

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI Moorland
Bawtry Road
Hatfield Woodhouse
Doncaster
DN7 6BW

MoJ ref: SUB137799

25 September 2026

Dear Chair,

**HMP/YOI MOORLAND: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 MARCH 2025 – 28 FEBRUARY 2026**

Thank you for providing your Board's annual report on HMP/YOI Moorland. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your continued commitment in capturing your helpful observations and producing your report despite the ongoing membership challenges. I hope the situation improves going forward. I understand that former Lord Chancellor Shabana Mahmood and Sally Jamieson MP visited the prison during the reporting period on 24 April 2025. I hope this visit proved useful.

I was saddened to read that seven prisoners died during the reporting year, either in custody or at the hospital. Every death in our care is a tragedy, and it was therefore reassuring to receive your comments about how these events were handled and the support extended to staff and prisoners alike. I would like to reassure the Board that recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are always taken very seriously.

I recognise that crowding can make it harder to deliver safe, stable regimes, and places additional pressures on staff. That is why HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) continually monitors prison conditions and take places on and offline depending on safety, stability, staffing levels and maintenance needs. Further to last year's response, work is continuing on the Government's 10-Year Prison Capacity Strategy and the delivery of an additional 14,000 prison places by 2031. We are investing £4.7 billion over the spending review period (2026/27 to 2029/30) towards the delivery of these additional prison places, and we have already delivered approximately 3,100 since taking office.

Alongside increasing capacity at record rates, the significant reforms contained in the Sentencing Act will provide the Courts with options to end the cycle of less serious offenders going in and out of prison and pave the way for further headroom. Whilst not part of the Act, this coincides with the Government's decision to sanction the biggest ever expansion in tagging. Alongside this, the probation budget will be increased by up to £700 million over the next three years to bolster community justice. The Government is also investing in new technology to reduce the administrative burden on staff so that they can focus on work that reduces reoffending.

I appreciate the Board's concerns about education and training provision and can confirm that there has been no reduction in the overall national prison education budget. However, the cost of delivering high quality education has increased, and we recognise funding has not kept pace with these rising costs. Following the introduction of the new Prisoner Education Service in October 2025, HMP/YOI Moorland

experienced an approximate 27% reduction in Core Education delivery hours between October 2025 and March 2026 compared with the previous six-month period. While there has been no reduction in the overall national budget for prison education, rising costs have affected the proportion of funding available for delivery through Core Education contracts. The Governor has developed a curriculum that reflects the needs of the prison population, ensuring that the education offer remains targeted, relevant and aligned to rehabilitation and resettlement priorities. I would like to assure you that we remain committed to supporting rehabilitation through high quality education, skills and work activities.

Turning to housing provision on release, the new Prime Minister has made clear his intention to end rough sleeping in this country at the first opportunity with his first speech in office. This included an announcement of an additional £340 million investment to launch a national drive to end rough sleeping. This will take total Government spend on homelessness and rough sleeping services to a total of £3.9 billion over the next three years. Whilst housing provision is the responsibility of local authorities, HMPPS will continue investing in Community Accommodation Service models for prison leavers at risk of homelessness and embed as standard practice local partnerships, co-location with local authorities, and pre-release planning. We will continue to invest in integrating digital community accommodation services to make it easier to identify and match individuals to the right housing support and accommodation at the right time.

The current Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS) Accommodation contracts deliver specialist support to both sentenced and unsentenced men. They work alongside prison teams and probation to prevent homelessness on release. Where appropriate, the CRS provider will take action on reception to maintain tenancies. They will also support duty to refer activities and will seek to explore all potential housing options prior to release. At HMP/YOI Moorland, the Renting Ready course provides knowledge and skills around maintaining accommodation and being a good tenant. The Regional Probation Director's office will also undertake a review of the quality of pre-release planning and services in the prison's Offender Management Unit during the next three months.

I note you have raised a number of issues for the attention of HMPPS and comments in response to these matters are set out in the attached annex. Local issues of concern raised will be addressed by the Governor who will continue to keep you aware of progress as work continues.

I appreciate that there remain issues to address at HMP/YOI Moorland and it was therefore encouraging to receive your comments about the efforts to provide externally recognised qualifications (NVQs) in areas such as gardening/horticulture and textiles, together with the reduction in unemployment figures and the plastic recycling workshop being operational.

