



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Stafford
54 Gaol Road
Stafford
ST16 3AW

MoJ ref: 120342

3 January 2025

Dear Chair,

**HMP STAFFORD: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 MAY 2023 – 30 APRIL 2024**

Thank you for submitting your Board's annual report on HMP Stafford which I have read in detail. I would like to express my gratitude to you and your colleagues for your work in producing the report and for capturing such helpful observations despite operating with a depleted complement of Board members. I am pleased to read that two new members are progressing through the recruitment process.

I was deeply saddened to read that five prisoners died during the reporting year. I offer my heartfelt condolences to all their friends and family and would like to reassure the Board that recommendations made by the PPO are taken very seriously.

Although no specific issues have been raised for my attention, I share the Board's continued concerns about the presence of legionella within the water supply of the prison. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon in prisons as old as HMP Stafford. However, I would like to assure the Board that the facilities management provider continues to deliver the increased preventative work to ensure an effective monitoring and treatment programme is in place.

It was reassuring to receive your comments that prisoners are treated fairly and humanely, and that the establishment remains a low risk, calm, and safe environment which is attributable to the work done by the staff and the ethos they have developed within the prison. The drive to increase the number and quality of key worker sessions was encouraging, as was the chaplaincy's service and support available to prisoners. I was also pleased to note that prisoners are now benefiting from the installation of in-cell telephones, and I welcome the great effort being put into keeping the prison clean, tidy and looking fresh, and echo your praise of all staff involved for their hard work and creativity.

The Secretary of State and I are hugely appreciative of the invaluable role 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 Stafford.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Yvonne James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'Y' and 'J'.

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation, and Reducing Reoffending