



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Isle of Wight
Albany
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5RS

2 November 2022

Dear Chair,

**HMP ISLE OF WIGHT: 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. I am very much aware of the amount of effort that goes into producing annual reports and so thank you for providing a comprehensive picture of HMP Isle of Wight over the reporting period.

I was saddened to hear there were thirteen deaths in custody during the reporting period. 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 it was a very difficult reporting period for the Board and everyone concerned at HMP Isle of Wight; it was therefore encouraging to receive your comments about the positive approach taken by staff, prisoners, and IMB members during this challenging period, including excellent inclusive communications. I was further encouraged to hear about the prison's commitment to improving Diversity and Inclusion and particularly the work undertaken with the Prison Reform and Zahed Mubarek trusts respectively.

I note you have not raised any issues for my attention. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex. Local issues of concern raised in the report will be addressed by the Governor who will continue to keep you aware of progress as work continues.

The Justice Secretary appreciates 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 Isle of Wight.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds
Minister for Prisons and Probation

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Laundry Facilities

Following approval of the funding, the Ministry of Justice Property Team have now received clearance to proceed with the refurbishment project. The scope of works is currently being developed and the awarding of the contract will take into consideration the ability to expedite design and construction.

New electric laundry equipment (included in the approved budget) and upgrading the infrastructure to support will provide a more reliable solution with lower maintenance costs and help support Net Zero Carbon targets. HMPPS is unable to provide a project commencement or completion dates at present.

Category C Prisoners

HMPPS recognises the work HMP Isle of Wight is currently undertaking to receive Category C training prisoners to best utilise all available prison capacity as HMPPS' National Allocation Protocol and offender flows would ordinarily not have Category C prisoners transferring into a Category B training establishment.

HMPPSs National Allocation Protocol identifies all training prisons as a national resource and consequently prisoners are selected for transfer based on their offending needs and the time they have left to serve of their custodial sentence. Where possible, prisoners with longer time left to serve have been selected and transferred to HMP Isle of Wight as a priority. The priority to transfer prisoners with the longer time left to serve can be affected by the overall national prison population. The prison Governor is aware of this and is working closely with HMPPS' Population Management Unit and the Long Term and High Security Estate to ensure the Board's concerns are taken into account.