



# 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

30 October 2023

Coroner ME Hassell  
Senior Coroner  
Inner North London  
St Pancras Coroner's Court  
Camley Street  
London N1C 4PP

Dear Ms ME Hassell,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 18 September 2023, addressed to the Governor of HMP Pentonville following the inquest into the death of Amarjit Singh on 21 November 2021. I am responding as the Director General of Operations for HMPPS. I understand that Practice Plus Group is responding separately to your first concern.

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

You express concern about training for staff in the management of prisoners experiencing fits and more general first aid training.

It may be helpful for me to clarify the requirements currently in place for all establishments around the provision of first aid trained staff. Whilst there is no requirement for all operational prison staff to be trained in first aid, Governors are required to ensure that there are always sufficient numbers of trained staff on duty, following Health & Safety Executive Guidelines to produce a detailed local first aid risk assessment to determine the number of trained staff needed at the establishment, ensuring that the trained staff are deployed appropriately.

A national review of the provision of first aid in prison which included the consideration on introducing an additional custodial first aid course was halted due to the pandemic, however we hope to be able to look at this again to see if it is needed in addition to the emergency first aid course, and this may result in some revisions to the first aid policy and training.

At a national level, new emergency response guides were issued to all prisons which set out the actions required of staff in a medical emergency, including all the circumstances listed in the PSI 03/2013 Medical Emergency Response Codes under which a medical emergency response code

should be called. In 2021, all Prisons were also issued with a supply of emergency response pocket cards which were shared with staff. The cards provided an instant reminder of how to respond to a medical emergency. In March 2022, a further supply of the emergency response pocket cards were issued to Regional Group Safety Leads for them to share with their prisons.

Following the incident and the death of Mr Singh, the Governor of HMP Pentonville sent a Staff Notice reminding staff to adhere to the national emergency guidance and reviewed the local medical emergency response code protocol to ensure that staff training is a central focus and that all staff have up to date training, including refresher training for all staff.

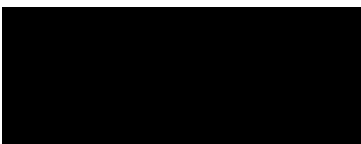
Training for prison staff in how to deal with fits is scheduled to be given at HMP Pentonville in October, and prisoners are given instructions at their induction on how to report concerns regarding a cellmate and the need to ring the emergency cell bell in circumstances where their cellmate is unwell so that staff can ensure healthcare attend.

The HMPPS National Health and Safety Arrangements for First Aid and Emergency Aid Manual was published and introduced in August 2023 and this was circulated to all prison staff at HMP Pentonville.

The findings of this inquest have also been shared with the national Safety team so that further consideration can be given to the points you have identified when national policy is next reviewed and revised.

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

Yours Sincerely,

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Director General of Operations