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Essex Police Headquarters
PO Box 2
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[REDACTED]
27/03/2026

Dear Ms Hayes,

Re: Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Scott Taylor (Ref: 2026-0092)

I write in my capacity as the senior officer responsible for overseeing the matters arising from your Regulation 28 Report dated 2 February 2026, issued following the inquest into the tragic death of Mr Scott Darren Taylor, which concluded on 31 July 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to Mr Taylor's family. Essex Police remain committed to learning from this inquest and taking appropriate steps to prevent future deaths.

Your report identified concerns regarding potential disparities in the training provided to police officers and Special Constables in recognising and responding to Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD). The report also raises concerns in relation to the clarity and operational suitability of police policy to remove all methods of restraint when an individual appears unconscious. These matters have been examined closely within Essex Police, informed by the evidence heard during the inquest and subsequent internal review.

In relation to ABD, you noted that Special Constables may not have received the same depth of training as regular officers. Essex Police acknowledges the importance of ensuring that all officers, regardless of role, are equipped to identify life-threatening medical emergencies and respond consistently. As a result, all officers—regular and Special Constabulary—now receive the same level of training in relation to ABD.

This change addresses the previous differences created by reduced refresher training time provided for Special Constables. Furthermore, ABD training has been moved from the First Aid Learning Programme refresher sessions into the College of Policing's Scenario-Based Training programme, which ensures that ABD is taught in the context of practical, decision-making scenarios involving the National Decision Model, tactical considerations, personal safety, and use-of-force decision-making. This training is now fully standardised across both initial and refresher inputs, guaranteeing that all officers receive consistent information irrespective of role. These changes ensure a more robust

understanding of ABD across the workforce and improve the identification and management of high-risk presentations.

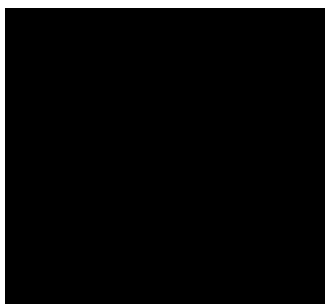
You also expressed concern that police officers did not remove handcuffs or leg restraints when Mr Taylor appeared unconscious, and that officers did not appear clear that the relevant policy required them to do so. The policy in place at the time contained an absolute instruction to “remove all methods of restraint,” in the case of unconsciousness which, when considered against the operational realities of ABD and the unpredictable nature of such presentations, was not sufficiently aligned with safe decision-making or with the principles of the National Decision Model.

Following review at the inquest and subsequent policy analysis, Essex Police has updated this guidance to provide officers with clearer, more realistic direction. The revised policy now states that officers must remove restraints where it is considered safe and appropriate to do so, and that this decision must be informed by the prevailing circumstances and assessed through the National Decision Model. This updated wording removes the absolute instruction that did not reflect the operational complexities faced by officers, and instead reinforces the requirement for a considered, risk-assessed approach that is consistent with officer training and the realities of managing individuals experiencing ABD. The updated policy has now been incorporated into both initial and regular refresher training so that all officers fully understand their responsibilities and the rationale underpinning these changes.

Essex Police recognises the seriousness of the issues highlighted in your Regulation 28 Report and is grateful for the opportunity to reflect, improve, and strengthen its practices. The actions already taken will improve the recognition and management of ABD, ensure consistency in officer training, and provide clearer, more operationally realistic guidance to support officers in making safe and effective decisions in highly dynamic circumstances.

If you require any further information, clarification, or supporting documentation, I would be happy to provide it.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Superintendent
Local Policing Commander – South Essex