



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

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27 January 2026

Dear Ms Brown

## **REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS: MR DERRION ADAMS**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 18 November 2025 following the inquest into the death of Derrion Adams at HMP Birmingham on 31 October 2024. I am providing the response on behalf of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

I know that you will share a copy of this response with Mr Adams' family, and I would first 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.

You have raised concerns regarding drone-related security threats and psychoactive substance incidents resulting from this threat. We recognise these challenges and are taking steps to strengthen our response and resilience to this threat across the estate.

Recent work has been completed to review the underpinning staffing model for adult public sector prisons, including HMP Birmingham. This review has included consideration of the impact that changes to operational pressures have had on daily resourcing requirements. New models are currently at the implementation planning stage and remain subject to final decisions.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and HMPPS are committed to deterring, detecting, and disrupting the use of drones around prisons in England and Wales. Our approach is multi-faceted, combining physical security countermeasures, technological innovation, intelligence exploitation, strengthened legislation, and collaboration across Government and with

international partners to address this global threat. Targeted measures include improvements to windows, specialist netting, and external grilles to prevent drones from delivering contraband. This financial year we are investing over £40 million in physical security enhancements across 34 prisons, including £10 million specifically for anti-drone measures.

We are working closely with law enforcement partners and are supported by the National Crime Agency, to tackle drone-related criminality, and all closed prisons and young offender institutions are protected by 400-metre Restricted Fly Zones, making unauthorised incursions a criminal offence. Additionally, HMPPS has developed comprehensive guidance for staff, upskilling them to improve operational responses, and conducts vulnerability assessments across the estate to inform mitigation plans.

HMPPS also continues to work closely with health partners to address substance misuse. This includes the implementation of Incentivised Substance Free Living Units in 85 prisons, where prisoners commit to behavioural compacts, regular drug testing, and access to enhanced opportunities. We have embedded 54 Drug Strategy Leads in key establishments and appointed 17 Group Drug and Alcohol Leads who are now embedded to provide strategic oversight. The Adult Health, Care and Wellbeing Core Capabilities Framework was introduced in May 2025, and through the Enable Programme, MoJ, HMPPS and NHS England are accelerating specialist training on drugs, alcohol dependency, and trauma-informed care. Additionally, a comprehensive redesign of Foundation Training for new prison officers is underway, including mandatory modules on drug and alcohol misuse for all staff.

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

Yours sincerely,



Interim Director General of Operations