

Update from HM Coroner - Officers use of s136 Mental Health Act

As National Police Chiefs' Council lead for Mental Health and Policing, I have received a Prevent Further Deaths (PFD) from H.M. Coroner for Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon concerning the security of ambulances where they are used to convey patients after an officer's use of S136 Mental Health Act 1983. In the death of Trystan Bryant, it is considered relevant that he was able to walk out of an ambulance when not sufficiently contained or supervised; in part because ambulance doors cannot be locked to ensure containment.

As such, I would ask that you ensure all of your officers are aware that they must ensure the supervision, containment and if unavoidable, restraint of those detained where ambulances are used to convey patients to a Place of Safety. In law, conveyance by ambulance does not imply agreement to convey and detain unless expressly agreed otherwise and police officers remain responsible for the security of the detained person until handed over, usually at the Place of Safety.

If you have any queries relating to the above, please direct them to Chief Inspector Michael Brown on - michael.brown2@college.pnn.police.uk

Mark Collins

Chief Constable, Dyfed-Powys Police

NPCC Lead for Mental Health Policing