Ministry of Justice

Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister of State for Justice

Independent Monitoring Board
HMP North Sea Camp
Croppers Lane
Freiston
Boston
PE22 0QX

MoJ ref: SUB140083

16 November 2026

Dear Board,

HMP NORTH SEA CAMP: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 MARCH 2025 – 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Thank you for providing your Board's annual report on HMP North Sea Camp. It is unfortunate that the makeup of the Board was reduced to a mere three members at the time of publication and I understand you are also currently without a Chair. I am sincerely grateful to you all for your dedication and commitment in capturing your helpful observations and I hope the situation improves forthwith.

I was saddened to hear two prisoners died during the reporting year. I offer my condolences to all their friends and family and would like to reassure the Board that recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are taken very seriously.

I can unequivocally assure the Board that this Government takes the rehabilitation of prisoners seriously and remains committed to helping prisoners develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to secure employment and successfully reintegrate into society on release. We have committed to halving the proportion of prison leavers released to 'No Fixed Abode' by the end of this Parliament by working closely with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) through their National Plan to End Homelessness. To support this, the community accommodation service is being expanded, and we are also investing in improving digital system integration, artificial intelligence opportunities and automating information sharing to make it easier to identify and match individuals to the right housing-related support and accommodation at the right time.

Access to purposeful activity is being improved by delivering the Working Week initiative to extend a prison's core day so that more prisoners are out of cell and in work for longer. This initiative is being trialled in five Category C training prisons. We are working with other government departments to expand the range and volume of products produced by prison industries, leading to an increase in purposeful activity hours and developing prisoner employability skills. Working with the Third Sector (3S) as an enabler of HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) priorities, there is mobilisation of rehabilitation grants and closer working with the Clinks charity infrastructure. At HMP North Sea Camp, the prison is developing links with local employers to increase job opportunities for prisoners in the area.

T +4420 3334 3555
F +44870 761 7753

https://contact-moj.service.justice.gov.uk/
www.gov.uk/moj

102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

The significant reforms contained in the Sentencing Act, which received Royal Assent on 22 January, will provide the Courts with options to end the cycle of less serious offenders going in and out of prison. Alongside this, the probation budget will be increased by up to £700 million over the next three years to bolster community justice, including the probation service's resource and ability to tag offenders. The government is also investing in new technology to reduce the time spent on administrative tasks so that staff can focus on work that reduces reoffending.

Regarding education provision at HMP North Sea Camp, I recognise the Board's concerns and am acutely aware of the important role that education plays in supporting rehabilitation, providing purposeful activity and reducing reoffending. The reduction in delivery applies only to contracted core education provision and does not affect the wider educational and rehabilitative offer available to prisoners at the prison, including library services, Careers Information, Advice and Guidance, distance learning opportunities, further and higher education, and vocational training delivered through industries and workshops.

Our priority is to ensure that available resources are focused on the interventions that have the greatest impact for learners. The new Prisoner Education Service contracts introduce clearer expectations around screening and assessment, strengthen support for learners with additional learning needs, and improve the tracking of learner progress and achievement. We are also investing in digital infrastructure and systems to expand access to secure online learning content, reduce duplication in assessment activity, and support a more joined-up learner journey. Alongside the core contracted provision, Governors retain the flexibility to commission additional education and training through the Prison Education Dynamic Purchasing System to meet local needs. HMPPS remains committed to securing the best possible outcomes from the resources available and ensuring prisoners continue to have access to education, and training and employment-focused opportunities that support successful rehabilitation.

It was encouraging to hear that the IMB continues to be satisfied that HMP North Sea Camp generally provides a safe environment for prisoners with levels of violence remaining very low. I was impressed to learn that the kitchen holds a 5-star food hygiene rating from the Foods Standard Agency, that there is a concerted effort to improve the cleanliness and appearance of the establishment, and senior management's plan to support transparency and build trust in the prison's responsiveness.

The Lord Chancellor and I deeply appreciate the valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful for your ongoing commitment and resilience on behalf of HMP North Sea Camp.



Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending