



Ministry  
of Justice

Lord Timpson  
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Lindholme  
Lindholme  
Doncaster  
DN7 6EE

MoJ ref: SUB118950

11 November 2024

Dear Chair,

**HMP LINDHOLME: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1 FEBRUARY 2023 – 31 JANUARY 2024**

Thank you for submitting your Board's annual report on HMP Lindholme, which I have read with care. It is clear that you and your colleagues have, as ever, put in a huge amount of work in producing this report and capturing the key issues. This is particularly impressive given the Board's membership has been running at a third of its complement. I am really grateful to each of you for your contributions and please do pass on my thanks to your colleagues.

I was extremely saddened to hear that two prisoners died during the reporting year. Any death in our prisons is a tragedy and I pass on my deepest condolences to their friends and family. I would like to offer reassurance that deaths in custody and recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) are taken very seriously. It is important in these tragic circumstances that we act on recommendations and I was comforted to read that the Board were satisfied with the action taken by the prison in implementing the PPO recommendations.

I share the Board's concerns about the increased number of prisoners in the segregation unit who are waiting for a bed in a secure mental health facility. It is recognised that there remain challenges and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is working together with NHS England to continue to drive improvements and apply good practice principles to services in HMP Lindholme so that prisoners can access effective mental health care, which is tailored to their needs. I hope I can provide the Board with some reassurance that there is an adequate supply of adult secure mental health beds. There will continue to be a focus on maximising the existing capacity, ensuring appropriate lengths of stay and reducing transition. Data will be used to check compliance and to support improvements to the safe and timely transfer of people from prison to hospital, as well as between mental health services. There is also a role for the Government on this and we at the Ministry of Justice are working with the Department of Health and Social Care to introduce a Mental Health Bill as soon as possible. This will include a range of reforms to support people suffering severe mental illness in the criminal justice system and aims to speed up access to specialist inpatient treatment so that those affected get the timely care they need.

It was really encouraging to receive your comments regarding the readiness of the Senior Management Team at HMP Lindholme to tackle issues that arise and to hear that despite the reported infrastructure problems, challenges are overcome with a level of enthusiasm that supports positive outcomes. I was also pleased to read that both the Board's observations and prisoner feedback indicated that prisoners were treated with respect by staff and have good relations with them which is crucial to helping prisoners turn their lives around.

I note that you have raised three 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 valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful to you and your team for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP Lindholme.



**Lord Timpson**  
**Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending**

## **HMP LINDHOLME: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 FEBRUARY 2023 – 31 JANUARY 2024**

### **HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report.**

#### **Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) Prisoners**

Further to last year's response, whilst the Chief Inspector of Probation's independent thematic inspection of IPP recall decisions, published in December 2023, found that the Probation Service is taking proportionate and necessary decisions in regard to recall, HMPPS recognises the need to prioritise support for prisoners serving an IPP so that they can better progress towards a safe release from custody. The updated IPP Action Plan which HMPPS published in April 2023 has provided a renewed focus on supporting those serving IPP sentences in both custody and the community by ensuring each prisoner has a robust and effective sentence plan, tailored to their individual needs.

In February 2024, the Director General of Operations at HMPPS commissioned each of the seven Area Executive Directors for England and Wales (as well as the Executive Directors of the Long-Term High Security Estate, the Women's Estate and Contracted Prisons) to develop operational IPP delivery plans. These Delivery Plans directly target front-line delivery to support those serving IPP sentences to work to achieve the objectives within their sentence plans and move towards a future safe and sustainable release. The expectation is that the provision of greater support to IPP offenders both in the lead up to release and post release will reduce the amount of IPP recalls. The North East area, of which HMP Lindholme is part, now has a Delivery Plan in place together with an Area IPP Progression Board chaired by the Yorkshire Prison Group Director, which monitors implementation. In addition, the anticipated improvements in the staffing levels in the Offender Management Unit at HMP Lindholme will support delivery of more effective sentence management and preparation for release.

The IPP sentence was also reformed in the Victims and Prisoners Act which gained Royal Assent in May 2024. The changes will provide a clear pathway to a definitive end to the licence and sentence by reforming the termination of the licence for IPP offenders. On 5 September 2024 the Lord Chancellor announced the timings for these changes in a phased approach. From 1 November 2024, anyone who was released on an IPP licence for the first time five or more years ago and has spent at least the last two years of that period continuously 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 have two new Risk Assessed Recall Review powers allowing the 2-year period after someone is re-released from a recall not to be reset and to re-release people who have been recalled at any point without referring the case to the Parole Board. From 1 February 2025, the minimum period of time those serving an IPP sentence must spend on licence in the community after the date of their first release before their case is referred to the Parole Board will be reduced from 10 years to three years (for people convicted when they were over 18) or two years (for people who were convicted when they were under 18). The Parole Board will then consider whether to terminate the IPP licence. If the Parole Board decides not to terminate the licence it will still end automatically after a further two years continuously in the community on licence. This means the IPP sentence ended for around 1,800 people on 1 November 2024 and c.600 referrals will be made to the Parole Board for consideration of licence termination following commencement of phase two on 1 February 2025.