



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Liverpool
68 Hornby Road
Liverpool
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MoJ ref: SUB099349

31 August 2022

Dear Chair,

**HMP LIVERPOOL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR
1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 December 2021 and for continuing to visit the prison throughout the pandemic. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work, especially with several vacancies and during a difficult reporting year.

I was saddened to hear there were six 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 appreciate the Board's comments about the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and thanking the Governor and his staff for maintaining good relationships with your members. As highlighted by the Board, we have seen the biggest operational impact on prisons for a generation and the HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) recovery from the restrictions presented as great a challenge as the response itself. The pandemic has left the agency with areas of backlog alongside a series of competing demands to address in restoring the service.

HMPPS is committed to transforming delivery in a range of areas, including regimes, considering learning from the Covid pandemic in the past two years and the experience of working differently. On 9 May 2022 HMPPS exited the National Framework for Prison Regimes and Services and ceased Covid Gold command on 23 May 2022 moving regime delivery and local decision making wholly to Governors. The level of restriction that prison regimes have experienced means there is a critical need to increase access to time unlocked and purposeful activity that supports well-being, rehabilitation and sentence progression.

Since the easing of Covid-19 controls HMPPS has already seen levels of regime increase including employment and regime engagement, a positive upward trend. There is now weekly oversight of the level of purposeful activity being provided in each prison. A dedicated Regime Dashboard provides this management information locally and centrally ensuring progress can be tracked and any concerns identified to drive supportive action via the management line or centrally where required. HMPPS Directors and the Future Regime Design (FRD) Project team are actively engaging to achieve the maximum quality from the quantity of regime that can be delivered in prisons, and they will continue to be ambitious about this aspect and work with the operational line to share good practice.

HMPPS' aim and commitment is to expand regimes at an appropriate pace to balance the competing demands, to maintain safety through building the confidence and competence of staff and ensuring capacity to respond to the most acute staffing challenges in the system through cross deploying resources where there is greatest need. HMPPS continues to be ambitious in transforming the regimes delivered and develop new practice to make prisons more purposeful and more able to meet individual needs.

Locally, in late June 2022 HMP Liverpool experienced another outbreak of Covid-19 which led to regime curtailment and affected the speed of recovery. However, with a reduction in positive cases, the Governor is now restoring the regime and reintroducing resettlement work including key worker sessions for prisoners.

Although it has been a challenging reporting period, it was reassuring to receive your comments that a good service was provided to all prisoners in reception and that staff at HMP Liverpool managed the different cohorts in a professional way. It was pleasing to hear that the Board received very few complaints from prisoners about the Covid-19 regime and prison staff used social media to communicate effectively with families (as well as the other methods used to communicate with prisoners).

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. 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 Liverpool.



STUART ANDREW MP

**HMP LIVERPOOL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR
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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prisoners' Property

The new Prisoners' Property Policy Framework was published on 1 August 2022, the date of implementation 5 September 2022. The Framework is the result of extensive consultation, including with the IMB. It has been designed with procedural justice at its core and aims to ensure consistency and fairness and enhance prisoners' satisfaction with processes and outcomes. Given the nature of property, and the movement of prisoners between establishments, the Framework looks to provide greater direction and standardisation on a national basis. It strengthens processes in relation to the main problem areas identified by IMBs and staff including the handling of valuable property, managing cell clearances, compliance with volumetric control and forwarding on excess property following a prisoner's transfer.

Locally, there is an assurance process in place to monitor the movement of property and the courier service now attends the prison regularly to collect property, when required.