



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Full Sutton
Full Sutton
York
YO14 1PS

MoJ ref: SUB097271

22 June 2022

Dear Chair,

**HMP FULL SUTTON: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JANUARY 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 December 2021. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work, particularly as you had a number of vacancies and I hope the current recruitment drive proves successful. I was saddened to hear there were two deaths in custody during the reporting year. As you are aware the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) carry out independent investigations into deaths in custody and I would like to assure the Board my officials take recommendations from the PPO very seriously.

I have noted the Board has carried forward their concerns for the third consecutive report. The pandemic has affected everyone and all aspects of life, I am therefore pleased to confirm that for education delivery and provision, the provider Milton Keynes College enrolled approximately one third of the population (198 prisoners) onto 525 courses, nearly half of which were accredited courses with an overall 87% completion rate to date. One of the outstanding successes of the past twelve months has been the development of the peer mentor scheme in support of learning both on the residential wings and in the classroom. The peer mentors, with assistance from teaching staff, have supported a large number of learners in achieving qualifications including working with those with low literacy levels and with prisoners where English is not their first language. A new and full curriculum has now been commissioned for 2022/2023 as opposed to the previously required quarter-year curriculum. The content will further support the need for functional skill qualifications ranging from Entry to Level 2 which aligns with the new pay policy.

Numerous other courses are now offered and include the following: a new suite of employability courses ranging from Entry to Level 2; an improved Waste Management Industry Training & Advisory Board cleaning course with the option for a Level 1 unit covering bodily fluids, spillages and hazardous items, and a new Level 2 Certificate in Cleaning Principles; a soon to be launched catering qualification supported by additional qualifications; a revised Personal and Social Development course offering skills development such team working, promotion of wellbeing, stress management and healthy lifestyles and a re-commissioned art qualification up to Level 3. This is in addition to almost 700 hours Open University (OU) and Distance Learning (DL) support commissioned, as well as 1000 hours outreach provision to support the small units and other areas. The revised pay policy has significantly raised the prominence of literacy and numeracy within the prison in clearly incentivising educational attainment, moving from assessed levels to awarded qualifications and linking this to enhanced wage levels.

Work provision has been increased and improved with the opening of a new lighting shop which will serve lighting upgrades within prisons together with providing sales for the company in the community. The new barista station, Café Portal, will be opening soon and provide employment places and related qualifications whilst doubling up as a café experience for staff and prisoners. The recycling workshop will open later this year and has had significant investment during the past twelve months.

The prison has also seized opportunities to expand and diversify provision within the workshop complex. The Workshops (excluding DHL and Kitchens) operate a part-time working regime which allows a larger proportion of the population to access the work areas. The Woodmill project that commenced in May 2022, involves the complex installation of machinery to manufacture and produce goods for the internal market including new-build prison projects. Although this project reduces the number of textiles workshops, it increases the overall number of activity spaces and diversifies the available work opportunities. The focus to increase accreditation delivery will also be evident in the charity bicycle repair workshop with the introduction of Velotech qualifications. Prisoners will demonstrate competence in the refurbishment of bikes to a level that satisfies the award.

The pandemic has without doubt affected HMP Full Sutton, it was therefore encouraging to receive your comments that although in many ways it was all-encompassing for prison management, they tried to manage the situation with future delivery in mind. Equally I was pleased to note that the prison maintained a safe environment for prisoners and staff, and improvements continued to be made to the fabric and decoration of parts of the prison. I was further encouraged to hear that the Safer Custody team's corridor cleaning party initiative has helped prisoners who were coping less well with the restricted regimes and the positive attitude and tremendous flexibility shown by staff and prisoners who work in the kitchen.

Local issues of concern raised in your report will be addressed by the Governor who will continue to keep you aware of as work continues.

The Justice Secretary and I appreciate the valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP Full Sutton.

Yours ever,



VICTORIA ATKINS MP