



# HM Prison & Probation Service

[REDACTED]  
Director General of Operations  
HM Prison and Probation Service  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

Senior Coroner Rachael Clare Griffin  
Dorset Coroners' Service  
Civic Centre  
Bourne Avenue  
Bournemouth  
BH2 6DY

22 August 2025

Dear Ms Griffin

## **REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS: MR SHELDON JEANS**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 25 July 2025 following the inquest into the death of Sheldon Jeans at HMP Guys Marsh, which was sent to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Chief Executive at Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending and the Governing Governor at HMP Guys Marsh. I am responding on behalf of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) as Director General of Operations.

I know that you will share a copy of this response with Mr Jeans' family, and I would firstly like to express my condolences for their loss. Every death in custody is a tragedy and the safety of those in our care is my absolute priority.

Following evidence heard at the inquest, you have raised concerns regarding the national policy and local guidance at HMP Guys Marsh of the management of illicitly brewed alcohol and the handling of medication held in possession by prisoners.

Regarding the management of illicitly brewed alcohol, the Drug and Alcohol Group (DAG) in HMPPS has developed and disseminated a range of materials specifically focused on illicitly brewed alcohol (IBA). Notably, the *Drugs in Prison and Probation* (DiPP) guide provides comprehensive information for staff at all levels—from frontline officers to heads of function. It is designed to enhance understanding of substances, support structured discussions, raise awareness, and assist with induction processes for new staff.

Harm reduction support for alcohol use is growing across the prison estate, with mutual aid groups like Alcoholics Anonymous playing a key role. In addition, Incentivised Substance Free Living (ISFL) units are now available in 85 prisons, including at HMP Guys Marsh,

offering a supportive environment for individuals to address both alcohol and drug-related issues. As part of wider awareness efforts, Prison Radio is being recommissioned to feature speakers with lived experience of alcohol-related harm, helping to highlight the impact of substance use and promote the support available.

In response to seasonal increases in IBA reported usage, the DAG issued a targeted briefing note outlining specific risks, indicators of IBA production, and guidance on effective operational responses. These materials have been shared with Drug Strategy Leads across the prison estate to support local awareness-raising, harm reduction initiatives, and inform decision-making.

Operational colleagues are encouraged to remain vigilant regarding the ingredients and equipment commonly used in the production of IBA. Volumetric control is promoted as a key preventative measure during cell searches and wider area inspections, ensuring that ingredients and implements commonly used in the production of IBA are restricted to approved quantities.

In addition to DAG's workstreams, the Risk and Capabilities Unit (RaCU) provides operational guidance on managing IBA-related risks. This includes reviewing canteen items accessible to prisoners, identifying vulnerable areas, and reinforcing the importance of volumetric control.

Locally, HMP Guys Marsh has implemented a series of targeted local measures to mitigate the risks of IBA. A comprehensive Local Operating Procedure (LOP) has been introduced to guide staff in managing incidents involving prisoners found under the influence, including those affected by IBA. Searching operations continue with a specific focus on identifying and safely removing IBA, which must be reported and destroyed by the Security Department. To strengthen these efforts, the Dedicated Searching Team is deployed to support intelligence-led searches where IBA is a priority concern.

In addition, preventative steps have been taken to limit the availability of ingredients commonly used in brewing IBA. Yeast-based items have been removed from the canteen list, and fruit and natural sugar-based products have been restricted. These measures aim to reduce the opportunity for prisoners to produce IBA.

The handling of medication held in possession (IP) by prisoners and prescribing practices in prisons are the responsibility of NHS England. The safe management of medication is governed by clinical guidance and national service specifications, which set out standards for prescribing, dispensing, and monitoring medication.

In addition, in cell medication safes are available on the National Prison Industries Product List and every prison is able to order them.

Healthcare providers are required to operate Medicines Management Committees, and prison governors are invited to attend these meetings to ensure collaborative oversight. Decisions about which medications are issued to prisoners, including those held in possession, are made by healthcare professionals following a comprehensive risk assessment of both the medication and the individual.

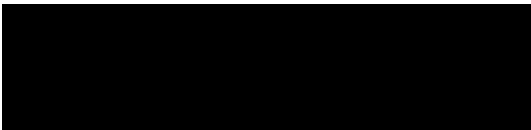
Locally, at HMP Guys Marsh, non-tradeable medications may be issued as IP on a case-by-case basis, subject to a formal risk assessment conducted by healthcare staff. The provision of IP medication is designed to support independent living and prepare prisoners for reintegration into the community. Prisoners receiving IP medication must sign a compact agreeing to the safe storage and use of their medication, including the use of in-cell lockers. Breaches of this compact will result in the removal of IP medication.

The healthcare provider at HMP Guys Marsh, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, has committed to introducing regular assurance checks for all prisoners in receipt of IP medication, as agreed at the Local Quality Delivery Board in August 2025.

Additionally, in-cell lockers will be replaced if damaged and their condition will be monitored through daily Accommodation Fabric Checks across all residential units.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention. I trust that this response provides assurance that action is being taken to address the matters identified.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Director General of Operations.A small black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the Director General of Operations.

Director General of Operations