



HM Prison &
Probation Service

[REDACTED]
Interim Director General of Prisons
HM Prison and Probation Service
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Rachael Clare Griffin
Senior Coroner for Dorset
The Coroner's Office for the County
of Dorset
Civic Centre
Bourne Avenue
Bournemouth BH2 6DY

6 August 2026

Dear Ms Griffin,

**REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS: MR GEORGE EDWARD
JAMES HALDENBY**

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 21 May 2026, following the inquest into the death of George Edward James Haldenby at Dorset County Hospital on 29 January 2022 whilst a prisoner at HMP The Verne. I am responding as the Interim Director General of Prisons, HMPPS, on behalf of the Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending and the Governor of HMP The Verne

I know that you will share a copy of this response with Mr Haldenby'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 over the lack of regular refresher first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training that Prison Staff receive after their initial training. You also mentioned the lack of process in place in prisons without 24-hour healthcare provision to ensure hospital prescribed medication is available when prescribed out of working hours especially over weekends and bank holiday periods and that there is a lack of local policy or

process at HMP The Verne, to direct prison and healthcare staff understanding of how to obtain medication without delay.

You will be aware that all new prison officers receive mandatory Emergency First Aid and CPR training as part of their foundation programme. This training remains valid for three years and is subject to requalification. In addition, the HMPPS First Aid Policy Framework (re-issued in August 2023) requires Governors to maintain sufficient first aid provision based on a local First Aid Needs Assessment. To support staff capability, HMPPS provides ongoing refresher resources and learning materials to maintain and enhance first aid knowledge and skills. For example, HMPPS has worked with St John Ambulance to develop bespoke “first-on-scene” video resources for prison officers and frontline staff, offering practical guidance on responding to a range of emergency situations prior to the arrival of healthcare professionals.

HMP The Verne is undertaking a comprehensive Training Needs Analysis to inform the development of a structured First Aid training plan. From July 2026, the prison intends to deliver monthly three-day First Aid at Work training programmes. These sessions will be jointly led by the Head of Business Assurance and supported by the Health and Safety Manager. The programme is designed to increase the number of staff trained to a recognised First Aid at Work standard and strengthen the prison’s emergency response capability. Increasing the number of staff trained in First Aid at Work will enable the implementation of a 24-hour, seven-day nominated staff rota, to ensure a coordinated and timely response to emergencies. The initial rollout of training will prioritise key staff groups, including Custodial Managers, Supervising Officers, Care and Separation Unit staff, and Induction Wing staff. A forward-planned training schedule will be maintained throughout the year, incorporating both initial training and refresher courses to ensure ongoing compliance and competency.

Although your concerns about the lack of policy/process for healthcare staff around accessing out of hours or hospital prescribed medication has been referred to Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust for their separate consideration and response, HMPPS has also considered whether there is any supportive action that it can take. Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust has confirmed that a formal process and guidance for healthcare teams regarding the management of medicines outside normal operating hours was implemented in September 2024. This is supported by a Standard Operating Procedure, which provides clear direction on the sourcing and provision of prescribed medication during evenings, weekends, and bank holidays.

Further collaborative work is being undertaken between prison and healthcare managers to establish a clear and robust local process incorporating defined escalation routes, roles and accountability measures. This will ensure that staff have the necessary clarity and confidence to respond appropriately when out-of-hours medication issues arise, supporting timely access to essential treatment and continuity of care.

I hope the measures outlined above reassure you that appropriate training is in place and that the opportunity to identify learning and address the issues raised has been taken from the circumstances of Mr Haldenby's death.

Yours sincerely,

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Interim Director General of Prisons