



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI Hatfield
Thorne Road
Doncaster
DN7 6EL

MoJ Ref: SUB121696

20 February 2025

Dear Chair,

**HMP/YOI HATFIELD: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 APRIL 2023 – 31 MARCH 2024**

Thank you for your Board's annual report on HMP/YOI Hatfield. I have read your report with care and would like to extend my thanks to you and your members for the valuable observations that you have set out in your report. This is especially impressive as you continued to operate with a high number of vacancies throughout the reporting year. Please do pass on my thanks to your colleagues.

I appreciate the concerns that you have raised around the impacts of wider population pressures impacting delivery in the Category D estate. HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) continues to strive to maintain offender flows in the face of ongoing population pressures across the entire adult male prison estate and is reviewing and maximising the capacity within the open estate. Please be assured that this is being undertaken with an understanding of the important role that Category D prisons play in helping to ensure that we successfully resettle people back into our communities and our ambition is that every prison's regime offer should be underpinned by the fundamentals of rehabilitation. The work that New Futures Network deliver at HMP/YOI Hatfield is an excellent example of how this can be achieved.

Prisons in the open estate are encouraged to ensure that the rehabilitation needs of each prisoner are met. Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS) are designed to support prisoners address the needs linked to their offending and to achieve the stability they need to do so. We are reviewing the design and commissioning of these services to ensure that our future CRS services will more effectively deliver services to people leaving custody and align with wider services to best meet people's resettlement and rehabilitative needs.

I am sorry to hear of the concerns caused by delivery of maintenance service within the prison. Unfortunately, the maintenance contractor is not mandated to deliver their obligations in a particular way. However, changes are being planned for the monitoring of their performance and it is hoped that this will assist progress in this area.

I was encouraged that the Board recognises the extremely safe environment that HMP Hatfield provides to both prisoners and staff evidenced by the fact there has been no self-harm or staff assaults in 4 years. It is pleasing to read about the establishment's focus on rehabilitation and resettlement as evidenced by the fact that 100% of prisoners have been released with secure accommodation on release, despite the challenges that will have been presented by early release schemes.

I was also heartened by the very high rates of prisoners leaving with full time employment on release and that a higher-than-average number of prisoners remain in employment six weeks after release. I note you have raised some 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 other issue raised in your report are set out in the attached annex.

The Lord Chancellor and I recognise the valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are sincerely grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP/YOI Hatfield.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'James', written in grey ink.

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Accommodation Refurbishment

As outlined in your report, there has been considerable investment to improve the site with around £433k being provided for the refurbishment of showers on B wing. In terms of the need for ongoing refurbishment, funding has been secured to refurbish and improve the four recess areas at the Lakes site. Further investment to replicate and improve showers to the same standard as B wing is actively being sought and tenders are invited to undertake the work before the end of this financial year. The establishment will continue to prioritise further investment and in the interim, the Clean, Rehabilitative, Enabling, Decent team and cleaners have been tasked to improve recess facilities in all areas.