



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP12 2JW

MoJ ref: SUB118133

18 October 2024

Dear Chair,

**HMP/YOI HOLLESLEY BAY: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Thank you for submitting your Board's annual report on HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for all the hard work and effort that has been put into capturing the current state of the prison, particularly as you continued to operate with several vacancies.

I was deeply saddened to hear two 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.

I appreciate and understand the Board's ongoing concerns about prisoners serving Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences. The Lord Chancellor has announced that from 1 November 2024, anyone who was released on IPP licence five or more years ago and has spent at least the last two years of that period in the community without being recalled, will have their IPP licence terminated without the need for a review by the Parole Board. The Secretary of State will also have two new powers, the power to use 'Risk Assessed Recall Review' (RARR) for recalled IPP prisoners and the power to disapply a recall. The first enables her to re-release people who have been recalled at any point without referring the case to the Parole Board, where safe to do so. The second enables her to not reset the two-year period after someone is re-released from a recall.

I have noted the Board's disappointment around resentencing IPP prisoners. It may be helpful to explain that a resentencing exercise would likely result in most of those still serving an IPP sentence in custody being released without any licence supervision, despite the Parole Board having previously considered that these individuals should remain in custody for the protection of the public. I hope that you will understand that we cannot take any steps that would put the public at risk.

We are carefully considering what further work we can do to enhance support for IPP prisoners and I wanted to reassure you the Government is keen to continue to focus on the rehabilitation of these offenders through a refreshed and updated Action Plan, due to be published this Autumn. The refreshed Action Plan will focus on frontline delivery in our prisons and the Probation Service, to ensure that those serving IPP sentences have robust and effective sentence plans,

which they are actively engaging with, and that they are in the correct prison to access the right interventions and rehabilitative services. We believe this is the most effective way to help them to reduce their risk so that they can progress towards safe release from custody. I am very mindful of the specific and substantial challenges faced by those serving IPP sentences and this is an issue I feel passionately about. It is right that IPP sentences were abolished. The Government is committed to working with organisations and campaign groups to ensure the appropriate course of action is taken to support those still serving IPP sentences.

Turning to the Board's concern about the Temporary Presumptive Recategorisation Scheme (TPRS), HM Prisons and Probation (HMPPS) continues to strive to maintain offender flows in the face of ongoing population pressures across the entire adult male prison estate. The remand population has grown to unprecedented levels due the backlog in the courts and the impact is being felt in the training estate. The recent government announcement and interim measure to release certain Standard Determinate Sentenced prisoners after serving 40% of their sentences will provide some welcome relief in the prison population.

TPRS is a temporary measure designed to facilitate the presumptive recategorisation of specific Category C prisoners who meet a certain risk and offence criteria in order to maximise use of the prison estate. TPRS eligibility has recently been expanded from twelve weeks from release to twelve months from release with a stricter eligibility criteria that requires no adjudications, and an intelligence check. This should allow those who move via the scheme to spend longer in open conditions so that they can fully participate in the regime on offer. TPRS should not impact the usual recategorisation processes which must continue as normal, and it operates in parallel with other temporary population management measures currently in place.

It was encouraging to receive your comments about how considerable importance is given to earned progression whereby prisoners are expected to demonstrate commitment and strict involvement in working towards their planned release. All staff at HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay should be proud of their successful implementation of the sequencing regime. I was also pleased to read about the strong emphasis on functional skills and how the prison continues to provide a good range of vocational training courses which I take great interest in.

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 Secretary of State and I hugely appreciate the invaluable role of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful to and your team for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay.



Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation, and Reducing Reoffending

HMP/YOI HOLLESLEY BAY: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Progression

HMPPS' specialist Improvement Support Group will work with all relevant internal stakeholders to understand more about sequencing at the prison, its impacts, and how transferable this initiative is to other prisons. This will determine how this approach is shared.

