



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Full Sutton
Full Sutton
York
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MoJ ref: TN117697

30 September 2024

Dear Chair

**HMP FULL SUTTON: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JANUARY 2023 – 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Thank you for your Board's annual report on HMP Full Sutton. I have read your report with care and I appreciate the hard work of you and your colleagues in capturing these valuable observations given the challenges you have had with a shortage of members which reduced further during the year.

I was deeply saddened to hear three prisoners died during the reporting year. I offer my condolences to all their friends and family and would like to reassure the Board that recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are taken very seriously.

Whilst you have not raised any particular concerns for my attention, I do acknowledge your comments regarding the staff challenges which the prison has been facing. It is recognised that recruitment in the locality of HMP Full Sutton has been challenging in recent years partly due to the semi-rural location. However, during 2023 staffing overall and particularly the number of prison officers improved. This was achieved through a combination of local recruitment and via the application of first deployment scheme. This scheme recruits new officers from elsewhere in the country who move to a prison for the first two years of their employment and have the option to either permanently relocate at the end of the period or return to their home area. To provide new and existing staff the opportunity to improve their skills, local training is also being provided via ten dedicated staff training days annually. Whilst the rotation lockdown rota noted in the Board's report ceased in April 2024, a short-term rota of planned and predictable lockdowns have recommenced during the evening and weekend activities. The Governor and staff locally have communicated the regime to the prison community and are working hard to re-establish delivery of a full regime. The Board will be aware of the opening of HMP Millsike in early 2025 and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) will continue to closely monitor the recruitment and retention position at HMP Full Sutton in order to be able to respond to any changes in the staffing position.

Despite these staffing challenges, it was reassuring to receive your comments that prisoners had access to a decent regime in a safe and calm environment and it is encouraging that staff and prisoner interactions have remained positive during this period. I was pleased to read about the

welcoming feedback from prisoners since the introduction of in-cell telephony particularly how this has supported them to maintain ties with their families. I was also pleased to note that the accommodation is being kept to a good standard with investment made to upgrade some essential services this year to improve facilities for both prisoners and staff.

I'm also pleased to read that progress has been made in addressing the concerns that the Board raised to the Governor last year. I note you have raised some further 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 Lord Chancellor 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 and dedication on behalf of HMP Full Sutton.



Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending