Ministry of Justice

Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister of State for Justice

Chair
Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Frankland
Brasside
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MoJ ref: SUB139958

30 October 2026

Dear Chair,

HMP FRANKLAND INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
1 December 2024 – 30 November 2025

Thank you for submitting your Board's annual report on HMP Frankland. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for the commitment and professionalism you continue to demonstrate in carrying out your independent monitoring role. Your report provides a balanced assessment of the prison, recognising both the challenges facing the establishment and the dedication of staff in delivering a safe and secure environment.

I was saddened to read that there were eleven deaths in custody during the reporting period. My thoughts are with the families and friends of those who died. I appreciate the Board's continued scrutiny of the learning arising from these cases and can assure you that recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman following deaths in custody continue to be taken seriously in order to strengthen practice and improve outcomes across the prison estate.

The Board raises concerns about the introduction of the Prison Education Service contract and the impact this has had on education provision, progression and wellbeing. Education remains fundamental to rehabilitation and reducing reoffending. At HMP Frankland, the funding available locally for education delivery has reduced, which has had a direct impact on the volume of provision available. Wider affordability pressures and increased delivery costs have also affected staffing levels and commissioned education hours. This presents some challenges however we also must ensure that the allocation and attendance of learners to education also maximises the value of education funding which has not always been the case. HMPPS continues to monitor delivery closely and providers are expected to take a proactive approach to recruitment and retention. Governors also retain responsibility for commissioning a curriculum that best reflects the needs of their population within the resources available, supported by vocational training, careers guidance, library services, further and higher education opportunities and the continued rollout of the national digital education platform. I also welcome the effective use of additional funding through the Dynamic Purchasing System at HMP Frankland to broaden the curriculum offer and complement core education provision.

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I recognise the Board's concerns about the effect these changes may have on prisoner's progression, personal development and wellbeing. Alongside educational provision, HMP Frankland continues to support prisoners with additional learning needs through individual support plans developed jointly by the education provider and the Neurodiversity Support Manager. These arrangements help identify barriers to learning and support prisoners to engage with education and other activities which contribute to progression and personal development.

I was encouraged to read the Board's recognition of the prison's educational achievements, including the success of learners undertaking GCSEs, A Levels, Open University and postgraduate study. I was also pleased to note the continued contribution of the Shannon Trust and library services in supporting literacy, learning and personal development, together with the achievement of 34 Koestler Awards during the reporting year. These are important examples of the positive opportunities that continue to be available to prisoners at HMP Frankland.

I note you have raised two 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 other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex.

The Lord Chancellor and I sincerely appreciate the important role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards and we extend our thanks for your ongoing commitment on behalf of HMP Frankland.



Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending

Annex

HMP FRANKLAND INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Support for prisoners living with dementia

Support for prisoners living with dementia is tailored to individual need and may include personalised care plans, dementia-friendly environments and staff training in dementia awareness. Prisons work closely with healthcare providers and local authorities to ensure appropriate support is in place and that care arrangements reflect individual needs and changing circumstances. These measures are intended to help individuals maintain independence where possible and support engagement with activities, interventions and opportunities that contribute to sentence progression.