Investment and Infrastructure

The open estate is given the same priority as others regarding funding allocations. Allocations are not determined by the categorisation of a prison. Some of the factors involved are a prison's capacity, its historical spending patterns, and projected future expenditure. Over the last five years HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay has received close to £20 million pounds investment in capital projects such as fire safety improvements, rapid cell deployment, shower unit works, and kitchen gas works. Fire alarms have been fitted and tested and have been compliant since May 2024. Such projects are costly, lengthy and require taking many places offline, and so need to be considered carefully against similar needs in the estate.

Other capital projects and maintenance planned or in the pipeline for 2024/2025 onwards include generators, storage tanks, asbestos removal, calorifier remedial work, and refurbishment of the kitchen. The maintenance team are also actively addressing the rust on the modular units. Given the critical nature of fire alarm systems, any faults are addressed within two hours. The temporary kitchen will remain in place until the current project is completed. All requests from the establishment will be considered, noting that demands for 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 and decency.

Prisoners Property

HMPPS notes the Board's concerns about prisoners' property following a transfer between establishments. The introduction of the digitally recorded Prisoner Escort Record (dPER) included 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 the transport suppliers, and complaints are reviewed monthly during formal meetings with transport suppliers. For property delay, in-line with the HMPPS Prisoner Property Framework, if the limit of items allowed in possession has been reached, and if there is no space on the Escort Vehicle to transport items safely and securely, then responsibility for transfer of any remaining items remains with the sending prison.

The emphasis must remain on prisoners complying with volumetric control limits, since any property within these limits will be transferred with them. This includes items which are exempt from volumetric control, such as legal papers. It is not possible to transfer all excess property with a prisoner which they might have accrued above these limits. There has been a requirement since the introduction of the Prisoners' Property Policy Framework for prisons to transfer any

excess items within four weeks. Previously, there was no time limit in place. HMPPS is aware of the problems around property and continues to look at what further can be done.

New Arrivals

Prisoners should only arrive at prisons within the contracted reception opening hours. These opening hours are agreed between the prison and the contractor. Reception opening times should be designated with the understanding that contractors may arrive just before it is due to close and that, when this does occur, there must still be sufficient time to deliver a safe and decent induction process. Prisons can request changes to their reception opening hours. Any request should be made in consideration that HMPPS has a daily obligation to ensure there are sufficient spaces available in the closed estate to enable them to serve the courts each evening.

Prisoner Escorting and Custody Services (PECS) suppliers are contractually required to return prisoners by the relevant establishments' Latest Reception Time. Specific contract performance measures are in place to monitor the return journey of prisoners dealt with by the courts, such as transporting those men within three hours of their court appearance. The dispersed nature of the prison estate requires the contractor to effectively manage their fleet. However, there may be occasions when late court sittings, together with long distances and traffic conditions or adverse weather, results in a detrimental impact on arrival times. PECS suppliers are required to ensure that receiving prisons are informed of delays and agreement is sought in advance for the safe receipt of any late arrivals. PECS continue to monitor all aspects of the contractors' performance and where it fails to meet the agreed levels it is raised with the contractor for improvement. As HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay does not have 24-hour healthcare provision, staff elect to monitor the wellbeing of new receptions hourly if they arrive after healthcare staff are off duty. Whilst this is not a policy requirement, it is done as a duty of care for prisoners arriving out of hours.

Dedicated Search Team

Regrettably there are no additional resources for a dedicated search dog for HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay. However, regional dog handlers can be deployed to the prison as required and on request.

Key Worker Scheme

Given the focus on resettlement and reintegration into the community, key work is not resourced centrally for the male open estate. Governors in the open estate can continue to deliver a personal officer scheme and other support such as peer led schemes for prisoners where these are already in place or where they wish to introduce one.

There is a separate independent research and evaluation programme which supports Offender Management in Custody (OMiC). A series of research projects, including one that has a focus on the male open estate, will test the value of component parts/practices of OMiC and collectively further HMPPS' understanding in several priority areas. The research findings will help to build the evidence base so that data, research evidence, insights and learning are continually utilised in the ongoing development and delivery of OMiC.