



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Michelle Jarman-Howe
Director General of Operations
HM Prison and Probation Service
8th Floor Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

[REDACTED]

Mr Simon Matthewson
Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of Mid Kent & Medway.
Mid Kent and Medway Coroners Area
Oakwood House
Oakwood Park
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8AE

19 March 2026

Dear Mr. Matthewson,

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS: MR JOSHUA YEMI TARRANT

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 29 January 2026, addressed to the Governor of HMP Elmley. I am responding on behalf of HMPPS as the Interim Director General of Operations for HMPPS.

I know that you will share a copy of this reply with Mr. Tarrant's family and would 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 an important concern regarding the risks associated with Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD), specifically regarding local training and operational awareness of this.

In the period following the inquest, HMPPS has taken active steps to ensure staff are better supported in recognising and responding to behavioural and physiological indicators associated with ABD. We are currently consulting with [REDACTED], whose clinical expertise is informing written guidance that will be issued to staff. This guidance is designed to equip officers with a clearer understanding of what signs may indicate ABD, while emphasising that the diagnosis and response to ABD rests solely with healthcare professionals. The intention is to ensure officers recognise potential medical emergencies quickly and escalate concerns appropriately.

During any use of force (UoF) incident, healthcare attendance is already mandatory. Once requested, healthcare staff must attend and remain for the duration of the incident. Their role is to actively monitor the individual, provide real-time clinical assessment, and advise staff on any concerns that may arise. NHS England has recently updated its UoF framework, strengthening expectations of healthcare staff and providing explicit guidance around indicators of ABD. This revised framework offers clearer boundaries and ensures that all staff involved in UoF events share a consistent approach to managing risk, including the risk of ABD.

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