

Action Plan in response to the PPO Report into the death of Mr Ronald Wotton on 25/05/2021 at HMP Durham

Rec No	Recommendation	Accepted / Not accepted	Response Action Taken / Planned	Responsible Owner and Organisation	Target Date
1	The Governor should ensure that there are sufficient staff available to escort prisoners who need to go to hospital urgently.	Accepted	<p>When it is critical staff are available to attend hospital; this would be by ambulance if deemed so serious by medical staff that the person was acutely ill. Staff will be available to escort an emergency ambulance with person to hospital at all times.</p> <p>Additionally, the Head of Healthcare will discuss with doctors/all nursing staff whether a situation requires an ambulance and as such liaise with Operational Manager/Duty Governor to arrange. If a life threatening situation an ambulance must be requested and staffing will be available</p>	Governor & Head of Healthcare	Complete
2	<p>The Governor and Head of Healthcare should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> healthcare staff fully and accurately reflect the current health and mobility of a prisoner when they complete the medical 	Accepted	<p>All are assessed individually, based on the information that is available at that time and the risk(s) posed.</p> <p>Head of Security issued detailed guidance in June 2022 to all relevant staff as to what information they should include on the risk assessment.</p>	Head of Security & Head of Healthcare	Complete



	<p>section of an escort risk assessment; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ all staff undertaking risk assessments for prisoners taken to hospital understand the legal position, and that assessments fully take into account the health of a prisoner and are based on the actual risk the prisoner presents at the time. 		<p>The guidance details specific instructions to healthcare staff that they should record as much information as possible about the prisoner's current and ongoing health issues, including the level of mobility and their medical condition(s).</p> <p>The guidance was also issued to all Duty Governors, with details as to what they should take into consideration when setting the level of restraints that are required. It reiterates the legal judgment and PSI 33/2015.</p> <p>The guidance was also explicit in instructions for administrative staff in the Security Department to ensure that healthcare has inputted to the medical section before the duty governor makes a risk assessment.</p>		
3	The Governor should ensure that the Death in Custody Contingency plans include instructions on how to inform the Coroner of a death in the absence of the police.	Accepted	The contingency plans for Death in Custody will be updated with this information. Head of Operations will liaise with Coroner's office to ascertain how to achieve this and add it to the relevant contingency plan and then inform all senior managers, who would use this contingency, that there has been a change to the document.	Head of Operations Governor	Complete 07/07/2022
4	The Governor should ensure that when a prisoner dies in custody, a deputy family liaison officer is appointed and all contact with a next of kin is recorded to provide continuity of support in the absence of the designated family liaison officer.	Accepted	Head of Safer Prisons will liaise with the lead for Family Liaison Officers (FLO) and discuss this and ensure the contingency plan is updated and FLO Log is changed to add an 'assist' should there ever be a reason that the nominated FLO is not available.	Head of Safety Governor Head of Operations Governor	07/07/2022



5	<p>The Governor should ensure that in line with PSI 64/2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ an appropriate contribution is now made to Mr Wotton's family to cover the reasonable costs of his funeral; and ■ FLOs are reminded to offer to contribute towards funeral costs promptly when there is a death in custody. 		<p>Contribution has been made to Mr Wottons family in line with PSI 64/2011</p> <p>FLO Information booklet has been produced and is given to the family at the appropriate time which details all elements of support available, roles or the Prison and Family Liaison offer and the prison services obligations towards funeral cost.</p>	<p>Head of Business Assurance</p> <p>Head of Safety Governor</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>07/07/2022</p>
6	<p>The Governor should share this report with the Head of Security and with the Family Liaison Officer to ensure they are aware of the Ombudsman's findings.</p>	Accepted	<p>Report was shared with those mentioned by Head of Safer Prisons and discussed this with them in January 2022.</p>	<p>Head of Safety Governor</p>	<p>Complete</p>

