



[REDACTED]
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Tuesday, 7th November 2023

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Dear His Majesty's Area Coroner Mr Pegg,

This letter is intended to provide a formal response to the Regulation 28 report issued on 13th September 2023 following the Inquest into the death of Marcel Wochna. I will detail our response to each of the four areas of concern you have identified within the report.

Prior to doing so, I wanted to reassure you that as Chief Constable for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary, I take these areas of concern very seriously and have taken time to reflect on the detail within the Regulation 28 Report.

Matter of concern 1 - Lack of awareness of Cold Water Shock and the associated immediate risk to life.

Frontline officers and staff are regularly provided with training informed by operational policy and procedure, which is intended to ensure they have working knowledge of what is required of them in their role.

Cold Water Shock is described within the Constabulary's 'Working Near Water Procedure'. However it is recognised that this aspect of the procedure is absent from the E-Learning Training package. This is being rectified and the revised E-Learning package will be made available to officers and staff by the end of November 2023.

In addition, an updated 'Working Near Water Procedure' has been produced which highlights the impact and immediate risks associated with Cold Water Shock. This forms the basis of the revised E-Learning package and key aspects will be revisited with operational officers and staff annually through face to face training delivered as part of the force's Personal Safety Training.

Matter of concern 2 - Lack of awareness of the recognised "Shout, Reach, Throw, Row, Go" procedure.

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary's Marine Unit has provided their expertise and support to the rewriting of the force's updated 'Working Near Water Procedure'. This means that the "Shout, Reach, Throw, Row, Go" method is now properly described for all frontline officers and staff. In addition, this method will be included in the revised 'E-Learning package' and will be part of the annual Personal Safety Training refresher for frontline operational officers and staff.





Matter of concern 3 - Lack of awareness of risks associated with the use of handcuffs, particularly so to the rear, when detaining a person near water.

It is my position that there should be no 'blanket ban' on the use of handcuffs near water as it is critical that frontline officers are able to make informed assessments on the most appropriate means to ensure the safety of the public, their colleagues and themselves.

Frontline officers and staff in specific roles complete Personal Safety Training during their initial training and complete annual refreshers throughout their service. This training provides them with direction on decision making and techniques associated with the use of force (such as handcuffing). Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary is licensed by the College of Policing to provide this training, which is based upon the National Police Chiefs Council and College of Policing published Personal Safety Manual of Guidance. Through this training officers and staff are taught to use the National Decision Model, empowering those staff to make good and objective decisions regarding the use of force so that their actions are reasonable, necessary and proportionate to the circumstances.

To directly address the matter of concern related to the use of handcuffs near water, it is important that officers are provided with sufficient information about the risks associated with doing so.

The force's revised 'Working Near Water Procedure' and the annual Personal Safety Training refresher will set out that:

Officers should, where possible, avoid handcuffing near water where there is a risk of the detained person falling in and becoming submerged. If the officer, following a dynamic risk assessment, decides that the most appropriate action is to cuff the detained person then they should handcuff to the front.

Matter of concern 4 - Absence of effective dissemination, access and awareness of the Hampshire Constabulary "Working near Water Procedure" and the risks, mitigations and the need for necessary dynamic risk assessments set out therein.

The Constabulary's revised 'Working Near Water Procedure' will be disseminated to all officers and staff. In support of learning and understanding, this will include a link to the updated E-Learning package associated to this procedure. Frontline operational officers and staff will be directed to complete the updated training package.

Every year, frontline operational officers and staff in specific roles (including all Police Officers and PCSOs) are required to complete a Personal Safety Training refresher. This annual refresher will be revised to include:

- a) Cold Water Shock
- b) "Shout, Reach, Throw, Row, Go"
- c) The risks associated with handcuffing near water





HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT
CONSTABULARY

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I believe the implementation of the revised 'Working Near Water Procedure', that will mandate the completion of training packages both virtually and in person, will sufficiently address the concerns set out in the Regulation 28 notice and will equip our officers and staff to maximise the safety of the public when working near water and prevent such tragic circumstances being repeated in the future.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to respond.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Constable



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