



PROTOCOL ON WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN HM CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PRISONS (HMCIP) AND THE PRISONS AND PROBATION OMBUDSMAN (PPO)

This protocol sets out some broad principles as to how HMCIP and the PPO will work together. We share a commitment to decency and fairness in prisons, and have a mutual interest in judgments on the conditions for and treatment of detainees in those establishments where a death in custody occurs or complaints are made. We also share a desire to protect and develop the independence of our offices and ensure adequate resources for our work. Working arrangements have been, and should continue to be, respectful and mutually supportive. It is not the intention of this protocol to reduce or unnecessarily constrain current working arrangements but to improve them further.

HMCIP and the PPO will:

- Share relevant information.
- Support each other's work.
- Encourage staff development.
- As far as possible, pursue a joint approach to issues of common interest, particularly concerning a prisoner's ability to, as well as need, to make complaints, future deaths in custody and matters relating to the independence of our offices.
- Ensure that researchers share matters of mutual interest.
- Meet every quarter to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- Where appropriate, support recruitment campaigns.
- Contribute to the induction of new staff.

The PPO will:

- Share any intelligence relevant to HMCIP's duty to inspect the conditions and treatment of prisoners and detainees.
- Share death in custody reports, including draft reports and clinical reviews, including details of any which are suspended and why, prior to each announced and unannounced inspection.
- Share information about early findings if the report is incomplete.
- Provide the Summary and Recommendations for every finalised report.
- Draw HMCIP's attention to any national recommendations.

- Provide information about complaints on request.
- Seek advice from HMCIP as appropriate to an investigation.
- Consult HMCIP on any draft investigation report in which there appears to be a contrary finding to an HMCIP report or potential criticism of HMCIP.
- Share lessons learned from investigations and plans for Learning Lessons publications, identifying where joint work might be appropriate.

HMCIP will:

- Share intelligence relevant to the PPO's duty to investigate deaths and complaints in custody and immigration detention.
- Share inspection reports where there is discussion of the PPO or his investigations, including draft reports that have reached factual accuracy check stage, and also relevant research findings.
- Wherever possible, provide additional information on request including advice on any aspect of prison life, especially complaints handling, health and safer custody matters.
- Insofar as is appropriate, assess the establishment's compliance with PPO recommendations and provide brief feedback to the PPO.
- Where appropriate, report assessment of compliance with PPO recommendations in the inspection report.
- Consult the PPO on any inspection findings or reporting in which there appears to be a contrary finding to a PPO report or potential criticism of the PPO.
- Share plans for thematic publications, including where joint work might be appropriate.

Meetings:

- Quarterly meetings will be attended by relevant practitioners, with an annual review of this protocol attended by the Deputy Chief Inspector and Deputy Ombudsmen, Fatal Incidents and Complaints.
- Meetings will be chaired and minuted alternately by the two offices.



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Nick Hardwick, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

11th November 2013

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Date:



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Nigel Newcomen, Prisons & Probation Ombudsman

11th November 2013

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Date: