

**OFFICIAL**

Date: 4 May 2023

**BY EMAIL**



Gordon McCreadie  
Chief Superintendent  
Divisional Commander  
Criminal Justice Services Division

CJSDDivisionalCommander@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Dear Minister,

**Joint Inspection of Custody and Healthcare Provision - Lanarkshire**

I refer to your letter of 24 April 2023 to Chief Constable Sir Iain Livingstone QPM regarding the recent joint inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland (HMICS) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) of our custody centres in Lanarkshire. The Chief Constable has asked me to respond in my role as the Divisional Commander of Criminal Justice Services Division, the division which oversees the police custody provision in Scotland.

Firstly, let me say that we welcome these inspections and we have been advocating for consideration of the ways in which the healthcare provision is supplied to people in custody by the 14 local Health Boards. I was pleased to learn that the Inspectorate concluded that those held in custody in Lanarkshire were well cared for and recognised that our staff work extremely hard to deliver a high quality of service, in what is one of the busiest and most challenging custody environments in Scotland.

As you are aware the report made a number of recommendations, both for Police Scotland and NHS Lanarkshire to consider. I can advise that those relevant to Police Scotland are currently being progressed with an aim to have them discharged as soon as possible. We will also continue to work with NHS colleagues through the National Police Care Network to support them in progressing the recommendations for which they are responsible.

In relation to Opioid Substitution Treatment and the absence of a controlled drug license to meet legal obligations on the storage and supply of controlled drugs to those within police custody, I can advise that these are matters for NHS Lanarkshire but I can inform you they are being actively advanced by the NHS Service Manager with responsibility for Custody Healthcare who I understand is in dialogue with the Inspectorate on this matter. We welcome that this issue has been highlighted and the network are in engagement with all NHS Boards to ensure that appropriate licences are in place in all other areas.

As part of our commitment to keeping people safe and minimising harm, Police Scotland has proactively rolled out training in the administration of Naloxone to all our officers and this is now included within the two day syllabus of our officer safety training. As this programme rolls out we will get to a position in the near future where all police officers in CJSD will be in a position to administer it should the need arise. A number of our custody centres also have

**OFFICIAL**

**OFFICIAL**

24/7 cover by healthcare practitioners who have access to Naloxone. In regards our police staff based in custody centres we are currently in consultation with staff representative bodies with a view to rolling out this training to police staff also. This is something the division have been driving to deliver for some months.

In relation to training our staff in substance dependency, mental health and trauma informed care we always strive to provide a supportive environment for persons passing through our custody centres. We work hand in hand with our key partner's primarily in the NHS to offer help on this journey. In order to deal effectively with these personal crises it's essential for Police Scotland to have officers and staff who understand the trauma which is often at the root of such appeals for help. We have trained divisional champions in Trauma & Informed Practices with a view to offering our remaining staff learning in this important area in the near future.

I trust this provides you with the assurances you seek, however should you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to get back in touch via email at [CJSDDivisionalCommander@scotland.police.uk](mailto:CJSDDivisionalCommander@scotland.police.uk).

Yours sincerely



Gordon McCreadie  
Chief Superintendent

**OFFICIAL**