



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Long Lartin  
South Littleton  
Evesham  
WR11 8TZ

11 May 2023

*Dear Chair,*

**HMP LONG LARTIN: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 December 2022. 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 Long Lartin over the reporting period, particularly as you continued to operate with several vacancies albeit with an improving complement of members.

I was saddened to hear there were two 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 continued invitation for a visit to HMP Long Lartin by a Minister. Further to my letter of 12 January 2023, Long Lartin is on my visits schedule and I still intend to visit soon. I address below the specific points you have raised for my attention.

A site-wide night sanitation project costing £8.3m was completed in March 2023. This enabled newly refurbished ablutions (showers/toilets/sink basins) on each level of A-D wings which are accessible via the new night-sanitation system. The new system is more reliable, but will still only allow one prisoner per landing to be released at any one time to use communal toilet facilities. The replacement of the night sanitation system will not however remedy the provision of in-cell sinks and toilets.

HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) will consider any further capital and maintenance requests from HMP Long Lartin, however the estate-wide demands for investment in maintenance are much greater than the available funding. Therefore, once a bid for a project is received, HMPPS has to prioritise works very carefully to make best use of that funding, focusing on risk to life and risk to capacity, decency and sustainability.

The Care, Separation and Reintegration Unit (CSRU) continues to accommodate the most violent, refractory and complex prisoners and as such they often need to be placed within isolation for long periods. The duration is determined by the risks presented by the individual prisoner. As you are aware, there are regular reviews of this justification and the Governor appreciates the Board's assistance to independently monitor this use.

The initial impact of the appointment of a segregation manager at HMP Long Lartin indicates there has been a significant decrease in the number of prisoners held in segregation and an improvement in progressing prisoners onto a pathway and then normal location. The Governor has introduced a

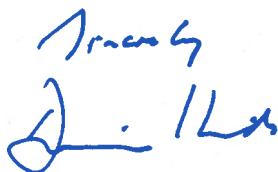
defensible decision log to track prisoners who are segregated, together with a CSRU strategy meeting for senior managers at the prison to discuss progressive moves from segregation. Segregation will always be an exceptional measure and its use will always parallel risk, but there will be circumstances that require extended use.

Delays in transfers to secure mental health facilities is both a regional and nationwide issue and NHS England Health and Justice Midlands continues to maintain oversight of long waits for these transfers and escalates delays to the providers and Specialised Commissioners. Increased prisoner severity, reduced bed capacity, and staffing issues within secure settings were observed as a result of the pandemic which impacted on bed availability and transfer times. I would like to assure the Board that escalation processes are in place and fortnightly multiagency calls are held to support prioritisation and to try and expedite transfers. There is also a national data collection exercise underway to determine the scale of demand and waiting times for all patients. A national portal for data collection has been set up to facilitate this. Once this data collection exercise is complete further actions can be agreed by NHS England.

Despite the issues cited in the report, it was encouraging to receive your comments about the money raised by prisoners for the Pakistan Floods Appeal, the excellent work by the chaplaincy team during and after the pandemic, the success of the six family days, and the appointment of the healthcare engagement lead that significantly improved communication 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 Long Lartin.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Damian Hinds', is positioned above the printed name.

**Damian Hinds**  
**Minister for Prisons and Probation**

## **HMP LONG LARTIN: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022**

### **HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report**

#### **Detached Uniformed Staff**

HMPPS is providing two types of detached duty staff to HMP Long Lartin. The first is through stability arrangements where National Detached Duty levels are reviewed and agreed a minimum of every twelve weeks following the submission of a business case from prison management outlining their staffing position and the impact this is having to the safety and stability of the establishment. The second type is the First Deployment Scheme whereby officers are deployed for their first two years to HMP Long Lartin before returning to their permanent prison. This is already taking place and it is planned to increase the size of this scheme over the next twelve months. Levels of support is capped by nationally agreed thresholds, however this is assessed on a case by case basis.

It is recognised that despite the complement of detached duty uniformed staff, there is still a significant staffing shortage at HMP Long Lartin and consequently the prison is working hard to improve staff retention and recruitment. Both retention and recruitment outcomes are improving, and although the prison works hard to sustain these improvements the target staffing figure is unlikely to be reached for another 18-24 months. The establishment will continue to be supported whilst there remains a need for detached duty uniformed staff at HMP Long Lartin in line with the agreed requirements.

#### **Maintenance Contractor**

The contract is managed and monitored continuously through a range of metrics and escalation processes. The contractor's (Amey's) performance in delivery of the contract is an ongoing area of concern which is subject to a performance improvement plan. Progress on this plan is showing improvement but is in danger of stagnating due to staffing shortfalls which are proving difficult for Amey to resolve. Amey is therefore supplementing its workforce with additional sub-contractors and are arranging job fairs in an effort to attract additional staff.

#### **Care, Separation and Reintegration Unit (CSRU)**

The roll of the CSRU has been reduced to twenty-seven and there are efforts to reduce that further to twenty-four spaces. This reduction will facilitate an improved regime, stability, staff support and wellbeing outcomes. This strategy has recently been identified as a positive outcome by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (December 2022) and HMPPS will continue to strive to maintain the reduced roll whilst providing this national service to other sites across the estate.

#### **Healthcare Centre and In-Patient Unit**

A range of required improvements to the healthcare centre have been identified and include accessible (Equality Act 2010 compliant) showering facilities, palliative care facilities, and in-patient cell refurbishments. These works are currently being developed and due for delivery this financial year. The stairlift has been repaired and is operational once again.

#### **Accessible Cells**

NHS England Health and Justice Midlands team will continue to work in partnership with HMPPS to ensure that prisoners are located in the most appropriate available space, both within HMP Long Lartin and across the wider secure estate. Where prisoners are transferred with mobility needs, healthcare will undertake a detailed assessment of need and refer to social care services for assessment if/when

required. Prisoner transfers to HMP Long Lartin that have mobility or wheelchair needs are kept to a minimum and any directed moves tend to be allocated to in-patient units.

### **Prisoners' Property**

The new Prisoners' Property Policy Framework 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.

HMPPS notes the Board's concern about the need for digital improvements to handling property. This continues to be explored but the nature of that work means that any such changes are longer-term and as a result it was not possible to include in the new Framework.