



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Long Lartin
South Littleton
Evesham
WR11 8TZ

MoJ ref: SUB 96900

27 June 2022

Dear Chair,

**HMP LONG LARTIN: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JANUARY 2021 – 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 in capturing these helpful observations, especially as you were short of Board members throughout the reporting period. I was saddened to hear about the death of the previous Chair and would like to extend my condolences to you and your colleagues. I was further saddened to note there were six deaths in custody during the reporting year. As you are aware the Prison 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.

Further to last year's response around night sanitation facilities, work on the upgrade programme started in May 2021 with each wing taking three to four months to complete subject to the number of additional work items discovered. The upgrade programme highlighted the large volume of doors requiring replacement together with a substantial number of less major repairs. The majority of reported night sanitation failures were due to mechanical cell door faults that were not identified during the initial surveys. This can give an impression of a regularly failing system, and I wanted to reassure the Board that this is not the case. The remedial works are now being completed alongside progression of the main night sanitation upgrade programme.

The new system has given the establishment more flexibility with a better and more equitable queueing process. Following the completion of the works on Charlie and Delta wings, the prisoners have had better access to the recess during the night and complaints have reduced. The project is due for completion by the end of 2022 and has been designed to reduce system failure or damage due to readily available spare parts.

I appreciate the Board's repeated and ongoing concerns regarding the Care, Separation and Reintegration Unit (CSRU) at HMP Long Lartin and across the wider estate. I can assure the Board that healthcare support, including mental health and psychosocial interventions, is available for all those housed in the segregation unit with regular reviews to monitor any impact of segregation on physical and mental health and wellbeing. Prisoners that present with deterioration in their mental health indicating a need for higher intensity support or referral to secure mental health services are supported within the inpatient facilities with care co-ordination from a named clinician to support recovery/transfer.

Locally at HMP Long Lartin, the staff work hard to try and motivate prisoners held in the CSRU to return to mainstream locations. Prison Offender Managers are consulted for progressive pathways in line with respective sentence management requirements, with the Pathway to Progression team involved for more complex prisoners. If it becomes clear a transfer out of the establishment is required, the population management team at headquarters facilitate the move, however this can be very challenging due to the population pressures across the specialist Long Term and High Security Estate sites.

Regarding delays in transferring prisoners to secure hospitals, across the Midlands region, NHS England and NHS Improvement lead on fortnightly calls with commissioners, prison healthcare providers, secure unit providers and secure unit case managers to continue to provide a regular forum to discuss patients and escalate areas where there are concerns and delays supporting prioritisation for those with urgent needs as well as enabling timely remissions. Additionally, the transfer and remissions of adult prisoners under the Mental Health Act (1983) Good Practice Guidance was published in June 2021. The guide sets out the performance matrix, and I can confirm referrals to secure hospitals are monitored at regional and national levels. Average waiting times are improving however Covid-19 and associated restrictions continue to have an effect on waiting times.

Although it was a very difficult and challenging reporting period, it was encouraging to receive your comments that HMP Long Lartin is an orderly and disciplined prison committed to keeping prisoners and staff as safe as is reasonably practical and that the treatment of prisoners has been largely fair, humane and consistent. I was also pleased to note that despite the workload and challenges the prison continued to promote the celebration of important national events, that Samaritan's training had resumed resulting in a record number of trained listeners, the essential work of the chaplaincy, the prisoners interest in art and namely the artist Graham Short, and the motivational visit from former offender Stephen Akapablo-Klementowski who managed to turn his life around and will hopefully inspire others.

I note you have raised some local issues of concern in your report which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex.

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 Long Lartin.

Yours ever,



VICTORIA ATKINS MP

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Maintenance and Estate Management Contracts

The contract is being robustly monitored and managed, however the contractor (Amey) and the contracts management team acknowledge that the site is not performing as it should be. A monthly contract performance meeting is in place and an action plan to improve the delivery has been requested. A full site condition survey is programmed for this calendar year. Thereafter bids will be submitted to seek funding for any highlighted improvements/asset replacement if they are not already within the capital building programme.

Projects currently being undertaken at HMP Long Lartin include works on the electrical supply infrastructure, and fire/water supply mains and macerator replacement. Other planned projects include the new main kitchen block to be built on the old exercise yard providing modern catering facilities with the potential of supplying a bigger population, and a new pitched roof covering the visits/education/chapel areas that will prevent the ingress of water and will include solar panels to reduce the carbon footprint of the establishment.

Social Care

NHS England and Improvement have confirmed that should a prisoner require a specific mattress for clinical reasons this would be considered by the healthcare provider in partnership with the prison and social care providers.

Prisoners' Property

The new Prisoners' Property Policy Framework is currently going through the necessary clearance processes and is expected to be published later this year. The Framework aims to ensure that property is handled with efficiency, care and respect and that staff and prisoners are clear on the arrangements in place. It provides clear requirements and strengthens guidance on known problem areas, including stronger volumetric control limits so that prisoners do not build up excessive amounts of property.

Locally at HMP Long Lartin, relaxed property allowances during the Covid-19 temporary regimes contributed to the amount of property prisoners accumulated throughout this period. Checks and monitoring resumed in November 2021. To address issues with the amount of stored property being held in Reception, the staff plan to write to all prisoners who are non-compliant with regulations and/or those who have excessive stored property and give them the option to send it out to family or friends, hand it out on visits, or to send for off-site storage at the central facility (Branston). Although currently there is disparity in policy between some of the other prisons within the Long Term and High Security Estate, efforts are being made to align policies where possible.

HMPPS can also confirm that there are no capacity issues at Branston. An audit of abandoned prisoners' property at the facility last year led to the disposal of over 5,250 boxes belonging to prisoners who were no longer in the system and their property had been held at Branston for a number of years. The facility is working to the processes set out in Prison Service Instruction 12/2011 - *Prisoners Property* - where it is emphasised "the storage of prisoners' excess property, either locally or centrally, is in principle an exceptional or temporary measure" and Governors must consider the merits of any prisoner's request or excess property to be held in storage. One of the key changes outlined in the new Prisoners' Property Policy Framework is that any individual prisoner will be limited to a maximum of three boxes at Branston.