

Action Plan in response to the PPO Report into the death of Mr John Digweed on 13 April 2024 at HMP Garth

Rec No	Recommendation	Accepted / Not accepted	Response Action Taken / Planned	Responsible Owner and Organisation	Target Date
1	The Governor should introduce a robust quality assurance process until he is satisfied there is not a systemic issue with false entries.	Accepted	The Head of Safer Custody will work in collaboration with the Head of Security to introduce a quality assurance process to ensure that staff are completing roll checks properly and that there is no systemic issue with falsified records. Where any member of staff is found to have falsified an entry, a disciplinary investigation will be undertaken.	Head of Safer Custody and Head of Security & Intelligence, HMPPS	December 2024
2	The Governor should evidence how the prison will monitor the challenging of blocked observation panels to ensure compliance with local processes.	Accepted	HMP Garth will reissue prisoner and staff information notices about observation panels. Staff will be signposted to the relevant Governor's Order that sets out the action staff should take when they discover a blocked observation panel. The blocking of an observation panel should trigger an Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) downgrade, and the Head of Safer Custody and Head of Residence will review where IEP data relating to blocked observation panels should be	Head of Residence and Head of Safer Custody, HMPPS	December 2024

			discussed, for example at Safer Custody meetings, to ensure that prisoners are being challenged in line with local processes.		
3	The Governor should introduce a robust quality assurance process to satisfy himself that all staff look through the observation panel before unlocking cells.	Accepted	As part of foundation training all staff are taught the importance of observing prisoners through the observation panel prior to unlocking cells. The New Colleague Mentor (NCM) also reinforces this during the induction period. The NCM will conduct further awareness sessions outside of the induction programme and a staff information notice will be issued to remind staff of the importance of looking through the observation panel before unlocking a cell door.	Head of Safer Prisons & Equalities, HMPPS	December 2024
4	The Governor should set out how he intends to reduce the number of unheard Adjudications.	Accepted	There is now a designated Operational Manager at HMP Garth who has been tasked with completing remanded adjudications. Furthermore, following an IT upgrade in the adjudication room and the Segregation Unit, Supervising Officers have access to body worn video camera footage which allows adjudications to progress without being remanded. The Crime in Prison clinic has been modified with Police Liaison Officer/ Security/ Segregation to review referrals and ensure the threshold has been met. Where it has not, the case is referred back for local processing. This process ensures that adjudications are not remanded for a prolonged period of time.	Head of Segregation & Discreet Units, HMPPS	Completed