



HM Prison & Probation Service

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102 Petty France
Westminster
London

22nd September 2023

Mr. Jonathan Dixey,
HM Assistant Coroner for the area of Northamptonshire

Dear Mr Dixey,

Inquest into the death of Sean Anthony Heeney

Thank you for your Regulation 28 Report, issued following the Inquest into the death of Sean Heeney, addressed to His Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS). I am replying as the Director General Operations of HMPPS.

I know that you will share a copy of this response with the family, and I would first like to express my sincere condolences for their loss. A death in these circumstances is a tragedy and the implementation of learning from this is my absolute priority.

You have raised an area of concern in the following terms:-

Whilst I recognise that any extrication is unlikely to be something done by the Approved Premises staff on their own or at all, I am concerned that Bridgewood House did not and still does not have a plan on how to extricate from the first-floor of the building a person who is unable and/or unwilling to leave in the case of a medical emergency.

In response, please be assured that Bridgewood House Approved Premises is consulting with the local emergency services on the preparation of a plan to deal with evacuation from the building in a medical emergency. As you helpfully identified the extrication itself is something that would not be undertaken by the Approved Premises staff but it is accepted that a clearly recorded understanding between the agencies involved in such a procedure should ensure a successful evacuation should a similar situation arise in the future.

Thank you for bringing this matter of concern to my attention. Please be assured that learning from the circumstances of this tragic death will be applied across the wider Approved Premises estate.

Yours sincerely,

Director General of Operations