

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr Nicholas Rheinberg  
Assistant Coroner  
Preston and West Lancashire Coroners Court  
2 Faraday Court  
Faraday Drive  
Fulwood  
Preston  
PR2 9NB

11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Mr Rheinberg

**Re: William Bissett (deceased) Regulation 28 Preventing Future Deaths Response**

Thank you for highlighting your concerns following Mr Bissett's inquest which concluded on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. On behalf of Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Trust, I would like to offer Mr Bissett's family our sincere condolences for their loss.

During the Inquest evidence was heard that:

1. In the 8-month period before a prisoner is released, arrangements for release are the responsibility of the Community Offender Manager with the Prison Offender Manager acting as a conduit of information. Further it was said that the Community Offender Manager should arrange an early meeting with the prisoner. Mr Bissett a man aged 88 in failing health only saw his Community Offender Manager on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 8 days before his release.
2. On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 Mr Bissett was informed of the terms of his licence upon release. He was informed that he would not be allowed to return home. No sufficient attempt was made to engage with Mr Bissett to discuss accommodation in the event that he was unable to find a place to live himself.
3. 56 days before release, it being clear that Mr Bissett had nowhere to go, planning for accommodation should have been commenced with Fylde Borough Council who would have the duty to provide temporary housing and who would have engaged with Mr Bissett to discuss his requirements.
4. 56 days before release HMP Wymott should have informed the Fylde Coast Local Authorities that Mr Bissett would be homeless upon release so that his name

**appeared on the agenda for the monthly Prison Release Meeting. This was not done.**

- 5. Lack of planning for release and lack of engagement left Mr Bissett only with the knowledge that he would probably have to live the rest of his life separated from his wife. No attempt was made to help him come to terms with this reality.**

Box 6 'Action should be taken' sets out that:

**Where it becomes known that a prisoner is likely to be homeless on release, consideration be given to instituting a regime whereby a meeting takes place, not less than 56 days before the release date, such meeting to include the prisoner and representatives from the prison Offender Management Unit, Healthcare and the Local Authority Housing Department which will bear responsibility for discharging a duty to rehouse, in order to put in place arrangements to support the prisoner in the prisoner's transition from custody back to the community**

Please see the Trust's response in relation to the points you have raised below:

During his time in HMP Wymott, Mr Bissett was under the care of the healthcare team to manage his various physical issues. He was frequently reviewed by the team for these physical health concerns but was not under the care of the mental health team. Mr Bissett was prescribed antidepressant medication, which was being monitored by the GP.

The Prison and Probation Service are responsible for the release and any release conditions relating to prisoners and have a statutory duty to refer to the Local Authority for housing of prisoners where required. The Healthcare service works collaboratively with the prison service and Offender Management Teams providing specific healthcare treatment and will attend any multidisciplinary discharge meetings put in place by the teams to enable the correct community healthcare to support release back to the community.

In the week leading up to his proposed release date, Mr Bissett had consultations with healthcare staff to devise a plan to meet his physical health needs in the community, and he was seen on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024, however it was not possible at that time to formalise a complete plan given his accommodation arrangements had not been finalised by prison staff and the Local Authority.

During the Inquest, evidence from the Head of Healthcare at HMP Wymott was heard, setting out that the Healthcare service has implemented discharge clinics, 2 weeks prior to prisoner release, to ensure that medication, GP registration and onwards community referrals are in place prior to release.

In addition, healthcare staff now attend the monthly 'through the gate' meetings with the Offender Management team, which will highlight any prisoners that have complex health needs and may require healthcare support post release.

I thank you again for bringing these matters of concern to the Trust's attention. If you have any further questions in relation to the Trust's response, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Trust Headquarters,  
Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 3BL.

Chair: [REDACTED]

Chief Executive: [REDACTED]



**Chief Nurse Officer**

**Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust**

**Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Trust Headquarters,  
Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 3BL.**

**Chair:** 

**Chief Executive:** 