

17 July 2025

David Lewis
HM Assistant Coroner
Liverpool and Wirral

Re: Response to the Prevention of Future Deaths Report – Robert Evans

Dear David,

I write in response to your Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) report dated 7 March 2025 concerning the tragic death of Mr Robert Evans, following his detention and subsequent medical complications.

Firstly, I wish to express our sincere condolences to Mr Evans' family and acknowledge the seriousness of the concerns raised in your report. The College of Policing takes these matters with the utmost gravity and is committed to ensuring that national guidance supports the safety and wellbeing of all individuals in police custody.

In relation to the specific concern that individuals suspected of having swallowed drugs may not receive urgent medical attention or appropriate guidance upon release, I can confirm that the College's Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on Detention and Custody provides clear and robust guidance. This includes:

- **Immediate medical response:** The APP explicitly states that any case involving suspected swallowed drugs must be treated as a medical emergency, with detainees taken to hospital without delay.
- **Guidance at point of arrest:** The APP outlines procedures for arresting and escorting officers, not just custody staff. It includes criteria for when to call an ambulance and how to manage the detainee's care en route to hospital.
- **Joint risk assessment:** The guidance supports collaborative decision-making between police and ambulance services to ensure safe and timely medical intervention.
- **Information sharing:** Officers are instructed to provide relevant information to ambulance control, including mental health or behavioural concerns, to support appropriate clinical

decisions.

This guidance is publicly available and regularly reviewed to ensure alignment with operational realities and emerging risks. The relevant section can be accessed here:

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/detention-and-custody/detainee-care/alcohol-and-drugs>

We are confident that the current APP addresses the concerns raised in your report. However, we remain open to further review and engagement with stakeholders to ensure continuous improvement in custody practices.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this response in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me or the lead for Crime and Criminal Justice, Chief Superintendent [REDACTED]

([REDACTED]) if you need any further information or assistance.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Senior Policy Advisor – Custody
College of Policing