



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

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23 April 2026

Dear Mr Stevens,

**REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS: MR GARETH CHUMBER-KELLY**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 9 February 2026 following the inquest into the death of Gareth Chumber-Kelly at HMP Pentonville on 17 July 2023. 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 Chumber-Kelly's 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 the reception process at HMP Pentonville, the training of staff in relation to self-harm and suicide risk management and mandatory basic life support.

HMP Pentonville has introduced a digital induction passport to consolidate key risk information from paper records into a secure electronic format. This enables relevant information to be accurately captured, stored, and shared between departments, reducing the likelihood of omissions or data loss during the induction process.

To strengthen oversight of early days in custody, the prison has appointed a Head of Early Days with specific responsibility for the reception function. As part of their remit, they are leading a comprehensive review of reception procedures to identify any aspects, such as documentation handling, that may require improvement and to implement any necessary changes.

In addition, the group safety team conducts regular early days exercises, which replicate a prisoner's arrival and induction experience. These assurance activities are used to test the effectiveness and consistency of the reception process in practice, and to identify areas where further improvements may be required. These combined measures are intended to strengthen risk information management, enhance operational oversight, and support continuous improvement of the safety and experience of those entering HMP Pentonville.

The Prisoner Escort and Custody Services (PECS) team within HMPPS recognises the importance of the timely and accurate transfer of risk and safeguarding information and treats this as a matter of serious operational priority. Responsibility for the creation, maintenance and clinical transfer of healthcare and associated risk information rests with qualified medical professionals. In this case, Liaison and Diversion (L&D) services are responsible for ensuring that relevant records are effectively shared with receiving prison healthcare teams. The PECS contracts do not place responsibility on PECS suppliers for the physical transfer of hard-copy medical or risk documentation between courts and prisons.

Following the implementation of the Book a Secure Move (BaSM) system, the PECS Contract Management Team has ensured that digital Person Escort Records (DPERs) are available for all prisoners moved by PECS suppliers between courts, prisons and police stations. Recent system enhancements enable authorised professionals, including medical practitioners and L&D services, to update a prisoner's DPER directly following assessment. These updates are visible to receiving establishments once the prisoner is booked in from court or prison, prior to arrival.

This digital capability significantly strengthens the effective, safe and timely transfer of critical risk information across the criminal justice system, reducing reliance on hard-copy documentation and mitigating the risk of information loss.

With regards to your training concerns, HMP Pentonville is re-introducing the "Pentonville Speed School", which is an initiative that provides staff with bitesize training sessions in key subject areas. The local safety team will work in conjunction with the school to deliver training on self-harm and suicide prevention to officers. Additionally, all band 4 staff at HMP Pentonville have now received the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) case review training, which equips them with the skills to be able to provide prisoners at risk of suicide with holistic and person-centred support in their role as ACCT case coordinators.

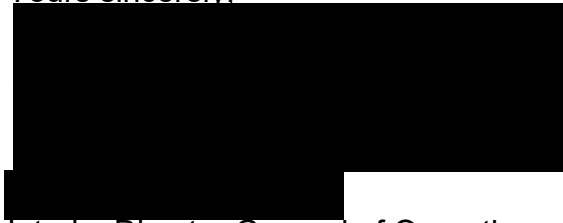
Nationally, all new prison officers receive mandatory emergency first aid training, including instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as part of their foundation package. To ensure that there is a sufficient level of provision required for an effective emergency response, every prison is required to conduct a first aid needs assessment in accordance with the first aid at work regulations. Within current HMPPS policy, these assessments are required to account for the needs of prisoners whilst in custody and individuals on probation.

More widely, HMPPS develops staff capability through refresher courses and communication packages. Materials, including instructional videos, have been developed and are available to staff through E-learning platforms to update and maintain their first aid knowledge and skills. These provide practical guidance on what to do in several potential scenarios that staff may encounter in the course of their duties.

The Pentonville Speed School will support this work by utilising Physical Education Instructors, who are qualified first aid trainers, to deliver basic life-saving skills to staff, including training in CPR. These short, practical sessions will ensure that staff receive essential refresher training and thereby increasing their confidence when responding to medical emergencies. In addition, HMP Pentonville is promoting the first aid at work course and encouraging wider staff participation to ensure that key areas of the establishment maintain sufficient qualified first aiders.

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,

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Interim Director General of Operations