

**IN THE WAKEFIELD CORONERS' COURT**  
**IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF**

**NICHOLAS GEDGE**

---

**POLICE RESPONSE TO REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

---

1. This response is prepared on behalf of the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police to the Coroner's Report to Prevent Future Deaths in the case of Nicholas Gedge.
2. It is hoped that the following will allay some of the Coroner's concerns:
  - (a) The evidence of the Detention Officer who found Mr Gedge unresponsive was that when she called for the nurse she believed that Mr Gedge was breathing. The Healthcare Professional who attended recorded in her notes that she found slight breath and a faint pulse on examination.
  - (b) Police Detention Officers have basic life support training only. They are not trained to start CPR on "unresponsive" individuals who are breathing. Starting CPR on people who are unresponsive but breathing can cause harm. For this reason only a Healthcare Professional, who has Intermediate Life Support training would be qualified to start CPR on a person who was believed to be breathing.
  - (c) In a medical emergency, Detention Officers do have a defined role which is made clear to them in regular training:

- (i) Until the custody Healthcare Professional attends, they are to follow their training and provide Basic Life Support, including giving CPR to people who are not breathing.
    - (ii) Once the Healthcare Professional arrives, Detention Officers are to take direction from the Healthcare Professional. The Detention Officers in this case understood this and did so when requested, such as when a Detention Officer assisted in moving Mr Gedge from the bench to the floor. It would be inappropriate and dangerous for a Detention Officer with lesser training to be doing anything other than following directions in an emergency response when an individual with greater training is present and leading the response.
  - (d) The Chief Constable makes no comment on the actions of the Healthcare Professional, which is a matter for the Trust.
3. Nevertheless, the Chief Constable intends to review the contracts, policies and procedures that are in place between Leeds Community Healthcare and the Force, in partnership with Leeds Community Healthcare, to ensure that the respective roles of the Detention Officers and Healthcare Professionals in custody in an emergency situation are sufficiently clear.