



HM INSPECTORATE OF PRISONS
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Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

HM Deputy Chief Inspector of Prisons
MARTIN LOMAS

21st May 2026

Sean Cummings
Assistant Coroner
HM Coroner's Office
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

Dear Mr Cummings,

ROY RICHARD SINCLAIR – Prevention of Future Deaths Report

Thank you for sharing your regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths with HM Inspectorate of Prisons. We are saddened to learn of the findings of your investigation.

HMI Prisons is an independent inspectorate. We provide scrutiny of the conditions for and treatment of prisoners and other detainees and report publicly on our findings. HMI Prisons' inspections are carried out against published inspection criteria known as Expectations. Many of the issues highlighted in your report are areas covered via our Expectations and are therefore matters which our inspectors will consider at each inspection. For example, in relation to health, wellbeing and social care, our expectations state: "Liaison and joint working with other prison departments and health providers is effective."

Other issues raised in your report such as safeguarding, staff training in suicide prevention processes and effective and responsive intelligence are also covered in our Expectations.

Some of the particular concerns you raise in Mr Sinclair's case around staffing shortages and operational pressures are sadly issues on which we have reported all too often recently and on which we have raised concerns in our most recent annual report.

As you are aware, the Chief Inspector invoked the Urgent Notification process following our unannounced inspection of HMP Woodhill in March 2026. During this inspection, we noted that rates of self-harm remained among the highest in the adult male estate and that the prison was fundamentally unsafe. HM Inspectorate of Prisons has not previously taken a

view about disclosure of an urgent notification in confidence during court proceedings. It does not follow that we would necessarily know specific proceedings were taking place during an inspection and there will only ever be a short period of time, normally less than 5 days, between an urgent notification being issued (and subject to embargo) and details of the notification being shared in the public domain. This particular set of circumstances, whereby an active investigation coincides with the issuing of an urgent notification, has not, as far as we are aware, arisen before and is unlikely to be a recurring issue in future.

We will keep your findings on file so that, when we next inspect HMP Woodhill, inspectors are aware of this information and can follow up as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

