



Ministry  
of Justice

Lord Timpson  
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Stocken  
Stocken Hall Road  
Rutland  
LE15 7RD

MoJ ref: SUB130051

22 December 2025

Dear Chair,

**HMP STOCKEN: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1 MAY 2024 – 30 APRIL 2025**

Thank you for providing your Board's annual report on HMP Stocken. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work that has been put into capturing your helpful observations, particularly as you continued to operate with fewer members than you should have.

I was saddened to hear there were four deaths during the reporting year, with three occurring in custody and one shortly after release. These are all tragic events and I offer my condolences to all their friends and family. Recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are taken very seriously.

I met the Governor when I visited HMP Stocken on 8 October 2024 and was pleased to discuss some of the issues they face in more detail, alongside some of the excellent initiatives currently delivered, in particular the numerous workshops providing vocational training courses for prisoners.

I have read your report carefully and note your request for an update on Enhanced Gate Security (EGS). EGS is one of the priorities of both the Governor and Prison Group Director with funding and resources being made available earlier this year. However, the quote to complete the work far exceeded the funding agreed. The physical space inside the gate house is simply too small to fit all of the equipment and associated infrastructure. Therefore, either sizeable building works were required, or the installation of a modular unit to accommodate everything required. This scope increased the costs to well above the financial threshold approved. However, an x-ray baggage scanner was provided to the prison in February 2024 to enhance HMP Stocken's prisoner property searching capabilities.

The logistical effort required to open new accommodation is not underestimated and I would like to thank all those involved in the opening of the new Oakham wing ahead of schedule, which will undoubtedly have supported with easing the national population pressures.

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. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex.

The Deputy Prime Minister and I appreciate the valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP Stocken.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James', written in a cursive style.

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

## **HMP STOCKEN: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 MAY 2024 – 30 APRIL 2025**

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

#### **Accessible Accommodation**

It is recognised that the rise in the number of older prisoners over the past 20 years has caused issues for some prisons, particularly around their often complex health and social care needs. The physical prison estate can present challenges for this cohort, and the new prison places we are building are accessible by design and will significantly increase the number of cells adapted to the needs of those with mobility issues and physical disabilities across the estate. At HMP Stocken there are a number of accessible cells available that are occupied by prisoners on the recommendation of healthcare, based on the level of need. There are also a number of other reasonable adjustments (e.g. fitted hand rails) that have been made to standard cells to support prisoners with varying needs.

#### **Prisoner Property**

HMPPS note the Board's concerns about the handling of prisoners' property. The findings in the IMB national thematic report on how property loss impacts on prisoners, as well as those received from Independent Prisoner Complaint Investigations following a thematic review of the property complaints they have received in the last five years, are being considered. Since receiving the reports, Governors and other senior leaders have been reminded of the most important property handling points. This includes the need to ensure compliance with volumetric control limits. Consultation is taking place with prisons on further areas raised in the reports. Locally, HMP Stocken has put measures in place to limit the amount of property that prisoners can have in possession, including not accepting perishable items such as consumables.