



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Chair
Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Full Sutton
Full Sutton
York
YO41 1PS

MoJ ref: SUB136075

17 July 2026

Dear Chair,

**HMP FULL SUTTON INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
1 JANUARY 2025 –31 DECEMBER 2025**

Thank you for submitting the Independent Monitoring Board's Annual Report for HMP Full Sutton. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for the continued diligence with which you carry out your statutory role. Your report provides important independent insight into the experience of prisoners and staff within a Long Term and High Security Estate (LTHSE) prison.

I was very saddened to learn that six prisoners died during the reporting year. Every death in custody represents a profound loss and my condolences are with the families and friends of the deceased. All deaths are subject to independent investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman and any recommendations made are examined carefully to ensure learning is identified and acted upon. Protecting life and responding effectively to vulnerability remain fundamental priorities.

I understand the Board's enduring concerns about access to accredited treatment for prisoners convicted of sexual offences (PCoSO) and would like to reassure you that suitable interventions remain available. During the reporting period, Building Choices was delivered at HMP Full Sutton for the core population and initial work was undertaken to explore delivery for prisoners convicted of sexual offences. Subsequent changes to population configuration across the LTHSE have reduced local demand for the PCoSO variant at this establishment. Where individuals at HMP Full Sutton require this intervention, arrangements are in place to support access through transfer to other appropriate LTHSE sites. The prison will continue to monitor population needs and adjust delivery as appropriate.

I note the Board's concern following the withdrawal of the Sycamore Tree programme. While there is currently no direct replacement for this specific course in England, restorative practice continues to form part of the wider rehabilitative approach. HMPPS policy provides a framework for the use of restorative approaches in custody and their application continues to be kept under review alongside accredited interventions.

I am aware that the condition of the workshop complex roof has been raised by the Board previously, reflecting the importance of maintaining safe and functional activity spaces. A recent assessment has identified remedial works required to extend the usable life of the roof. A bid for major maintenance funding will be progressed through established regional property processes. Proposals will be considered alongside other estate priorities, informed by safety, operational need and value for money.

I note that the deterioration of cell windows and the impact on natural light is a matter of serious concern. Replacement of windows would require capital funding and population decanting and is therefore subject to wider estate level planning. Any future investment will be assessed alongside other priorities, including security related requirements and overall estate condition.

I understand the expectation that lessons from the C wing trial should inform future action. A local review has been commissioned to consider the most appropriate options for addressing mould growth within internal corridors, including approaches to other wings. The findings will support informed decision making, subject to funding availability and prioritisation.

I acknowledge that concerns regarding the condition of shower facilities remains an important matter in relation to decency. Following the refurbishment completed on D wing, a local plan has been developed at HMP Full Sutton to address services within residential areas based on assessed need. Progression of further work will remain subject to funding and wider estate priorities.

I was encouraged by your observations that, despite sustained staffing pressures, HMP Full Sutton generally remained calm and safe throughout the reporting year. Your recognition of reductions in assaults on staff, the ongoing effectiveness of multidisciplinary safety intervention meetings, progress within specialist units such as Supporting Transition and Enabling Progression and improved understanding and support for neurodivergent prisoners was particularly welcome.

Issues raised in your report that fall within local operational responsibility will continue to be addressed by the Governor, who will keep the Board informed of progress. Responses to matters raised for His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) are set out in the attached annex.

The Deputy Prime Minister and I recognise the important contribution that members of Independent Monitoring Boards provide across the estate and we are very grateful for your ongoing dedication on behalf of HMP Full Sutton.

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 FULL SUTTON: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY 2025 – 31 DECEMBER 2025

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Mental Health Provision in Segregation

Mental health provision continues to be delivered within the segregation unit and forms part of established multidisciplinary arrangements, including attendance at segregation review boards and safety intervention meetings. Where staffing pressures have affected service availability, temporary adjustments have been implemented to strengthen weekday provision, with additional management oversight maintained outside core hours. NHS commissioners continue to oversee contract delivery and workforce sufficiency.

Reactive Maintenance Arrangements

As you acknowledge, the Government is introducing new contracts for prison maintenance, these will apply learning from previous contracts with the aim of delivering improved services and better value for money. Maintenance contracts will continue to be monitored through robust contract governance and performance assurance processes.

Education IT Systems

HMPPS recognises the challenges experienced following the transition to new education IT systems and the impact this initially had on access and reliability. Since implementation, work has taken place to address connectivity issues, including technical updates to stabilise network access. Additional training and guidance have been provided to support staff and learners in using the system more effectively.

At HMP Full Sutton, local managers continue to engage constructively with the system provider and education contractor to identify recurring issues, apply local mitigations where possible and escalate matters through formal contract management arrangements. This has supported incremental improvements in system stability. Further refinements to the digital education platform and associated infrastructure remain underway. These are intended to improve consistency, reduce disruption to learning sessions and ensure that prisoners are able to make effective use of the education provision available to them.