



HM Prison & Probation Service

Director General of Operations
HM Prison and Probation Service
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Oliver Longstaff
Acting Senior Coroner for
West Yorkshire (E)
His Majesty's Coroner's Office
The Coroner's Court
Burgage Square
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2 July 2026

Dear Mr Longstaff,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 7 May 2026 following the inquest into the death of Alan Whelan at HMP Leeds. I am responding as Interim Director General of Prisons on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

I know that you will share a copy of this response with Mr Whelan'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.

Following evidence heard at the inquest you raised a concern regarding the requirements for mental health assessments for prisoners held in segregation unit whilst being managed under ACCT procedures. I understand that Practice Plus Group will be responding to this matter separately.

HMPPS remains fully committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all individuals in its care. Where a prisoner is being managed through the ACCT process, placement in segregation will only occur in exceptional circumstances and with appropriate safeguards in place. The current segregation policy (PSO 1700) sets out the requirements for managing those subject to ACCT.

NHS England service specifications require healthcare providers to meet all obligations, responsibilities and requirements for healthcare input as stated in relevant HMPPS policies, with prison Governors required to ensure delivery of healthcare services is facilitated within the establishment. Governors work collaboratively with providers when new healthcare contracts are commissioned and implemented to ensure staff are informed and equipped to meet their responsibilities within the HMPPS operational environment.

A comprehensive review of the segregation policy is currently underway, with publication of the revised framework scheduled for later this year. As part of this work, the Segregation Policy Framework has been aligned with the Safety Policy Framework to reduce duplication, improve clarity and strengthen consistency across related provisions, including healthcare. Under the Safety Policy Framework an ACCT case review must take place within 24 hours of a prisoner being placed in segregation conditions. Healthcare and/or mental health staff are required to attend the initial case review. In exceptional circumstances, where attendance is

not possible, a verbal or written contribution must be provided to ensure appropriate clinical input informs decision making .

The updated Segregation Policy Framework will be published alongside a comprehensive suite of supporting tools and learning resources designed to support effective implementation within prisons and ensure staff are aware of the expectations. In addition, HMPPS will deliver a structured programme of scheduled briefing sessions, providing staff - including healthcare professionals- with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the revised policy, and receive guidance on its application in practice.

I hope the measures outlined above provide you with reassurance that learning has been taken from the circumstances of Mr Whelan's death and that the matters of concern that you identified have been addressed.

Yours sincerely



Interim Director General Prisons