



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Warren Hill
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Hollesley, Nr Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP12 3BF

MoJ ref: SUB119322

21 November 2024

Dear Chair,

**HMP WARREN HILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JUNE 2023 – 31 MAY 2024**

Thank you for submitting your Board's annual report on HMP Warren Hill. I have read your report with care and I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work in preparing this report. I recognise that this will have been made more challenging given that you have been operating without a full complement of members and want to share my thanks to you and each of your members for your notable contributions.

I understand the Board's continued concerns regarding the Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) policy and the frustration caused by the decision taken by the previous administration to suspend the pilot. The current ROTL Policy Framework states that Indeterminate Sentence Prisoners (ISPs) – both Life and Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) and other 'Restricted' ROTL prisoners must be in open conditions before accessing the benefits of ROTL. This is to ensure that prisoners are rigorously tested in open prison conditions as well as ensuring that they are suitable before allowing access to the community. I further understand that for those that are directly released from HMP Warren Hill, as opposed to moving to open conditions, the gap between custody and release can be vast without testing compliance and increasing social awareness through release on temporary licence. The establishment is liaising with senior public protection colleagues and contacts at ministerial level to explore what further can be done. I recognise the importance in ensuring prisoners have the opportunity to progress appropriately through the prison system and the potential benefits to prisoners in the Progression Regime at HMP Warren Hill.

I was encouraged that staff and prisoner relations are generally positive, evidenced by the collaborative examples you provided where prisoners have been actively involved in decision-making and in a range of meetings that impact them.

I was pleased to receive your comments about successful initiatives to aid resettlement, including the employment hub, which runs guidance and employment services for prisoners alongside work coaches from Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to help prisoners upon release. I was also pleased to see that the welding, carpentry, arts, and tailor workshops had participated in the annual Koestler Awards, producing some excellent pieces of work and with some successes.

I note you have raised some local issues of concern in your report, some of which are themes raised previously, which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex.

The Secretary of State and I greatly appreciate the invaluable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are extremely grateful to you and your team for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP Warren Hill.



Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation, and Reducing Reoffending

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Kitchen and Catering

HMP Warren Hill has been included within Tranche 3 of the Rapid Deployment Cells Project, with current plans to deliver 90 additional accommodation units. The temporary kitchen will be online before the first prisoners arrive. A permanent kitchen will follow subject to the completion of a feasibility report and funding via Capital Maintenance.

Showers

HMPPS recognises the Board's concern on the condition of the shower blocks. HMPPS and MoJ continue to work closely to address these concerns. As the board will be aware, work has already been successfully completed in Oak Unit, which has seen decoration and the installation of new shower pumps to increase pressure. The same work is currently in progress on Alder Unit. Works on Elm and Maple Units will be reviewed but will be subject to capital maintenance bids.

Training and Education Facilities

HMPPS can confirm to the Board that the proposed expansion includes an increase in all ancillary facilities and training and education facilities. There will be a new education space, employment and vocational training in the new kitchen, new workshops and increased horticulture employment and vocational training. This will ensure that the prison regime can continue to operate effectively.