

Action Plan in response to the PPO Report into the death of Mr Gavin Wheale on 8 August 2024 at HMP Birmingham

Rec No	Recommendation	Accepted / Not accepted	Response Action Taken / Planned	Responsible Owner and Organisation	Target Date
1	The Governor and Head of Healthcare should deliver training to staff emphasising the potential risk of harm to a prisoner suspected of secreting items and introduce a robust assurance process to satisfy themselves that this learning has been embedded.	Accepted	<p>HMP Birmingham held security awareness events in January and March 2025, and the risks associated with secretion were formally addressed at them. This topic will remain a recurring agenda item in all future security-focused training sessions. To reinforce awareness, an informational video has been integrated into the local security strategy and provides clear guidance for staff conducting x-ray body scans on indicators of potential concealment.</p> <p>Additionally, Duty Governors are undertaking daily reviews of all individuals subject to the secretion policy to ensure the accurate completion of associated documentation and continuous awareness of associated risks. Furthermore, a dedicated briefing on secretion-related risks will be embedded within the induction process for all new staff in both Reception and the Care & Separation Unit (CSU).</p>	Head of Security, HMPPS	Completed

			<p>A revised healthcare secretion policy has been implemented, clearly outlining the clinical and operational risks posed by secreted items, along with appropriate management and escalation protocols. Targeted training sessions, including NEWS2 and enhanced clinical vigilance, have been delivered to Registered Mental Health Nurses (RMNs) to strengthen their ability to identify and respond to these risks. The subject is also actively discussed during clinical handovers and regular staff supervision.</p> <p>To ensure ongoing compliance with both prison and healthcare protocols, dip testing is being routinely conducted as part of a broader assurance framework.</p>	Head of Healthcare, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust	Completed
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