

Damian Hinds
Minister of State for Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

21 February 2023

Dear Minister

**HMP DARTMOOR; INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 OCTOBER 2021 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Thank you for the Ministerial response dated 1 February 2023 to our annual report. The Board have asked me to write on their behalf to express appreciation for the timely and detailed responses to the points we raised and to seek further clarification on a small number of points.

We are encouraged by the actions highlighted in your letter to address many of the issues we raise, which when implemented will have a major impact on the humane and fair treatment of Dartmoor Prisoners, to a similar level to available elsewhere in the prison estate. The Board would like to clarify please a small number of points:

- There is reference to an Ageing Population Strategy being released during the current year. Please can we clarify when this is due to be released and what practical impact this is expected to have on better supporting prisoners at Dartmoor during the year. Also are there any further details that can be provided on the practical assistance and pathways that will be available to the ageing population at Dartmoor Prison this year *until* the strategy is released?
- We were also encouraged to note that a task group has been set up to consider overall the challenges faced by an increasingly older prison population. Please could we seek clarification on the task force terms of reference and when they are due to report, and what practical changes are anticipated at Dartmoor this year arising from it?
- It is encouraging that a range of long-term actions are envisaged to better address 24 hour health or social care needs and move towards a long term sustainable solution. Please can we clarify what pathways and support are open to Dartmoor prisoners until the long-term actions are in place?
- Please can we seek clarification of how the one Equalities Act Compliant cell will differ from standard cells and how investment to ensure Equalities Act Compliance will be achieved across the rest of HMP Dartmoor cells and estate?
- Please could we clarify when the reviews of resourcing in the Cat C estate and the local reprofiling exercise referred to in the response are due to be completed?
- The letter indicates that a full digital TV upgrade is required at significant cost. Is this budgeted and if not could we clarify whether other prisons have similar issues (or is Dartmoor less well served)?

Thank you again on behalf of the Board for your detailed response to our concerns.

Your sincerely

Jo Wymer
Chair
Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Dartmoor