HM Prison & Probation Service

[redacted]
Interim Director General Prisons
HM Prison and Probation Service
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Christopher Long
Senior Coroner
Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen
2 Faraday Court
Faraday Drive
Preston
Lancashire
PR2 9NB

16 October 2026

Dear Mr Long,

Thank you for your Regulation 28 report of 21 September 2026 following the inquest into the death of Mr Clive Cocking at HMP Wymott on 22 October 2024. I am responding on behalf of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) as the Interim Director General Prisons.

I know that you will share a copy of this response with Mr Cocking's family, and I would first like to express my condolences for their loss. Every death in custody is a tragedy and the safety of those in our care is my absolute priority.

You have expressed concern regarding the national Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) post-closure guidance.

As set out in evidence at the inquest, the current guidance on the post-closure process states that staff are expected to reopen the ACCT if an individual's risk increases during the six-week period following its closure. This action reinstates the assessment, care planning and review process and therefore supersedes the post-closure review. A change in circumstances will not necessarily result in the reopening of the ACCT if this change has not increased the individual's level of risk.

An annual review of the Prison Safety Policy Framework is currently taking place and, as part of that review, consideration is being given to strengthening guidance on the ACCT post-closure period, particularly the need for staff to remain alert to, and respond appropriately to, any changes in an individual's risk or support needs.

I hope the measures outlined above provide reassurance that HMPPS are committed to learning from the circumstances of Mr Cocking's death.

Yours sincerely

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Interim Director General Prisons