



HM Prison &
Probation Service

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HM Prison and Probation Service
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Coroner ME Hassell
Senior Coroner for Inner North
London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley Street
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[REDACTED]
11 May 2026

Dear Ms Hassell,

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS: MR PETER CAMPBELL

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 11 March 2026 following the inquest into the death of Peter Campbell at HMP Pentonville on 8 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 Campbell'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 measures taken to prohibit the conveyance of drugs into prisons.

HMPPS is committed to tackling the ingress of drugs and other contraband into prisons, which I recognise can cause serious harm, fuel violence, create instability, and undermine rehabilitation in prisons. As prison security threats constantly evolve, we continuously shift and adapt our security measures to ensure we keep pace with changing threats.

We utilise multiple countermeasures and initiatives to tackle the conveyance of drugs into prisons. For example, all adult male closed prisons are equipped with X-ray body scanners, which are used to detect and deter the internal concealment of illicit items by prisoners. Additionally, all public sector prisons have been provided with trace detection equipment, which is used to identify the presence of drugs on physical items. Furthermore, dedicated search teams are in place to find and remove illicit items. They are equipped with specialist

tools to detect and retrieve mobile phones, which we know are used to facilitate drug conveyance and dealing within the estate.

HMPPS recognises that the vast majority of prison staff are hardworking and dedicated, but unfortunately a very small minority engage in corrupt activity, including the conveyance of drugs into prisons. To prevent and deter staff from engaging in this, we have a dedicated counter corruption unit, which provides training, support and guidance to staff, as well as pursuing those who engage in this kind of criminality. Outcomes for staff found guilty of corruption can range from dismissal through to criminal prosecution. To support this work, 54 priority establishments have airport-style enhanced gate security, including archway metal detectors, handheld wands, and X-ray baggage scanners, to screen staff and visitors.

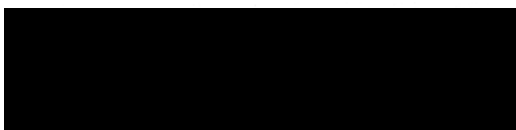
Another identified route of entry is through the use of drones. HMPPS works hard to deter, detect and disrupt the illegal use of drones that target our establishments. Whilst we cannot share specific details on our counter-drone measures as doing so would aid serious and organised criminals, I can confirm that our approach to this multi-faceted. We have invested over £40m in physical security measures across 34 prisons, including £10m on counter-drone measures, such as window replacements, external window grilles and specialist netting.

HMPPS works closely with law enforcement agencies to tackle the issue of drones, which has already resulted in over 200 arrests linked to their use and has disrupted the activity of serious and organised crime networks. All closed prisons and young offender institutions have a 400-metre restricted fly zone in place which make all unauthorised drone incursions a crime. Additionally, we have developed comprehensive guidance and are upskilling staff to improve the response to drone activity at our prisons. HMPPS also conducts vulnerability assessments across the estate to understand the risk and to develop and implement plans to mitigate the threat.

The holistic work between HMPPS and law enforcement agencies also applies to tackling the threat of serious and organised crime. Our area intelligence units play a critical role in gathering and analysing intelligence on serious and organised crime within prisons and our headquarters teams provide targeted support to the most at-risk prisons, ensuring that local security strategies are informed by national intelligence and operational priorities.

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,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Interim Director General of Operations.

Interim Director General of Operations