



Chair
Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Lindholme
Lindholme
Doncaster
DN7 6EE

MoJ ref: SUB137794

8 September 2026

Dear Chair,

**HMP LINDHOLME INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
1 FEBRUARY 2025 – 31 JANUARY 2026**

Thank you for providing your Board's annual report on HMP Lindholme. I am sincerely grateful to you and your colleagues for your continued resilience and commitment in monitoring and capturing your helpful observations despite ongoing membership challenges. I hope the situation improves going forward.

I was saddened to hear five prisoners died during the reporting year and offer my condolences to all their friends and family. Every death in our care is tragic, and it was therefore reassuring to note your observations about the prison's death in custody action plan and any learning points from all these tragic incidents. I would like to further assure the Board that any recommendations made by the independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are always taken very seriously.

There is no doubting the critical role that education plays in providing purposeful activity and reducing reoffending. That is why HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) continues to focus on how we can drive the maximum value for money and quality outcomes from the available provision, including ensuring that allocations and attendance remain a priority locally and nationally.

Many prisons have seen changes in the volume of provision that can be delivered through the Core Education contract from October 2025, despite the national budget for prison education not having reduced. This is driven primarily by inflationary pressures across all education services which impacts the proportion of the budget that can be spent through the Core Education contract.

The extent to which prisons are affected varies as the funding formula for prison education was refreshed to ensure that allocations are a fair reflection of prison population, function and regional cost differences (many of which have changed since the funding formula was last set in 2019) and also due to local commissioning decisions as some types of delivery are more expensive than others.

This delivery reduction applies only to Core Education contracts and does not affect other education services such as libraries, careers advice and guidance, distance learning or vocational training delivered through industries and workshops. We are also investing in digital infrastructure, new assessment tools, and specialist staff to ensure that every pound spent delivers the greatest possible benefit for learners. Delivery and outcomes is monitored through contract support and management, and HMPPS will be conducting a full evaluation of the new Prisoner Education Service.

At HMP Lindholme, I can assure the Board that the establishment will continue to prioritise education as a core component of its role as a training prison despite the challenges of education delivery and course availability. The Governor is working closely with education providers to maximise delivery within available resources, including reviewing curriculum focus and staffing models. The establishment remains committed to maintaining access to purposeful activity and supporting prisoner progression, with ongoing monitoring of outcomes and provision.

I have noted there are numerous issues to address at HMP Lindholme. It was therefore encouraging to learn that there was a notable and sustained decline in self-harming towards the end of the reporting period, the significant progress in substance misuse work, together with the associated actions taken to tackle the ingress of illicit substances. It was also reassuring to note that staff and prisoner relationships continue to remain generally good, and I was heartened by the opening of a call centre on site.

Issues raised for the attention of the Governor will be addressed locally who will continue to keep you aware of progress as work continues. HMPPS comments in response to the issues raised for the attention of the agency are set out in the attached annex.

The Lord Chancellor and I are deeply appreciative of the important contribution made by Independent Monitoring Boards across the prison estate, and we are sincerely grateful for your continued commitment and dedication on behalf of HMP Lindholme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine'.

Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for Prisons, Probation, and Reducing Reoffending

HMP LINDHOLME INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 1 FEBRUARY 2025 – 31 JANUARY 2026

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prisoners' Property

HMPPS fully recognises the importance of prisoners' property and is committed to ensuring it is managed with care and respect. HMPPS has considered carefully the IMB national thematic report on the impact of property loss on prisoners, and the thematic review by Independent Prisoner Complaint Investigations of the property complaints they have received over the last five years. In considering the reports and subsequent consultation with prison staff, a revised version of the Prisoners' Property Policy Framework was published on 17 November 2025 and includes additional guidance on the sending on of excess property, the handling of prisoners' laundry and on the correct completion of the cell clearance certificate, as these were identified as common areas of difficulty. Additionally, HMPPS has reminded Governors and other senior leaders of key points around property handling, including the importance of prisoners complying with volumetric limits. Compliance with volumetric control remains of key importance, since property within those limits (as well as certain items, such as legal papers, which are exempt from the limits) will be moved with prisoners when they transfer to other establishments. HMPPS remains committed to improving the management of prisoners' property and considers possible areas for improvement on an ongoing basis.

In terms of transport, the contractor vehicle fleet is designed to transfer the number of prisoners intended, together with their property in line with the volumetric limit. In addition, the transport contractors shall transfer a reasonable volume of legal documentation. For property delay, and in accordance with HMPPS' Prisoner Property Framework, if the limit of items allowed in possession has been reached then responsibility for transfer of any remaining items remains with the sending prison. The introduction of the digitally recorded Prisoner Escort Record (dPER) includes a property section that accurately records the number and type of sealed property 'owned' by and transferred with the prisoner and an accurate record of property handover between different Stakeholders. This is now embedded as business as usual. The digital process assists with investigations and complaints where it is alleged that property has been lost in transit by the PECS supplier.

Workshop Infrastructure Defects

HMPPS appreciates the Board's concerns around workshop infrastructure and improving training and rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners. The effects of this on commercial activity is also acknowledged. An Outline Business Case has been reviewed, which identified an option estimated at approximately £69.6m. Unfortunately, this is not affordable within current funding constraints and is therefore not considered deliverable. Whilst capital expenditure will remain an ongoing concern, in the meantime headquarters' teams will continue to work closely with the establishment to progress necessary maintenance, prioritise repairs accordingly, and restore workshop capacity.

Alternative approaches are also being explored with the New Futures Network and Prison Industries teams to enhance purposeful activity at HMP Lindholme. This includes identifying suitable solutions to potentially enable activity to recommence in the short term, while a more viable long-term option is designed and developed during the current financial year.

Preventing Illicit Items

HMPPS explores a variety of countermeasures, including technology and intelligence tools, to prevent drones delivering contraband such as drugs, mobile phones and weapons. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has announced an additional £6.5 million to help accelerate counter-drone research and development as part of their R&D Mission Accelerator Programme. This investment will boost cross-government investment in next-generation technologies to help prevent drones delivering contraband. With the support of Law Enforcement Agencies across the UK, we are using intelligence to disrupt those who operate drones. HMPPS also conducts vulnerability assessments across the estate to understand the risk and develop and implement plans to mitigate the threat.

More locally, significant progress has been made through strengthened local security measures, proactive searching, and targeted intelligence-led activity to disrupt the ingress of illicit items. The establishment continues to work closely with relevant headquarters' teams to maximise the effectiveness of current countermeasures and will also continue to ensure all available local and national measures are fully utilised and rigorously applied.