



Home Office

**Minister of State for Crime, Policing
and Fire**

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Dr Anton van Dellen
HM Assistant Coroner
Coroner's Officer
West London Coroner's Court
25 Bagleys Lane
Fulham
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Via Email Only

7th December 2023

To Dr Anton van Dellen

Response to coroner's report

Thank you for sending a copy of your report, dated 2 October 2023, and made under Regulation 28 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, into the death of Mr Jack Peter Zarrop, in which you asked the Home Office, National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and NHS England to detail the actions taken in response to the matters of concern which you identified.

This letter represents the Home Office response under Regulation 29. Please accept my sincere apologies for responding after the statutory deadline, which is because of an administrative error.

I would firstly like to express my deepest sympathies to Mr Zarrop's family and friends over his tragic death.

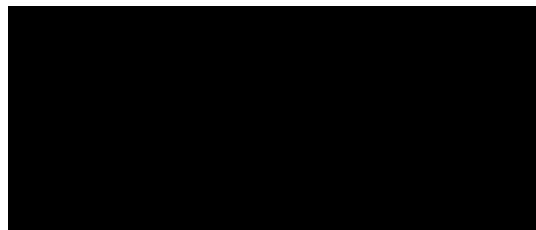
I believe that the element of the matters of concern identified which was directed to the Home Office was the exclusion from the list of core competencies for Custodial Nurse Practitioners within Home Office Circular 020/2003 (Healthcare Professionals in Custody Suites: Guidance to Supplement Revisions to the Codes of Practice Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) of the ability to identify the risk of suicide and self-harm in detainees. Home Office Circular 020/2003 is no longer extant: it was archived in 2013 and does not appear on the Gov.UK website. It is therefore not possible for the Home Office to make amendments to it, which is why, formally, we propose to take no action in response to your report.

However, this in no way represents a lack of interest in the issues which you have identified. As the response to your report from the Chair of the NPCC sets out, the 2003 Circular has effectively been superseded by the publication of the National Healthcare Specification for police custody, which is written by NHS England on behalf of the NPCC, College of Policing and Home Office, and which Chief Constables may use when tendering for healthcare provision. That document is far more comprehensive than the 2003 Circular. The Home Office has a close interest in the content of the Specification, and in ensuring that highly qualified and capable medical personnel work in police custody. I understand that the NPCC response also represents the response to the remaining content of your first matter of concern.

I understand too that NHS England is responding to your second matter of concern, relating to the training of prison healthcare staff in the ACCT process.

I can assure you that the Home Office continues to work collaboratively with our partners to further improve policing's response to people who are vulnerable, including those with mental ill health issues. This includes support for Liaison and Diversion schemes in police custody suites, which had been fully rolled out across England by March 2020. The Home Office is also committed to ensuring that custody is a safe and dignified environment for all detainees, visitors and staff which operates professionally, respectfully, and lawfully.

Yours sincerely,



Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire