

Interview with Detainee Custody Manager Shane Farrell on 16 January 2018.

Start: 13:24 hrs

Break: 14:36 - 38

End: 15:15 hrs

Present:

Helen Wilkinson, Investigating Officer, Professional Standards Unit

DCM Shane Farrell, Brook House IRC

Joe Marshall, Prison Officers Association representative

The background to the investigation and next steps were covered. The role of the POA representative was explained. DCM Farrell consented to the interview being digitally recorded. He was advised the matter had been referred to the police given the allegation was excessive use of force. He confirmed that he had seen his use of force report before the digital recorder was switched on.

DCM Farrell had been at Brook House of just over one year and prior to that Tinsley House for five to six years. Tinsley was more immigration offenders rather than FNOs. The regime at Tinsley is different to Brook House. He was now the Oscar 2 and covered reception and induction Wing. On 13 May 2017, he had been a residential manager and had been shadowing Oscar 2 Chris Donnelly and was in reception. He may have followed the ACDT, completing the paperwork as part of his shadowing. He had been new to Brook House /DCM role at the time (December 2016) as Tinsley was closed for refurbishment so had been seconded to the DCM role. Someone had informed him there was an individual in discharge who did not want to leave Brook House. This had been one of his first spontaneous control and restraints.

DCM Farrell was shown the CCTV of the Discharge Waiting Area (DWA). He identified himself and DD Dan Haughton entering the room. Once the door to the toilet was opened, he identified DCOs Darren Bulled, Callum Tulley and Jonny Martin. He said DCO Bulled had briefed him that [D687] had a transfer but did not want to. He had pulled his t-shirt off and put it around his neck. DCM Farrell had entered the room to try and keep [D687] calm. [D687] was adamant he wanted no-one near him and that was why all the officers were against the wall.

When he arrived and saw the ligature around [D687] neck, DCM Farrell had been concerned that [D687] was "going to do something to deliberately hurt himself to stop his removal. I knew that if I went in there portrayed I wanted to jump in there and stop him from doing it it would prompt him to hurt himself. That is why I stood back with my hands in my pockets trying to portray a relaxed, calm to stop him thinking we would do something so he dropped his body weight." He said that the ligature had been a call for help. Not pre-planned but to stop the transfer. It had been a threat and he had been unaware of [D687] trying to kill himself before he arrived. He had seen the Panorama footage.

Of training, DCM Farrell said he had learned from experience. He had done ACDT Case Work managing. It was covered on restraint training i.e. the right to prevent someone hurting themselves, preserve life. He had been told to use the fish knife to

cut the ligature away from the person's neck to relieve the pressure and enable the person to breathe.

DD Haughton spoke to [D687] and offered [D687] a cigarette and then went to cut the t-shirt away from his neck with the fish knife borrowed from DCO Bulled. If [D687] had decided to drop his body, the fish knife would be used to cut the t-shirt away from his neck. All DCMs and DCOs would carry a fish knife. DDs would not as they were not operational.

[D687] had taken the cigarette and had been saying "don't come close to me." DD Haughton had offered to light the cigarette and [D687] had asked for the lighter but DD Haughton had said that he did not want to give it away and had offered to light the cigarette. This enabled DD Haughton to get closer and take the ligature off [D687] neck with the fish knife. DCM Farrell said he had not actually seen the removal of the ligature because it had happened so quickly. He had assumed it had been used. The ligature was attached to the disabled arm rest in the toilet. This is when DCOs Martin and Tulley went to assist with the arms because [D687] had gone to the ground and could still pull the ligature tight. DCM Farrell had not seen [D687] go to the ground or who had held his head because he had entered just after this and then concentrated on the arm.

DCM Chris Donnelly entered the DWA. DCO Martin had taken hold of [D687] arm in a final lock (stretched out) or at the base of his spine but DCO Tulley had been struggling with the other arm because this had been underneath [D687]. DCM Farrell managed to get control of the arm "quite easily" (DCO Tulley may have loosened in the struggle) and place it at the base of his spine (inverted wrist hold). DCM Farrell held the crease where the elbow is and pulled the arm out. He took hold of the wrist in a final lock (thumb and index finger and hold back and place at base of the spine. The slight push on the wrist as it is bent back affected people's pain threshold at different levels. He put on no pressure. [D687] had not screamed or said his wrist was hurting. [D687] had not raised any health concerns whilst on the floor and if he had, a medical response would have been called and all holds released until healthcare arrived. The handcuffs were applied by DCM Donnelly. DCO Tulley had left the room.

DCM Ian McDonald then entered. DCM Farrell said [D687] was on the floor and DCM Donnelly was talking to [D687] about complying. He was in the prone position and his head was towards the door. DCM Farrell said that they had supported [D687] on the arms (bicep and wrist) to prevent [D687] from hurting himself if he fell in handcuffs. POA Marshall confirmed this was the training officers received when moving detainees in handcuffs. There was no need for a head officer as [D687] was complying.

DCM Farrell said that as they had walked [D687] to reception he had told them not to touch him, leave him alone, release him and to "fuck off." He had told [D687] that they had to hold him in case he fell or tripped in handcuffs.

The reception area footage was shown. This was where the detainees were handed over and paperwork completed / property prepared. He was sat in the alcove as there is a seat there and [D687] had wanted to sit down. DCM Farrell said he