



Ministry
of Justice

Damian Hinds
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI Stanford Hill
Church Road
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ME12 4AA

9 October 2023

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**HMP/YOI STANFORD HILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1
APRIL 2022 to 31 MARCH 2023**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 March 2023. I met the Governor when I visited HMP/YOI Stanford Hill on 9 August 2023, and was pleased to discuss some of the themes in more detail. Thank you for providing a comprehensive picture of HMP/YOI Stanford Hill over the reporting period.

I acknowledge the Board's concerns about facilities management. Gov Facility Services Ltd (GFSL) have had both supplier issues and staff vacancies for several months which have impacted on the service provided. Steps have been taken to improve the service from suppliers with the situation continuing to be monitored and GFSL have now had success in filling vacancies for two new electricians and a storeman. Service Level Agreement (SLA) codes for reactive repairs are an issue on all sites and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) has recently provided guidance, which should assist with the correct allocation and priority of each task. This is monitored and reported on, every month under the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) process. In addition, all reactive repairs and planned preventive maintenance tasks are checked monthly under the KPI process and all issues recorded and sent to GFSL for their attention. HMP/YOI Stanford Hill has good working relationships with GFSL locally and issues have been resolved when raised.

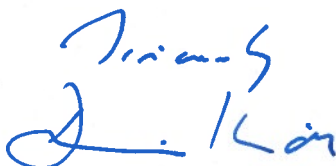
The Temporary Presumptive Recategorisation Scheme (TPRS) is a temporary scheme in place to maximise effective and efficient use of the open estate which remains under regular review as different options are currently being considered to help HMPPS manage prison capacity levels. This is a very dynamic area with several working groups exploring options however, TPRS should not impact the usual recategorisation processes. I hope to reassure the Board that the impact of TPRS in the Category D estate, including the volume of releases is monitored by HMPPS Resettlement Team who meet regularly with the TPRS team and the senior operational policy lead to understand better the impact on resettlement/release planning. In addition, the Resettlement Team have representation at a national meeting with Category D estate governors to determine what is/isn't working well with pre-release in their prisons. HMP/YOI Stanford Hill has received very few TPRS prisoners compared to other open prisons and provides a separate induction process and reducing reoffending package to support the prisoners during their short time at the prison.

Turning to some positive comments captured in your report, it was encouraging to read there were no incidences of self-harm. I was further pleased to receive your comments that HMP/YOI Stanford Hill

remains a well-run prison, staff and prisoners relationships are good, and note the exceptional work of the resettlement team resulting in no prisoner leaving without an offer of accommodation.

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/YOI Stanford Hill.

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 STANDFORD HILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 APRIL 2022 to 31 MARCH 2023

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Illicit Items

HMP/YOI Standford Hill receives support from a dedicated search team and drug detection dogs to search a wider area. The Governor is currently exploring an opportunity to have an X-ray machine, which will enable prisoners' property to be examined for unauthorised items. In addition, the CCTV has been upgraded to a digital system, which provides improved capability and changes have been made, enabling the security department team to respond proactively to intelligence received.

Monitoring Prisoners on Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL)

HMPPS is piloting the technology software for ROTL that is currently being used to facilitate remote medical appointments. A decision will be made whether to roll this out to prisons once the pilot has been evaluated.

Sharing Best Practice

HMP/YOI Standford Hill works closely with HMP Ford (as part of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex prisons group), to share best practice. Open prisons can also raise specific concerns through the well-established monthly open prison forum, and this enables specific agenda items to be shared, including best practice, policy related matters and stakeholder engagement. The chair is responsible for assigning specific pieces of work and liaises with the relevant people to negotiate a suitable outcome for the open estate. This forum enables all open prisons to receive the benefits from shared learning.