The Lord Chancellor and I appreciate the scrutiny brought by members of Independent Monitoring Boards to improve the estate and we are very grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP/YOI Moorland.

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

Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending

HMP/YOI MOORLAND: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 MARCH 2025 – 28 FEBRUARY 2026

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Education Delivery

The delivery model for prison education, including the balance between classroom provision and outreach activity, is determined locally by Governors based on the needs of their prison population and operational requirements. Decisions about the type of provision delivered are therefore made at prison level and are not linked to a specific funding allocation for face-to-face teaching.

HMP/YOI Moorland is fully utilising its Core Education budget to deliver both classroom based and remote education. Whilst the prison has a renewed focus on increasing face-to-face classroom-based education places, remote education remains crucial in delivering and overlaying key training and skills to individuals within their allocated place of work, or in targeting harder to reach individuals on wings who aren't ready to engage within classroom environments. Additionally, HMP/YOI Moorland currently has tenders out through the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to procure further face-to-face classroom education provision, including art classes, numeracy and literacy, and construction skills.

Prisoners' Property

Further to the Minister's response last year, HMPPS has now carefully considered the IMB national thematic report on the impact of property loss on prisoners together with the thematic review by Independent Prisoner Complaint Investigations of the property complaints they have received over the last five years. Following consultation with prison staff on the issues raised, 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. 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 also recognises the difficulties encountered with the current property card functionality within the NOMIS software and how it is not used consistently across the estate. However, at present, digital prisoner property cards are not a priority for digital delivery. HMPPS' current digital focus is necessarily directed towards higher risk and safety critical work, including digital support for adjudications, reducing the risk of release in error, delivery of the progression model, and the wider programme to safely reduce reliance on and exit NOMIS. These areas present more immediate operational and public protection risks and therefore take precedence when allocating limited delivery capacity. The issue of prisoner property will remain captured on the digital backlog agenda and its prioritisation will be reconsidered through formal quarterly reviews in line with other demands. The next substantive opportunity to reassess priorities is likely to be in approximately 12 months unless circumstances materially change. HMPPS remains committed to improving the management of prisoners' property and considers possible areas for improvement on an ongoing basis.

IPP Prisoners

HMPPS recognises the Board's continued concerns about prisoners subject to Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences, and particularly specialised resettlement provision and this cohort's engagement and motivation. The Government's latest IPP Action Plan was published on 9 July 2026 in

the IPP Annual Report and can be accessed online at GOV.UK. Through the IPP Action Plan, HMPPS has committed funding to sustain vital services such as the IPP approved premises pilot, and to trial a new IPP advocate role that is designed to provide more personalised support to those serving IPP sentences. Further measures include:

- additional funding for Psychology Services, enabling greater access to specialist assessments for individuals facing the most significant barriers to progression;
- the Phoenix Unit at HMP Aylesbury, which is due to open in 2026 as a purpose-designed residential unit to support IPP prisoners who have become disengaged from progression;
- an agreed Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) model for all four progression regime prisons (HMPs Humber, Warren Hill, Erlestoke and Buckley Hall) to enable IPP ROTL;
- issuing communications to frontline staff to enhance their understanding of the recall threshold, and restricting approval of IPP recall decisions to the most senior managers.

Additionally, significant reforms were made to the IPP sentence through the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 (VAPA), with further changes recently implemented through the Sentencing Act 2026 which came into effect on 1 June 2026. The VAPA reduced the qualifying period for licence termination from ten years after first release to three years (or two years for those serving a Detention for Public Protection/DPP sentence). It introduced automatic licence termination and empowered the Secretary of State to re-release a recalled IPP offender under the Risk Assessed Recall Review (RARR) process. The Sentencing Act further shortened the qualifying period for consideration of IPP licence termination to two years and allowed IPP or DPP offenders whose licence is not terminated by the Parole Board at that point to apply for another review one year after the end of the qualifying period, prior to automatic termination.

The steps set out in the IPP Action Plan offer the most effective and responsible way to support the safe and sustainable release of those serving the sentence. Since the first revised Action Plan was published in April 2023, the unreleased IPP population has fallen by around 35%, standing at 856 in June 2026. HMPPS can assure the Board that the Government and the agency remain committed in supporting the rehabilitation and progression of IPP prisoners.