



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMYOI Feltham
Bedfont Road
Feltham
Middlesex
TW13 4ND

21 March 2023

Den Choi

**HMYOI FELTHAM: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 – 31 AUGUST 2022**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 August 2022. I am aware that Victoria Atkins MP met staff and discussed some of the themes in more detail during her visit to HMP/YOI Feltham in March 2022. Another productive visit took place in May 2022, with Justice Secretary Dominic Raab MP, when the young people on Feltham B had the pleasure of hearing from Formula One racing driver Sebastian Vettel, who was there to open the new mechanical workshop.

I appreciate the amount of effort that goes into producing annual reports and thank you for providing a comprehensive picture of HMYOI Feltham. I acknowledge that, during the last six months of the reporting period, you saw a noticeable increase in violence due to the reasons you have helpfully outlined in your report. I hope to assure the Board that assaults against staff are taken seriously. However, prosecutions and sentencing for those offences may differ according to the age of the perpetrator. The Youth Custody Service (YCS) recently completed a Safety Summit at Feltham B where the views of the young adults, partners, staff, and managers were all taken into consideration. The themes from the focus groups were co-ordinated by HMYOI Feltham's Psychology Team and explored, alongside safety data. The findings have been embedded into a framework to address the issues, with assigned responsible ownership to a cross section of staff to enable a full prison approach to safety. The YCS conflict resolution model used in Feltham A is also applied to Feltham B.

I address below the specific points you have raised for my attention:

As the Board may be aware, the YCS has recently commenced delivery of four new education contracts across the public Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). The new education service has been designed to improve learning outcomes for children by supporting the integration of custody, education, and health services. There is greater emphasis on vocational training and technology for children in YOIs. Through virtual campus, the secure, web-based learning environment, children will be able to use an online career coach to find online courses and job opportunities.

To reassure the Board, Feltham A's Time Out of Room (TOOR) data is monitored daily by the site's Reducing Reoffending managers A daily activity reporting tool is used to capture the amount of time given to a child to undertake purposeful activity, and how much of this available time they have used. The activity reporting tool identifies each individual child who is unable to engage in each specific activity.

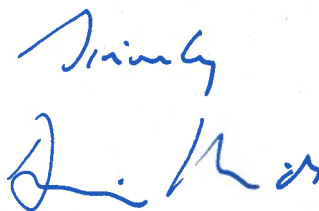
Each child's activity for the day is mapped in 30-minute segments and recorded centrally with the YCS and on a central education attendees database. This action is being taken to increase the TOOR available for children during both weekdays and weekends and ensure that lessons are learnt from previous occasions when children and young people's attendance at education classes has often fluctuated. The Governor will continue to work closely with all partners to improve outcomes for children and welcomes the support of the IMB and the valuable insights you provide. The quality of activities is also important. Following the commencement of new education contracts in the public sector YOIs as mentioned above, the YCS are now in the process of reconsidering regime models to ensure they can accommodate enrichment activities that provide activities for children during evenings and weekends. Updated curriculum designs for Feltham A are being considered, with proposed services including homework groups, music and digital design, art, and sport clubs.

Turning to the Board's concern about the high proportion of young people in Feltham A who are in the care of the local authority, the YCS will liaise with the Youth Justice Board to ensure that this is clearly highlighted to the appropriate Children's Services teams and prioritised at local level. Additionally, the YCS Head of Safeguarding will raise concerns thematically at the Head of Youth Offending Team (YOT) regional meetings. Feltham A will use records of professional visits to follow up via Heads of YOTs where a child has not been visited in accordance with care planning regulations.

Although it was a very challenging reporting period, it is encouraging that you have commended HMYOI Feltham for their dedication and commitment in caring for some of the most complex, difficult and vulnerable young people. I was pleased to note significant improvement made in diversity and inclusion data collection and strategic planning on Feltham A. Likewise, it was encouraging to read that the Chaplaincy Team used innovative methods to engage with the young people and the kitchen staff prepared a variety of good quality food.

I note you have raised some local issues of concern in your report and the Governor will continue to keep you aware of progress in addressing these. HM Prison and Probation Service comments in response to the issue 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 HMYOI Feltham.



Damian Hinds
Minister for Prisons and Probation

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prison Fabric of Feltham B

The Ministry of Justice Property Directorate has introduced regular tripartite meetings between Property Services, the contractor and the prison team, which has improved communications and the delivery of reactive repairs and work projects. The bricks and paints workshop, currently undergoing full refurbishment, is due to be completed by the end of March 2023. Replacement of Ibis unit's leaking roof will take place as part of the roofing replacement work programme due to start in July 2023.

Capital bids for refurbishment works from the 2023/24 budget have been submitted for Mallard, Nightingale, Ibis and Wren units on Feltham B. A decision is expected at the end of the current financial year. The Governor will keep you updated on progress/outcome.