



Ms Rose Farmer
Area Coroner for Gwent

22 September 2026

Dear Ms Farmer,

Prevention of Future Deaths Report: Gareth Richard Williams

Thank you for providing the College of Policing with a copy of your report dated 16 July 2026 following the inquest into the death of Gareth Williams. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and all those affected.

In accordance with our duty under Regulation 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, we have carefully considered the matters of concern identified within your report and set out below the actions taken and those proposed by the College of Policing.

The College of Policing notes the concern that the current College training does not include recognised environmental and demographic factors associated with Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD) and ABD fatalities.

We also recognise that national guidance issued by the College influences training and operational decision making across policing.

Action Taken

The College is undertaking a full review of the current College ABD guidance. The review is being led by the Public & Personal Safety Unit, with support from the Mental Health Lead, including consulting with relevant key stakeholders to provide updated advice and guidance to support operational decision making.

As part of this review, the College will specifically consider the matters raised within the Prevention of Future Deaths Report, alongside current evidence, operational requirements and expert clinical advice. This will ensure that any amendments to national guidance are evidence based, proportionate and aligned to the role of policing, whilst supporting officers to identify concerning presentations and seek timely medical assistance where appropriate.

Further Action Proposed

The College will implement the following actions upon the updated guidance being developed to strengthen national consistency:

1. Dissemination and implementation support

The College will communicate the updated guidance to all forces through the safety training network and provide a dedicated input within the national RCRP Tactical Delivery Board to support consistent implementation across policing.

2. Work with health partners to ensure consistency in guidance to front line professionals

Whilst we recognise the importance of responding appropriately to signs of ABD, we also acknowledge that any guidance must strike a proportionate balance between ensuring police officers being equipped to recognise and identify the key indicators of ABD, whilst avoiding the need for officers to undertake more detailed clinical observations that fall within the remit of healthcare practitioners. The primary role of officers is to identify concerning presentations, manage immediate risks and seek timely medical assistance where necessary.

The College will consult with health partners including the Royal College of Emergency Medicine to ensure the guidance reflects current best practice and ensure the delivery of clear and consistent messaging.

The College will publish the revised guidance following the completion of the review of existing guidance. Updated materials will then be disseminated to forces, supported by clear communications and practitioner briefings to promote understanding, consistency and effective implementation of the revised guidance.

We would like to reassure you that we are continuing to review and update our guidance to ensure that police forces have access to the tools, training and support needed to respond appropriately to the concerns you have raised. This work demonstrates our ongoing commitment to strengthening guidance and supporting forces in the effective delivery of their responsibilities. We hope this provides assurance of our continued focus on ensuring operational policies and guidance remain clear, relevant and fit for purpose.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Chief Executive Officer
College of Policing

[Redacted Address]