staff on 25 January 2023, designed to encourage a collaborative approach between prison and healthcare staff to achieve joined up planning of care for prisoners with acute illnesses. The Head of Safer Custody now chairs a weekly Safety Intervention Meeting at which prisoners who are acutely unwell or at risk of harm are identified and discussed, with prison and healthcare staff agreeing the care and support to be put in place in each case.

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

Yours Sincerely,

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Director General of Operations