

**RESPONSE TO A REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS
REGULATION 29 OF THE CORONERS (INVESTIGATIONS) REGULATIONS
2013**

Please do not include any living persons' names in this document, in accordance with the Chief Coroner's [PFD Publication Policy \(2026\)](#).

THIS RESPONSE IS BEING SENT TO:

The Senior Coroner, Mr Timothy Brennand for the Coroner Area Manchester West in response to a '**REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATH REGULATION 28**' following an inquest into the death of **Jake Anthony O'Brien** that concluded on **6 May 2026**.

1.	RESPONDENT In line with our duty under Regulation 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, Sodexo provides this response within 56 days (plus any extension granted) of the date of the Report to Prevent Future Deaths.
2.	DATE OF RESPONSE 24 June 2026
3.	CONFIRMATION OF CORONER'S MATTERS OF CONCERN The MATTERS OF CONCERN were identified in the report are as follows: 1 - No ongoing training has been provided to prison officers since initial training on basic life support or first aid meaning that officers confronted with discovery of a ligature situation were unable to provide immediate and basic life support due to a lack of confidence and unfamiliarity of what to do in a situation where every second can count in promoting the chances of an optimal recovery. Training is now to be provided by Sodexo to staff, but it is unclear what the position is within public sector prisons.

2 - 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 work place basis. Clarification may be helpful to determine whether this includes life preserving response in what is a extraordinary type of working environment.

3 - The PSO relating to clinical holds and consistency of healthcare for prisoners was noted to be 20 years old and made no reference to mental health conditions or neurodiversity issues affecting the appropriateness or considerations of a prison transfer weighed against clinical judgment to place a clinical hold on transfer. It was apparent that witnesses did not all consider these issues with a bias to consider physical health issues as reflected by the PSO. In my judgement there is an opportunity to review the guidance at a national level which may be somewhat overdue.

4 - No mental health nurses from primary mental health care charged with completing a segregation algorithm form has received training on how this should be done, definitions to be applied or necessary escalation to healthcare for a MDT to occur. On the evidence a question of whether a prisoner had self harmed during this period of custody was viewed as meaning since arrival at the establishment meaning that any acts of self harm at a former establishment were not included in the risk assessment matrix. Alongside the confusion of when to refer to healthcare for advice (given a view healthcare were attending to do this assessment), there was an apparent missed opportunity to escalate for secondary mental health care given ongoing bizarre behaviour being witnessed.

4.	DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN, how has the concern been addressed. [If no action is proposed please explain why here]. <i>Please note that any links to webpages included in the response will not be checked for sensitive information prior to publication, as the information is already online.</i> This response from Sodexo is in relation to the first matter of concern only. The other matters of concern (points 2-4) are to be addressed by other organisations. As the Regulation 28 Report notes, "Training is now to be provided by Sodexo to staff". HM Area Coroner Pemberton was informed by way of a letter dated 22 April 2026, in respect of the First Aid Training that Sodexo has committed to at HMP Forest Bank. We have enclosed that letter, and the First Aid Training Matrix, to this response. In brief, Sodexo has committed to ensuring that all custodial staff receive a first aid annual refresher, as well as a recertification every three years. All custodial staff receive Emergency First Aid at Work ("EFAW") training, with those in higher risk units, such as Care and Separation, Gym, and Healthcare, trained in First Aid at Work ("FAW"), which is a more detailed 3-day course. The specific requirements are detailed within the First Aid Training Matrix.
5.	DETAILS OF FURTHER ACTION PROPOSED <i>Please note that any links to webpages included in the response will not be checked for sensitive information prior to publication, as the information is already online.</i> Sodexo has already taken action to address the matters of concern, and had done so in line with its' letter dated 22 April 2026.

6.

SIGNATURE



Chief Operating Officer – Justice
Sodexo Government