



Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Whitemoor  
March  
Cambridgeshire  
PE15 0PR

MoJ Ref: 119650

3 January 2025

Dear Chair,

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

Thank you for submitting your Board's annual report on HMP Whitemoor, 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. 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 one prisoner 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 was regrettable to hear of the Board's ongoing dissatisfaction with the configuration of the High Security Estate and the concern some Category B prisoners are being held in restrictive Category A conditions at HMP Whitemoor.

At the point of allocation into a Long Term and High Security Estate (LTHSE) prison, the risk presented by each Category B prisoner is assessed, with only those prisoners found to require dispersal conditions being sent to dispersal prisons. Whilst there, Category B prisoners are not subject to the same level of security as Category A prisoners and do not suffer any detriment to their regime, which is like that of a Category B training prison. Prisoners can progress to a Category B training prison when they have demonstrated that their risk has been reduced and it was pleasing to see that you acknowledged progressive moves had taken place especially in the last quarter of the reporting year.

It was really encouraging to receive your comments regarding the support being offered to prisoners on Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences. I was also pleased to read that the prison was intercepting considerable quantities of illicit items attempting to be conveyed into the establishment.

I note that you have raised one local issue of concern in your report which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. With resources improving, a recent change in leadership priorities, and better understanding of local need, I hope that you will see improvements through the year. HMPPS comments in response to the other issue 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 Whitemoor.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Yvonne James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Y' and a long, sweeping underline.

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

## HMP WHITEMOOR: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JUNE 2023 – 31 MAY 2024

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

#### **Regime and Purposeful Activity**

HMPPS is committed to rehabilitation and taking the right approach, for the right person at the right time. This includes how we deliver meaningful and rehabilitative regimes for all those in custody and improving regimes is a HMPPS national prison delivery priority for 2024/25. Core expectations have been developed for regime delivery and launched via the National Regime Model (NRM), and all LTHSE sites have provided a national regime planning document in line with these core expectations. Governors and Prison Group Directors (PGD's) have verified that these are the best possible response to local needs and national expectations within the individual prison and in line with an establishment needs analysis.

The regime planning documents outline foundation core expectations for each establishment. These include time spent in the open air and out of cell, identified purposeful activity places (in line with the HMPPS definition of purposeful activity) including number of prisoners who can access the activity and how often, and additional extra-curricular enrichment activity. These documents are a comprehensive guide to the activities that take place within each prison. Rehabilitation services take many forms, ranging from accredited programmes and interventions, to enabling a person to access education, healthcare, substance misuse support, suitable accommodation, and the means to earn a living when they are released. These activities contribute to the engagement and settlement of long-term prisoners within the estate, focusing on personal development, supporting careers in custody and the understanding of progression outside of categorisation.

Following a Director General of Operations request, all LTHSE regime planning documents were reviewed during September 2024 by establishments. Reviewed targets under the new purposeful activity measures and core expectations will be monitored during quarterly performance assurance report meetings with the PGD. Establishments will continue to monitor progression against measures via the HMPPS Performance Hub and the Regime Dashboard.