



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI Moorland
Bawtry Road
Hatfield Woodhouse
Doncaster
DN7 6BW

MoJ ref: SUB119000

13 November 2024

Dear Chair,

**HMP/YOI MOORLAND: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 MARCH 2023 – 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

Thank you for submitting your Board's annual report on HMP/YOI Moorland. Having read your report with care I am extremely grateful to you and your colleagues for continuing to carry out your statutory role effectively as well as for the huge amount of work in preparing this report. This is particularly impressive given the increased workloads you have had whilst remaining so short of members. I am really grateful for your contributions - please do pass on my thanks to the Board members.

I was deeply saddened to read that three prisoners died during the reporting year, two of which were in custody and one in hospital having been transferred from HMP/YOI Moorland. These are tragic events and I offer my heartfelt condolences to their friends and family. I would like to reassure the loved ones of those who have passed away and the Board that any recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are taken very seriously and will be acted upon. This is something that I discuss with Governors when I have the opportunity to visit prisons.

I fully understand the Board's concern on the operating capacity and crowding within prisons. I can provide assurances to the Board that cells are only shared where a Prison Group Director has assessed them to be of adequate size and condition in line with the standards in the HMPPS Cell Certification Framework, which ensures that prisoners are accommodated safely even when held in crowded conditions. We know that capacity issues need to be addressed and the Board will be aware of the announcement that the Secretary of State made on 12 July 2024 to help reduce the pressure on prison places by temporarily reducing the time standard determinate sentenced prisoners serve in prison from 50% to 40% of their sentence. This will not apply to prisoners sentenced for sex offences and certain domestic-abuse-connected offences and it also excludes serious violent offences with a sentence of four years or more.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) are continuing to deliver additional modern uncrowded prison places to ensure the right conditions are in place to rehabilitate prisoners, helping to cut crime and protect the public. Investment is also continuing in critical prison maintenance and renewal to ensure that we keep as much capacity as possible in use and fit for purpose. These measures together will have a positive impact on lowering the proportion of crowding within the prison estate although the extent to which the proportion of prisoners held in crowded accommodation can be reduced will always be dependent on levels of demand in the system.

I also sympathise with the Board's repeated concerns about prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP), but I hope the Board welcomes the announcement by the Secretary of State on 5 September which provided the timings for important legislative reforms in the Victims and Prisoners Act that will directly impact IPP offenders being supervised in the community. I can confirm that the Government commenced the IPP measures in the Act in a phased approach from 1 November. This means the IPP sentence ended for around 1,800 people on 1 November 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.

HMPPS also continues to support all those serving an IPP Sentence towards a safe and sustainable release from custody. The refreshed IPP Action Plan which was published in April 2023 has been delivering a renewed focus, including ensuring each prisoner has a robust and effective sentence plan, tailored to their individual needs and support for those in the community to comply with licence conditions. The North East Area, which includes HMP/YOI Moorland, also has an IPP Action Plan which was reviewed and revised earlier this year and provides a monthly IPP Progression Board chaired by the Yorkshire Prison Group Director, which will provide greater support to IPP prisoners going forward.

I was encouraged by your comments about the setting up of an employment hub and the positive feedback received in relation to some of the workshops that the prison runs. I was also pleased to see that the overall care of prisoners' physical and mental health is equivalent to that which they could expect in the community, as well as there being a focus on the needs of the many prisoners with learning disabilities or who are neurodiverse.

I note you have raised two 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 the two other issues you 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/YOI Moorland.



Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prison Officer Training

Whilst HMPPS provides all new prison officers with foundation training on core elements to enable them to perform their role effectively and safely, HMP/YOI Moorland has developed specialist training locally given its complex nature, including prisoners convicted of sexual offences, young adults and foreign national who each have unique circumstances. It would not be feasible to include all elements of the prison officer role and the care of such diverse populations in the initial foundation part of the learning journey. However, as part of a wider review, HMPPS is looking at the ongoing development of core capabilities of the workforce including a focus on the prison officer learning journey. The prison's local training has successfully been delivered to groups of prison officers working with the complexities of young adults. Given this specialist training received exceptional feedback it will continue to be delivered on a rolling programme to the remaining prison officers working with young adults. `

Education and Training

HMP/YOI Moorland review the curriculum every quarter to ensure it is aligned to the needs of the prison population and remains fit for purpose. Recently the prison opened a brick laying academy through the support of Keepmoat Homes to provide more opportunities to prisoners. To ensure prisoners have better access to job opportunities upon release HMP/YOI Moorland are working closely in partnership with Adecco to be able to share job roles with prisoners to facilitate a smoother transition into employment in the community. The prison is exploring options to inhabit the remaining vacant workshop and to upskill workshop instructors to deliver vocational qualifications where they are not currently offered. HMP Moorland's Employment Advisory Board has also identified a need for more work opportunities and is developing a strategy to address this.