

Mr J P Ellery
H M Coroner for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6ND

Trust Headquarters
St George's Hospital
Corporation Street
Stafford
ST16 3SR

22 March 2024

Dear Mr Ellery,

Regulation 28 Report to prevent future deaths regarding the death of Mr Martin Samuel Willis

I am writing in response to your Regulation 28 Report dated 19th December 2023 following the inquest into the death of Martin Samuel Willis which concluded on the 17th November 2023.

At the time of Mr Willis' death the Mental Health Services in HMP YOI Stoke Heath were provided by the North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust and Substance Misuse Services were provided by Forward Trust. From October 2023 these services have been provided by the Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

Colleagues from HMP YOI Stoke Heath, Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust met on 29th January 2024, to undertake an inter-agency review as directed in the Regulation 28 Report.

In addition to the matters of concern highlighted in your report, the inter-agency review considered the concerns found by the members of the jury recorded on the Record of Inquest documentation. Our inter-agency review noted that the Safety in Custody Statistics, England and Wales: Deaths in Prison Custody to September 2023 reported an increase of 24% on Prison suicides in the previous reporting period and it was reflected that this increase is likely indicative of the pressures felt upon His Majesty's Prison Services currently across the country.

The agreed actions from our inter-agency review in response to the MATTERS OF CONCERN outlined in your correspondence are as follows:

1. The ACCT procedure was not properly implemented, complied with or supervised. A scheduled observation at 8 am did not take place and a false entry was entered at 7:30 am and later deleted. The last correct entry was at 7 am with earlier omissions.

Action 1. HMP YOI Stoke Heath have reviewed the ACCT processes and procedures following Mr Willis' death. The multi-agency review received written information from HMP YOI Stoke Heath confirming the new processes that are in place and that these are being kept under review.

2. The prison service has taken action to address the issues relating to the ACCT procedure and will be kept under review.

Action 2. All Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust staff working in HMP YOI Stoke Heath are required to complete suicide prevention training and also the ACCT training provided by HMP YOI Stoke Heath. **Completion timescale July 2024.**

3. Overriding issues remain as to whether or not the late Mr Willis was on the correct levels of observation up to constant watch and whether he should have been transferred out on psychiatric grounds for treatment at another prison establishment with a hospital wing

Action 3. In addition to the above actions the Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust have commenced discussions with NHS England regarding a review of their Standard Operating Procedure concerning the referral of and transfer of prisoners to prison establishments with a hospital wing which was an agreed outcome of the inter-agency review. **Completion timescale September 2024.**

4. Whilst the prison service and the mental health providers have reviewed the circumstances of Mr Willis's death, I am concerned that there should be a collective and not individual response to ensure that all lessons can be learned. I therefore recommend that there be an inter-agency review between the prison service and mental health services as to the mental health care provided to the late Mr Willis including the evidence at the inquest and the jury's findings. In so doing, I do not purport to suggest what the outcome of the review should be.

Action 4. The interagency review was conducted on 29th January 2024, as part of our on-going service delivery commitments we will conduct on-going meetings with the Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and HMP YOI Stoke Heath.

I hope the above information meets with your approval and satisfaction and that the actions outline suitably address your outlined matters of concern.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Nurse and Director of Quality & Professional Leadership

cc The Rt Hon Edward Argar MP Minister of State for Prisons, Parole and Probation

