

Mr Paul D Smith
HM Senior Coroner
Lincolnshire Coroner's Service
The Myle Cross Centre
92 Macauley Drive
Lincoln
LN2 4EL

Tel: 0300 122 5550

Our ref: LIN001.124692

Your ref:

Date: 1 April 2026

By email LincsCoroner@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Dear Coroner

Regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths (Robert Shaun Gracey deceased)

I am writing in response to the concerns raised that action should be taken to prevent future deaths in respect of the following matters arising from the following:

1. Despite a very clear recommendation made in a letter dated 24 July 2019 by DAC Twist on behalf of the NPCC that "police forces have established ABD protocols with their local ambulance service so that suspected ABD incidents are treated as medical emergencies (i.e. Cat 1, with a response time of 8 minutes)", there is still no such protocol in Lincolnshire.
2. Under the current NHS Pathways system, ABD does not have its own allocation pathway.
3. Under the current NHS Pathways system a referral for ABD will only be allocated a category 2 response in the absence of police restraint.

I apologise for the late delivery of this correspondence.

Lincolnshire Police is working with the East Midlands Police Force Clinical Governance Forum ('the Forum') to implement a policy in relation to ABD. The Forum includes the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and since September 2025 learning from the Coronial process has been shared with EMAS with a view to creating and then implementing guidance in relation to this issue.

A further action was raised in December 2025 that EMAS were producing a joint working policy on ABD. At that stage, guidance was still outstanding from the Enhanced Care Group which, EMAS advised, was required before finalisation.

The following meeting of the Forum took place on the 18th March 2026. Mark Folman from EMAS provided an update on the progress of the joint working policy in relation to ABD in light of the guidance which has been obtained from the Enhanced Care Group to EMAS.



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All Forces in the East Midlands contribute to the work of the Forum. The Forum as a whole decided that the basis of the work should be carried out by EMAS given that the medical response was a crucial element of the policy and therefore EMAS were best placed to lead upon it. The joint working policy will therefore inform the response on the part of other Police Forces within the East Midlands.

Lincolnshire Police will continue to work with EMAS and partners within the Forum in order to develop and align practices and training to deal with ABD, response times, and restraint practices.

It was acknowledged at the Regional Clinical Governance meeting on the 18th March 2026 that issues had been raised by HM Coroners within the region, noting a disconnect between police and ambulance terminology. The overview of the draft guidance being issued by EMAS will be to recommend that cases of suspected ABD receive a category 1 response if the detainee is restrained, and category 2 response if the detainee is not restrained.

An escalation model of green-amber-red will be utilised, with 'red' cases involving high risk and requiring critical care intervention. The group was advised that EMAS is developing an advanced scope of practice enabling practitioners to deliver enhanced support and medical care, and the guidance is currently progressing through governance.

The meeting was further advised that future plans would include potential video triage to support earlier decision-making and joint training with air ambulance teams, with a view to incorporating the involvement of the Police.

Lincolnshire Police will continue to work with EMAS and NHS Trusts to ensure consistency between training and clinical guidance and is committed to ensuring that the health and safety of detainees is and remains a priority.

Thank you for highlighting this issue and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Deputy Head

Direct Dial: [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Please note we do not accept service by email or facsimile



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