

## 14. Investigation Report

Detainee Custody Manager  
Chris Donnelly

**Irrelevant/DPA**

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Investigator Tony Hayes / Chris McGuire Authorised by Paul Kempster

### Section 1: Matter to be investigated

BBC raised allegations which may constitute misconduct in a letter on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to G4s about DCM Donnelly's alleged involvement in the following incidents: (Allegations below as per letter)

1. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July you said of detainees who go on hunger strike, that, "I don't know if these guys here have all got overprotective mums", imitated a mother feeding a baby and said "they think we are all as soft as shite and will let them out."
2. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July after detainee D865 tried to hang himself in his room, you said D865 had not tied anything to his neck when it was apparent that the detainee had in fact tied a television cable around his neck and was unconscious. You did not remove the ligature around his neck until approximately two minutes after the medical emergency was announced.

Date due for completion 15/09/2017

### Section 2: Scope of Investigation

To investigate the allegations made by the BBC against G4S staff working at Gatwick Immigration Removal Centre, Brook House.

Interview individual members of staff where allegations have been made

Interview witnesses

Review local documentary evidence and other records

Examine CCTV and Body Worn Video Camera footage

Review Panorama footage

To report findings and conclusions to the Commissioning Authority

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**Section 3: Summary of interview with the alleged wrong doer (where applicable)****Allegation 1:**

***On the 3rd of July you said of detainees who go on hunger strike, that, "I don't know if these guys here have all got overprotective mums", imitated a mother feeding a baby and said "they think we are all as soft as shite and will let them out."***

DCM Connelly stated that he has been employed by G4s since 2009 and is currently working at Brook House. His current role is Oscar 1 which includes incident management and first response.

DCM Connelly confirmed he successfully completed his ITC on 2009, he is trained in C&R, and up to date with his First Aid.

DCM Connelly confirmed he was on duty on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017.

DCM Connelly was asked about this allegation and initially stated that he did not remember the incident and said it was not usually how he would talk.

When pressed further DCM Connelly accepted that he may well have made these comments to his colleagues.

When asked why he stated, "this was relating to when they misbehave we just let them back out again."

DCM Connelly acknowledged these comments were inappropriate and he appeared genuinely regretful.

**Allegation 2:**

***On the 4th of July after detainee [D865] tried to hang himself in his room, you said [D865] had not tied anything to his neck when it was apparent that the detainee had in fact tied a television cable around his neck and was unconscious. You did not remove the ligature around his neck until approximately two minutes after the medical emergency was announced.***

DCM Connelly confirmed he was on duty 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

DCM Connelly was asked to explain the incident and the allegation made against him.

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DCM Connelly stated that he responded to a 1<sup>st</sup> response call on A-Wing. He stated he made his way from B-Wing to the emergency and commented that it took him about a minute to arrive.

On his arrival DCM Connelly stated he observed PCO Opoku in room A110 and the detainee was lying on his side with a television beneath his head.

DCM Connelly stated that on his arrival he could see the detainee ( **D865** ) was breathing, semi-conscious and groaning

DCM Connelly stated he was joined by other staff members responding to the incident

DCM Connelly recalled someone asking him in the room if something was tied around his neck. On closer inspection DCM Connelly noticed a thin cord tied loosely around the detainee's neck.

DCM Connelly stated that the cord was loose enough for him to get his fingers underneath and cut the ligature off with his fish-knife. He described the ligature as a blue shoelace and not a black TV cable, commenting that a black TV cable would be more difficult to cut with a fish knife and the shoelace cut easily and was removed quickly.

When asked about the delay, DCM Connelly acknowledged that on arrival at the scene in the room he "missed" the ligature. DCM Connelly acknowledged when questioned about his training regarding first on scene that preservation of life is his priority which should have included checking for ligatures.

DCM Connelly stated that he assumed wrongly that DCO Opoku who raised the original alarm and was first on scene had removed the ligature.

DCM Connelly acknowledged there was a delay in removing the ligature and the allegation made by the BBC may be accurate. He was very clear that there was no intent on his part to cause ( **D865** ) any further harm or distress and he genuinely did not see the ligature when he arrived.

DCM Connelly stated that all the relevant documentation was completed.

DCM Connelly stated that he has worked here a long time, he takes his job very seriously and he responds to incidents quickly and has saved many lives.

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**Section 4: Summary of any third party interviews****DCO Ben Opoku**

DCO Opoku confirmed he raised the alarm on discovery of detainee **D865** lying on the floor in his room A110.

DCO Opoku initially stated that he saw **D865** lying on the floor with a ligature tied around his neck and TV bracket had come away from the wall

When challenged DCO Opoku stated that he waited at the door until first responders arrived and did not render first aid or remove the ligature

DCO Opoku stated when enough people arrived he left the unit and took no further part in the management of the incident

DCO Opoku was asked about his understanding and responsibilities as first on scene. He acknowledged that his role was to provide emergency aid and preserve life.

DCO Opoku requested a break from interview and to consult with work-place colleague. On his return he changed his version of events and stated *he did not see any ligature when he observed the detainee lying on the floor.*

DCO Opoku stated he was in shock and froze and this is why he took no action.

DCO Opoku stated that when DCM Connelly arrived he provided no hand-over.

**Section 5: Relevant evidence examined**

Panorama programme 04/09/2017  
Local documentation:  
F213, Incident report, ACDT, Staff roster

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**Section 6: Findings****Allegation 1**      **Substantiated**

DCM Connelly accepted that he made the comments alleged by the BBC and confirmed he made these towards a work-place colleague and not in earshot of detainees.

**Allegation 2**      **Substantiated**

This incident was captured and featured on the BBC Panorama programme aired on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 21:00.

DCO Opoku raised the alarm and observed [D865] lying on the floor in his room (A110) and failed to render immediate first aid and remove the ligature

DCO Opoku waited for the first response to arrive then entered the room

DCM Connelly arrived approximately 1 minute later and entered the room and did not initially observe a ligature tied around the neck of [D865]

DCM Connelly was prompted by DCO Tulley who arrived in the room that there may be a ligature tied around [D865] neck. On further inspection of the neck DCM Connelly observed a ligature around [D865] neck and immediately used his fish-knife to cut the ligature away.

The ligature removed was a blue shoe-lace and not a TV cable as stated in the allegations by the BBC. This ligature was seized as evidence and recorded appropriately.

[D865] received medical treatment swiftly at the scene by a nurse and the F213 noted that [D865] was breathing, swallowing, able to talk normally and smoking a cigarette.

All relevant documentation was completed and contained relevant information this included F213, ACDT update, incident report, SIR

Following the incident [D865] was relocated to Eden Wing on a constant supervision, an ACDT review was completed.

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**Section 7: Conclusions**

DCM Donnelly was the subject of two allegations made by the BBC. Of the two allegations there was supporting evidence from the Panorama programme in relation to one of these.

In relation to the allegations made by the BBC there is sufficient evidence to substantiate all or some of these concerns which are therefore a matter for the Commissioning Authority to consider. However, the investigation team were satisfied that DCM Donnelly did not act with any intent to cause harm or distress to the detainee in relation to the removal of the ligature.

DCO Opoku was interviewed and admitted that he failed to administer emergency aid and remove the ligature from the detainee. This was the cause for the two-minute delay identified by the BBC. The investigation team believe that there is sufficient evidence in relation to this failure to act appropriately for the Commissioning Authority to consider.

Completed by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date

11/9/17 \_\_\_\_\_

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