



Ministry
of Justice

Damian Hinds
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI New Hall
Dial Wood
Flockton
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF4 4XX

MoJ ref: SUB100902

3 November 2022

Dear Chair,

**HMP/YOI NEW HALL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 MARCH 2021 – 28 FEBRUARY 2022**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 28 February 2022. I was saddened to hear there was a death 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 am very much aware of the amount of effort that goes into producing annual reports and thank you for providing a comprehensive picture of HMP/YOI New Hall over the reporting year.

I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work, especially as you had several vacancies.

I note the Board has not raised any issues for my attention. I appreciate it has been a difficult reporting period, it was therefore encouraging to receive your comments about the staff's hard work under extraordinary circumstances to keep both staff and visitors alike safe, including good use of communication systems. I was pleased to hear that in-cell telephony and in-cell laptops are now available and have been well received, and that the facilities management provider is providing a good service.

Local issues of concern raised in your report for the attention of the Governor will be addressed locally and the Governor will continue to keep you aware of progress 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/YOI New Hall.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds
Minister for Prisons and Probation

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Refurbishment and Maintenance

The facilities management provider has carried out numerous repairs over the course of the last year to keep the window units fully operational. They are currently obtaining costs for the replacement of the window units and once this is known, HMPPS will seek to secure the funding required to complete the works.

The heating units have been repaired several times since the report was written, and it has recently come to light that the units now require replacing. The facilities management provider is obtaining the cost for the replacements and HMPPS will seek funds once this is known. Despite the need for replacement, the current heating system remains fully operational.

Following the demolition of the Larch building at the site, HMPPS is yet to make a decision on the use of the land.

Self-Harm

HMP/YOI New Hall continues to have weekly Safety Intervention meetings together with the monthly Safety meeting to review issues around self-harming. These meetings are supplemented by a weekly safety information and a stability assessment. A large number of self-harm incidents are committed by a small number of prolific self-harmers. The prison has now allocated a member of staff to focus on neurodiversity, who supports the management and prisoners in understanding triggers and how to best manage those at risk. HMP/YOI New Hall has also introduced an Early Days and Safety Intervention lead to support the prisoners on reception.