

Engagement & Policy
Division


Principal Medical Adviser

C/O 2.2 Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
L20 7HS

HM Coroner Michael James Pemberton

HM Coroner's Officer
HM Coroner's Court and Office for Manchester West
Paderborn House
Howell Croft North
Bolton
BL1 1QY


Date: 22 June 2026


Dear Sir


Name of Deceased: Jake Anthony O'BRIEN

Thank you for your Report to Prevent Future Deaths dated 18th May 2026.

In the matters of concern, at point two you have stated:

"Further evidence was provided that a national standard of 1 trained first aider to 50 prisoners was set by the Health and Safety Executive on a workplace basis. Clarification may be helpful to determine whether this includes life preserving response in what is an extraordinary type of working environment within a prison."

I wanted to set out HSE's position regarding this matter, which I trust you find helpful.

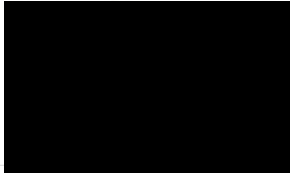
The duties placed on employers by the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 are to ensure that employees are provided with adequate and appropriate first aid. The duties set out in these regulations do not apply to those who are not employees (e.g. prisoners).

We note the reference to HSE setting a national standard, and in guidance we do provide suggested ratios of first aiders to employees, dependent on the level of workplace risk ([First aid at work - your questions answered](#)). However, whilst this table may be the basis of suggested numbers of first aiders for prisoners that you quote, this is not a position or standard set out by HSE.

The matter of appropriate first aid arrangements for prisoners would be for HM Prison and Probation Service to address. This would be based on a needs assessment to anticipate the needs of prisoners, visitors, contractors and other third-party groups.

I trust this clarifies HSE's position.

Yours Sincerely,



Principal Medical Adviser
Consultant Occupational Physician