

HM INSPECTORATE OF PRISONS

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Deputy Chief Inspector of Prisons MARTIN LOMAS

30 January 2025

Nicholas Rheinberg Assistant Coroner Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen Royal Blackburn Hospital Haslingden Road Blackburn BB2 3HH

Dear Mr Rheinberg,

WILLIAM CAMPBELL BISSETT – Prevention of Future Deaths Report

Thank you for sharing your regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons). We are saddened to learn of the findings of your investigation.

HMI Prisons is an independent inspectorate. We provide scrutiny of the conditions for and treatment of prisoners and other detainees and report publicly on our findings. HMI Prisons' inspections are carried out against published inspection criteria known as Expectations. Many of the issues highlighted in your report are covered via our Expectations, and are therefore matters which our inspectors will consider on each inspection. For example, in relation to preparation for release, our expectations state: "Helping prisoners to work towards and prepare for the day of release is understood as a central purpose of the establishment."

Other issues raised in your report such as prisons recognising the importance of family ties and that prisoners should have a named member of staff who knows them well and provides support with resettlement issues are also covered via our Expectations.

Some of the particular concerns you raise in Mr Bissett's case around a lack of adequate contact between prison offender managers and community offender managers and prisoners being released homeless are sadly issues on which we have reported all too often recently and on which we have raised concerns in our most recent annual report.

We will keep your findings on file so that, when we next inspect HMP Wymott, inspectors are aware of this information and can follow up as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

