



Prof Paul Marks
H.M. Coroner's Court,
The Guildhall
Alfred Gelder Street
Hull
HU1 2AA

20 October 2025

Dear Professor Marks,

Thank you for your letter of 8 August 2025 enclosing a copy of the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, following the inquest into the death of Peter Ramsden. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I was saddened to learn about the death of Mr Ramsden, and I would first like to express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss.

It may help if I outline the ongoing work regarding the Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) approach which is aiming to help ensure the right agencies with the right skills and training respond to people in need of support at the right time. This approach supports police to determine when they should attend a health or social care incident (including mental health), encourages partnership working at a local level and helps prevent criminalisation of people in need.

RCRP applies to four areas that police receive requests to deploy resource to, these include: (i) concerns for welfare; (ii) walk outs or people who are AWOL from health settings; (iii) transportation; and (iv) s.136 mental health cases. In these types of incidents, the police will respond **where there is a real and immediate risk to life or serious harm, or when responding to a report of crime**. Where the threshold is not met, local partners should have in place an agreement on who will respond to different types of situation taking into account local arrangements. It is for partners to work together to determine who will respond to what type of situation and to understand the extent of each partner's legal powers, they should also have escalation policies in place where attendance cannot be agreed. This is why partnership working is important, to ensure partners are clear on each of their roles and responsibilities to prevent anyone slipping through the gaps which sadly appears to have happened here. Further, RCRP sets a threshold that forces can use to determine if they shall deploy resource, but it does not undermine the independence of Chief Constables and their decisions on how to deploy their resource.

As you are aware, section 17 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 gives police the power to enter a property without a warrant under specific conditions, including to arrest a person for an indictable offence, and to save life or limb or prevent serious harm. The Courts have considered how the power to enter to save life and limb under

s.17(e) of PACE should be interpreted. In *Syed v Director of Public Prosecutions* [2010] EWHC the court opined on the fact that s.17(e) may be used in emergency situations where there is a serious risk of physical bodily injury or harm. However, the court concluded that "*concern for welfare is not sufficient to justify an entry within the terms of 17(1)(e)*". The judgment also recognised that Parliament intended the threshold for entry under s.17(1)(e) to be high, reflecting the seriousness of police entering a person's home without consent. This is separate from the common law doctrine of necessity, which continues to allow other emergency services and members of the public to enter property without permission if it is reasonably necessary to save life or prevent serious harm.

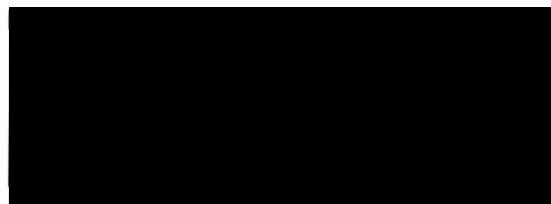
It is important to ensure the right balance between the need to enforce the law, ensure public protection and to provide sufficient safeguards and rights to the individual. As with all intrusive police powers, powers of entry must be exercised in a lawful and proportionate way. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the relevant Codes of Practice include safeguards and guidance to the police to exercise such powers fairly, responsibly, without unlawful discrimination, and in line with human rights obligations.

I know that ensuring that any learning from reports such as these are considered and implemented is critical. As such, I can advise that a group has been established by the National Police Chiefs Council to review and track any coroner's reports relating to the application of RCRP. Any learning will be disseminated onward beyond the force in which the incident occurred, and policy amended as needed.

Your letter raises issues around powers of entry for Ambulance services and Fire and Rescue services. I believe my officials had previously contacted your office to alert you that this is not within the remit of the Home Office but rather the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (lead on fire services) and Department for Health and Social Care (lead on paramedics). My officials have brought these matters to the attention of relevant colleagues from those departments.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

Very best wishes,



Minister of State for Policing and Crime