



HM Prison & Probation Service

[REDACTED]
Director General of Operations
HM Prison and Probation Service
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London
SW1H 9AJ

Joanne Kearsley
Senior Coroner Greater Manchester
HM Coroner's Court
Floors 2 and 3
Newgate House
Newgate
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OL16 1AT

10 August 2026

Dear Ms Kearsley,

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS: MR AARON HAMER

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report dated 6 March 2026, addressed to [REDACTED] following the inquest into the death of Aaron Hamer at HMP Buckley Hall on 21 June 2025. I am responding on behalf of the Minister for Prisons and Probation and the Ministry of Justice.

I understand that you will share this response with Mr Hamer's family. I would like to begin by expressing my sincere condolences for their loss. Every death in custody is a tragedy, and ensuring the safety of those in our care remains our highest priority.

Your report raises a concern that there is no mandatory First Aid refresher in basic life support for prison staff.

All new prison officers receive Emergency First Aid training as part of their initial foundation programme, which includes instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). This training is mandatory, remains valid for three years, and is subject to local requalification to ensure staff maintain the necessary level of competence.

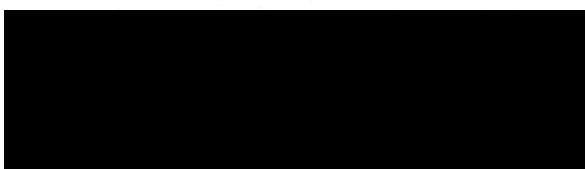
The HMPPS First Aid Policy Framework, reissued nationally in August 2023, sets out requirements for both Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) and First Aid at Work (FAW). It places responsibility on Governors to ensure that sufficient first aid provision is always available within the establishment. This is achieved through a comprehensive local First Aid Needs Assessment, conducted in line with the First Aid at Work Regulations, which determines

the number of trained staff required to provide an effective emergency response within each establishment.

To support ongoing staff capability, HMPPS provides a range of refresher materials and learning resources designed to maintain and enhance first aid knowledge and skills. This includes bespoke “first-on-scene” video content developed in partnership with St John Ambulance, which offers practical guidance for prison officers and frontline staff responding to emergencies prior to the arrival of healthcare professionals. There is also a CPR learning bulletin that provides guidance for staff on action to take when someone is found unresponsive, not breathing and/or has no pulse in accordance with guidance from Resuscitation Council UK.

Thank you again for bringing these important matters to my attention. I hope this response provides assurance that appropriate action is being taken to address the issue raised.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Interim Director General of Operations.

Interim Director General of Operations