



Heddlu Police
**DYFED
POWYS**

[REDACTED]
Prif Gwnstabl/Chief Constable

Pencadlys Heddlu Dyfed-Powys,
Blwch Post 99, Llangynnwr, Caerfyrddin, SA31 2PF.

Dyfed-Powys Police Headquarters,
PO Box 99, Llangunor, Carmarthen, SA31 2PF.

Mr. D D W Reid
H.M Senior Coroner
Coroner's Court
Martins Way
Stourport-on-Severn
Worcestershire
DY138UN

[REDACTED]
Dear Sir,

Re: Matthew David Harris

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths, prepared following the conclusion of your investigation and inquest in relation to Mr. Matthew David Harris on 20th June 2023.

I am cognisant of your finding that Mr. Harris died as a result of suicide.

In light of the fact that you have expressed an opinion that action should be taken to prevent future deaths, I have caused a review to be undertaken.

As a result of this review, action has both been identified and implemented via my Head of Custody Services, Chief Inspector [REDACTED].

Date: 8th August 2023



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Prif Gwnstabl Chief Constable [REDACTED]

Pencadlys Heddlu, Blwch SB 99, Llangynnwr, Caerfyrddin. SA31 2PF
Police Headquarters, PO BOX 99, Llangunor, Carmarthen. SA31 2PF

Mae Heddlu Dyfed-Powys yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Byddwn ni'n sicrhau ein bod ni'n ymateb yn eich dewis iaith ac ni fydd oedi mewn perthynas ag unrhyw ohebiaeth drwy'r Gymraeg.

Dyfed-Powys Police welcomes correspondence in Welsh and in English, and we will ensure that we respond to any correspondence through the language of your choice. Corresponding via the medium of Welsh will not endure any delay.



It is clear that on 14th May 2022 when Mr Harris was interviewed by my officers whilst detained at Haverfordwest Police Station, he disclosed his recent suicidal ideation whereby prior to the murder taking place he had intended to take his own life [REDACTED]

I am mindful that the aforementioned information was not contained within the Person Escort Record (PER) and Suicide and Self-Harm (SASH) Warning forms, both of which accompanied Mr Harris to Haverfordwest Magistrates Court on 16th May 2022 and thereafter with him to HMP Swansea later that same day.

I have noted that you are satisfied that the omission of information regarding Mr Harris' recent suicidal ideation from the aforementioned documents made no difference to the very sad outcome in this case.

That said, I agree that learning can and should be derived from this omission, learning and action that should assist in minimizing the risk of suicide / self-harm amongst those in custody.

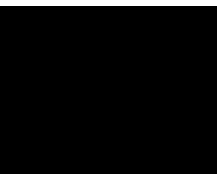
To confirm, on 1st August 2023 via my Head of Custody Services, all staff involved in investigations and those responsible for the care of detainees whilst in police custody have been informed, in an anonymized manner of the nature of the omission in this case.

Custody Officers have been instructed to specifically ask interviewing officers whether they have any information that is relevant to the ongoing duty of risk assessment; information needed to best manage the welfare of the detainee.

Further, investigators have been reminded of their duty to inform the custody officer of any information disclosed to them that should be considered as part of ongoing risk management.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Yours faithfully



[REDACTED]
Chief Constable
Dyfed-Powys Police