

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



had stayed and DCO Martin had as well. [D687] had been in handcuffs so DCM Farrell had stayed as a precaution in case [D687] fell. He said the healthcare workers were Emily Parr and he could not identify the other one. [D687] had been offered to see healthcare but DCM Farrell could not remember if [D687] had wanted to.

DCM Farrell had been wearing a sling that was the BWV. He could not remember if he had had a camera or had just been wearing the strap. He said the old cameras had not been very big. He said there were only a limited number of cameras at the time and these would have been handed over to any officers leaving the centre on escorts. He could not remember switching a camera on.

He had been briefed during the day that [D687] was on an open ACDT. The red book had been an ACDT document. He had logged the self strangulation in the ACDT. He identified the Record of Case Review document that he had completed. He said that DCM S Povey had been invited but was unavailable, DCM Donnelly had been present. The form had been a summary of what had happened. He had changed the observations from three a day to four an hour given the ligature. He had spoken to Tascor to see if they were happy to take on those observations (four an hour) and said that if Tascor had said no that [D687] would have stayed at the centre because that was the assessment of the observations needed. This would have happened in Eden Wing, where detainees with self harm concerns were held so that they could be observed. Given the detainees could leave the wings, this made observations difficult hence Eden Wing.

In response to Tascor stating they could not manage the original observations suggested (cellular van) and the DCM changing the observations so Tascor would take him, DCM Farrell said there had not been a discussion. The observations were based on the ligature usage and it would have stayed at four an hour whether he left the centre or remained. The four observations an hour were based on [D687] needs. The frequency is a personal call and there is no set frequency. He may have asked DCM Donnelly's advice.

He said that the CCTV then showed the handcuffs being removed and he could not remember if Tascor had used restraints. [D687] was then telling Tascor why he did not want to be transferred. He had been in detention for a long time. He said this delay was to calm [D687] down so that he would not need to be transferred in restraints. They were a new face. DCM Farrell said there was no reason for DCO Tulley to remain as [D687] had been handed over to Tascor and was not in handcuffs

In terms of support to officers post incidents i.e. ligatures or attacks by detainees, DCM Farrell said it "would be nice to know that people care." He had support of his colleagues but managers had just asked if he was alright and that was all. After being hit with a pool cue, he had asked to be rotated back to Tinsley but this had not happened. POA Marshall said there were support issues. DCM Farrell said the lack was causing high staff turnover and low staff morale. POA Marshall said there was a staff care team. DCM Farrell said that this team was not confidential. He said staff are just trying to laugh things off and carry on. DCM Farrell had been given no management training to support staff and was as operational as DCOs.

Break.

DCM Farrell was unaware who had spoken to [D687] about his move. It would have been a wing officer.

In response to why he had completed a use of force report and an incident statement he said that that was what should be done. The use of force to inform security and the incident statement because of the self harm. He would complete both use of force reports and incident statement for any use of force.

[D687] had been very irate, shouting he did not want to go, pleading with them not to make him transfer. DCM Farrell said that [D687] would have self harmed to prevent his removal from Brook House. DCM Farrell said that he would take every threat seriously.

DCM Farrell said "absolutely not" in response to whether he had punched or kicked [D687] in the left ribs. He said that "a knock" could have occurred as he and DCO Tulley swapped positions, but coming out of the room DCM Farrell had been on the right side and not the left. DCM Farrell said they are told in training to avoid putting any pressure on the back and they are taught to place bodies away from the back. He said it was a tight area but you would "make yourself uncomfortable to make sure there is no pressure on the person's back." He had not and had not seen anyone on [D687] back.

The handcuffs were applied to the rear as that is how they are trained. DCM Farrell had not heard [D687] say he could not breathe or someone had kicked / punched him or sat on his back. If he had said he could not breathe, officers would have instantly repositioned themselves. DCM Farrell had not wanted [D687] to sit down in handcuffs to the rear but it had been [D687] who had wanted to sit down. They had stayed close enough to stop him falling and hurting himself.

In response to mental health care at Brook House being inadequate, he said that there was a mental health team and they did their job. He was not mental health trained so could not comment.

In response to verbal and racial abuse daily on C and then A Wing and him going back to his own country, DCM Farrell said he had not witnessed this and would be shocked if that was true. POA Marshall said that he knew [D687] because he managed the paid labour. He too would be very surprised if this was the case. [D687] had made no complaint and they had a good relationship over the few months he was in paid labour.

In response to manager Steve who worked across the whole of the centre and called [D687] names, DCM Farrell said that this was Steve Webb and he had now left. He was on the opposite shift so would not be in the building on the same day. DCM Farrell had not witnessed such comments. This Steve had not been present during the use of force incident. He would not wear a red shirt, only DD Houghton was able to wear clothes that were not uniform. In response to officers having power and he would suffer reprisals, DCM Farrell said that was not the case. DCM Nathan Ring was not present.

DCM Farrell said the door to the toilet opened outwards and no officers pushed the door open. No-one grabbed [D687] neck. His fingers and wrist may have felt twisted as the locks were being applied. This is how they are taught. No-one had purposely kicked or punched [D687] in the ribs. Regardless of the doctor's diagnosis, DCM Farrell had not seen anyone kick or punch him in the ribs.

No officer had his fingers in his nose and pull his head back. No-one made the comment "fuck off back to your own country." [D687] had resisted on the floor (arm under body and moving) and had not made that comment. Force was used to preserve life and present for removal. DCM Farrell did not know how the t-shirt was removed. He thought the fish knife because a fish knife was taken in. No-one dragged him on the floor with the t-shirt. [D687] had not told officers his ribs hurt and had not been told to man up because he was getting on the bus.

In response to Tascor stating officers had not rushed to attend the incident, DCM Farrell said they are told not to run but to walk purposely and there were two doors and keys needed to open them.

DCM Farrell said that officers would not share detainee information with other detainees. That information is confidential. He was unaware of anyone who had done this.

DCM Farrell was advised what would happen next and feedback would be through G4S managers. He was happy with how the interview was conducted. He asked for a copy of the written summary to be sent to him and was happy for this to be sent via Karen Goulder.