



PROTOCOL ON SHARING INFORMATION BETWEEN HM CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PRISONS (HMCIP) AND INQUEST

October 2024

This protocol sets out some broad principles as to how HMI Prisons and INQUEST will work together.

INQUEST will:

- Securely pass to HMI Prisons information or evidence arising from its case and policy work relevant to the policies and practices operating within relevant establishments around the care and treatment of prisoners and detainees.
- Where relevant, secure the consent of family members before information is shared otherwise information may be anonymised.
- Recognising that there may be delays before PPO investigation reports are published or inquest hearings held, examples of information that may be shared include:
 - details of INQUEST's monthly prisons briefing.
 - early alerts to issues or concerns raised about an establishment.
 - identifying concerning trends, eg, the use of restraints during 'end of life care', dangerous cell designs, prescribing practices, staff bullying.
 - concerns or problems around staffing issues.
 - contractor issues, eg, around the provision of healthcare services, prisoner transport.
 - repeat issues, eg, where recommendations from either Coroners' Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths or PPO reports appear to have not been acted upon.
 - inquest jury findings, Coroners Reports to Prevent Future Deaths and any particularly strong witness evidence from inquests which are reflective of current practices and systems operating at a prison.

HMI Prisons will:

- Add any information shared by Inquest to their existing intelligence files on each prison, which would then be considered before the next inspection.

- Retain and destroy all information shared in line with HMIP's existing Records Retention and Disposition Schedule.

Contacts


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Signatories



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