



Ministry  
of Justice

**Victoria Atkins MP**  
Minister of State for Justice and  
Minister for Afghan resettlement

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP/YOI Hatfield  
Thorne Road  
Doncaster,  
South Yorkshire  
DN7 6EL

**MoJ ref:** SUB 93248

20 December 2021

Dear Chair,

**HMP/YOI HATFIELD: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 March 2021. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work in capturing these helpful observations, especially during a difficult period and with a very small complement of Board members.

It was encouraging to read there are no significant issues at HMP/YOI Hatfield and like the Board, I welcome the return of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) to Hatfield an important, proven tool to support resettlement. It was an unfortunate but a necessary measure to suspend most ROTL during the pandemic. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) continues to work closely with public health authorities to re-introduce access to ROTL when and where it is safe to do so, taking into account any changing national restrictions. Significant work has taken place to ensure that parole reviews have continued as planned. Parole hearings are now regularly being heard remotely, across the prison estate, with some or all parties in attendance via video link or teleconferencing. This flexible approach adopted by HMPPS and the Parole Board has increased the number of cases reviewed by the Parole Board.

Some prisoners continued in key work roles during the pandemic and this was absolutely the right thing to do to support local communities. It allowed support to be given to key areas such as local food production, warehousing and distribution in communities at a time of extreme shortages and helped prisoners support the country during a time of need.

In terms of updates, I am pleased to announce the demolishing of D and E wings and site preparatory work has already started on the first new accommodation block. The construction work of the unit will start from March 2022 and is expected to be completed by September 2022. Work on the second block will commence thereafter (each block will hold 60 beds). In addition, the scope of works includes a new multi-faith centre, dental suite and kitchen and reception improvements all of which are very welcomed by the Governor and staff.

Turning to some other positive comments captured in your report, it was encouraging to hear that every attempt was made to maintain as close to a normal regime as possible and prisoners and staff were kept safe. Likewise, the very positive staff culture mirrored by the highest staff engagement survey score out of the whole prison estate. I congratulate all at HMP/YOI Hatfield for this achievement and thank everyone for working exceptionally hard.

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/YOI Hatfield.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Victoria Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a stylized 'A'.

**VICTORIA ATKINS MP**