



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Haverigg
North Lane
Millom
Cumbria
LA18 4NA

 April 2024

Joe Chair,

**HMP HAVERIGG: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 DECEMBER 2022 – 30 NOVEMBER 2023**

Thank you for providing your Board's annual report on HMP Haverigg. I have read your report with care and I commend the Board for carrying out its statutory role effectively, especially as you continued to operate with a depleted complement of members.

I was deeply saddened to hear that there were two deaths in custody during the reporting year. I would like to reassure the Board that recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are taken very seriously.

I recognise the challenges raised within this report in relation to those serving Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences. I must emphasise that the enforcement of the IPP sentence is compatible with our international human rights obligations and we have been clear that we want to safely drive down the number of people serving IPP sentences. The actions we are taking is working as the number of prisoners serving an IPP sentence who have never been released stands at 1,227 as of December 2023, down from more than 6,000 in 2012.

The Government's current view is that retrospectively changing the sentence of IPP, which was lawfully passed, will likely give rise to unacceptable risks to the public protection. It could result in the release of many offenders who have committed serious sexual or violent offences where the Parole Board has not assessed them as safe to be released. The Government is taking forward the changes in the Victims and Prisoners Bill and will reform legislation relating to the termination of the licence for IPP offenders, thereby providing a clear pathway to a definitive end to the sentence. The Government also continues to focus on the rehabilitation of IPP prisoners through a refreshed and updated Action Plan. The Action Plan was published on 26 April 2023 in response to the Justice Select Committee IPP report and can be accessed online. The Plan focuses on clear work streams with deadlines, and a robust overarching governance structure. It also provides a renewed focus on supporting those serving IPP sentences in both custody and the community. It ensures each prisoner has a robust and effective sentence plan tailored to their individual needs, and supports those in the community to comply with licence conditions.

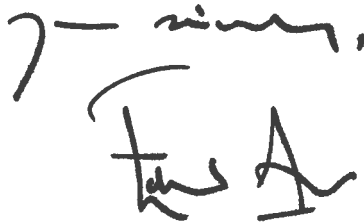
The Governor and HMP Haverigg will continue to develop a culture that is conducive to positive change through pro-social modelling, empowering individuals to embrace change. IPP prisoners will continue to be given a voice and a purpose so that this will continue to facilitate change and encourage them to be proactive during the last stages of their journey within the prison environment. Through education, targeted interventions, Release on Temporary Licence, employment, physical and emotional wellbeing, HMP Haverigg will foster an environment that enables effective rehabilitation. The progression of all IPP

prisoners is monitored by the heads of Offender Management Units, the Governor and the Prison Group Director. In 2023, 10% of all IPPs detained at HMP Haverigg were released by the parole board.

HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex. Local issues of concern raised in your report will be addressed by the Governor who will keep you aware of progress as work continues.

I was encouraged to note numerous positive comments in your report, particularly that violence and use of force levels were low despite the increase in the prisoner population. I was further encouraged to learn of the Link Worker scheme, and that there is a holistic approach between healthcare, gymnasium staff, and prison officers to accommodate the differing health needs of the prisoners. I would also like to echo the Board's commendation of HMP Haverigg for the development and embedding of the PLACE initiative that enables a positive and constructive culture throughout the prison.

I appreciate the valuable contribution from members of Independent Monitoring Boards and I am grateful for the work you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Argar', with a stylized flourish above it.

RT HON EDWARD ARGAR MP

HMP HAVERIGG: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 DECEMBER 2022 – 30 NOVEMBER 2023

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prisoners' Property

HMPPS notes the Board's concerns about prisoners' property, despite implementation of the Prisoners' Property Policy Framework in September 2022. 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. In addition, emphasis has been placed on the accurate recording of items. The Framework is clear that Governors and Directors should ensure management checks are undertaken to have confidence that prisoners' property is being handled correctly and with care.

Additionally, Prisoner Escort Custody Services (PECS) introduced a digitally recorded Prisoner Escort Record (dPER) that includes a property section that accurately records the number and type of sealed property 'owned' by and transferred with the prisoner and an accurate record of property handover between different Stakeholders. This is now embedded as business as usual. The digital process has assisted with investigations for property that is lost in transit with PECS suppliers. HMPPS will monitor the impact of the new Framework going forward and will continue to look at what further improvements can be made.