



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Warren Hill  
Grove Road  
Holesley, Nr Woodbridge  
Suffolk  
IP12 3BF

28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**HMP WARREN HILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1 JUNE 2022 – 31 MAY 2023**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 May 2023. Thank you for providing a comprehensive picture of HMP Warren Hill over the reporting period, especially as you had several vacancies.

I recognise the Board's continued concerns about the Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) Policy and it is right to highlight its importance in helping to prepare prisoners for release and the potential benefits to prisoners in the Progression Regime at HMP Warren Hill. The prison has been working with the regional psychology team and national policy lead to evaluate the ROTL pilot to understand the beneficial impact this has had on those who meet the criteria and risk assessment. The work to review the data from the suspended pilot has proven to be more complex than anticipated but is in its final stages now and will be completed shortly. If it is considered that HMP Warren Hill can continue with the pilot, the prison will be ready to actively pursue prisoners to work outside in the café and on the grounds of the site via its risk assessment process.

Turning to the positives within your report, it was reassuring to receive your comments that the prison provides a safe environment for both prisoners and staff. I was encouraged to read about the employment qualification opportunities available including the gym, gardens and with birds and the improvements made to purposeful activity for older prisoners which was a previous concern made by the Board. It was pleasing to read about the introduction on-site approved premises which is helping to prepare prisoners with their resettlement in the community and reduce the rate of prisoners recalled.

I note you have raised a local issue of concern in your report which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. HM Prison and Probation Service (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 Warren Hill.

**RT HON EDWARD ARGAR MP**

## HMP WARREN HILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JUNE 2022 – 31 MAY 2023

### HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

#### **Food Provision**

Further to last year's response and the feasibility study to introduce a kitchen at the prison, the Rapid Deployment Cell project has been gathering at pace and includes the proposal to reinstate the kitchen at HMP Warren Hill. In the meantime, HMP Warren Hill have reintroduced managerial visits to HMP Hollesley Bay to ensure the quality and quantity meals prior to meals being transported to HMP Warren Hill. It is recognised that staffing of the catering team has been challenging which has resulted in the Catering Manager reducing visits to talk with prisoners about the food service, however, this has improved over recent months and both staff and prisoners have received advice, guidance and training at the point of service. Funding to install electrical points to vehicles is still being sought to ensure that the hot trollies maintain their temperature during transportation of food.

#### **Prisoners' Property**

The Board's continuing concern about the transfer of prisoners' property is recognised but it is pleasing to learn that the *Prisoners' Property* Policy Framework has led to some improvements, alongside local initiatives. The Framework places an emphasis on ensuring compliance with volumetric control limits, since anything within these limits will be transferred with the prisoner. Volumetric control limits apply to all prisons and the Framework contains a leaflet to explain these limits to prisoners. The Framework introduced a new requirement that prisons must transfer excess property within four weeks unless there are exceptional circumstances which make this impossible. It also sets out that, where prisoners have transferred, prisons must liaise with each other to ensure any property complaints are investigated and answered efficiently and promptly without placing unnecessary burdens on the prisoner. HMPPS will monitor the impact of the new Framework going forward and will continue to look at where further improvements can be made.

Prisoner Escort and Custody Service (PECS) continues to provide transportation for prisoners and their property in line with the volumetric limit which is governed by the *Prisoners' Property* Policy Framework. The introduction of the digitally recorded PER included a property section that accurately records the number and type of sealed property owned by and transferred with the prisoner which is now embedded practice. This digital process has assisted with investigations on the few occasions where property is lost in transit with PECS suppliers, however, during the last 12 months there have been no complaints received from HMP Warren Hill in relation to the loss of property attributed to PECS.

HMP Warren Hill continues to support prisoners through the local property scheme and it is encouraging that the Board supports this approach. There have also been further reductions in missing property following the prison collecting prisoners directly along with their property due to the recent population pressures and transportation challenges.

#### **Facilities Management**

The prison has a good working relationship with the regional MoJ Estates team and the local facilities management provider and capital bids are submitted each year based on the emerging risks at the prison. The shower block is being collaboratively funded and installed using the Clean, Rehabilitative Enabling and Decent prisoner team, assistance from the local facilities management provider and MoJ material

funding. Boiler, generator and gate issues are also being addressed which has previously impacted on regime delivery and upgrades are also taking place to the self-cooking areas for prisoners. Funding for other projects has also been obtained for Cell Call Systems improvements and the Rapid Deployment Cell units. Capital bids for future investment are being collated for the financial year 2024/25.