HM Prison & Probation Service

Youth Custody Service

His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
Youth Custody Service
Executive Director
8th Floor, Area 8.40
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Charlie Taylor,
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
3rd floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

09 November 2026

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMP Feltham B between 05 – 07 October 2026**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress (IRP) report at HMP Feltham B, whereby you followed up on nine concerns and four Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in October 2026.

I am encouraged to note that you found good or reasonable progress made across eight priority concerns and three Ofsted themes, and note the following:

- **Managing behaviour:** PAVA use fell by 78% and overall use of force by 54%. Inspectors highlighted PAVA review panels and stronger staff training as good practice, judging good progress.
- **Health services:** Good progress was recorded in clinical governance, mental health transfers and dental care. Oversight and information sharing improved, six of seven mental health transfers met the 28-day target, and dental waiting lists reduced by around half.
- **Safety, relationships and regime:** Reasonable progress was made in reducing drug use, improving staff-prisoner relationships and increasing weekend time out of cell. The positive random drug-testing rate fell from 38% to 27%, although challenges remain.
- **Education, skills and work:** Ofsted found reasonable progress in leadership oversight, creating sufficient activity places, and implementing reading and neurodiversity support.

In respect of the one priority/key concern and one Ofsted theme where you found insufficient or no meaningful progress, I can confirm that the IRP findings have been carefully considered and steps will be taken to address them as appropriate. These will include the following:

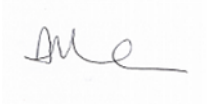
- **Strengthening the Offender Management Unit (OMU)** by continuing recruitment to vacant prison and probation offender manager posts, reducing reliance on agency staff and building the capability of newly appointed staff.
- **Improving prisoners' access to sentence planning and progression**, including through the weekly OMU clinic, peer orderlies and wing representatives, while increasing meaningful contact between prisoners and their allocated prison offender manager.

- **Increasing attendance at education, skills and work** by using attendance data to target persistent non-attendance, consistently applying incentives and consequences, and further reducing clashes with chaplaincy, healthcare and other regime activities.
- **Improving the reliability and relevance of purposeful activity** by addressing staffing pressures, minimising disruption to high-demand provision such as carpentry and mathematics, and ensuring activities better support prisoners' education, employment and resettlement goals.

The Governor, with the support of the Deputy Director YCS Operations, will continue to progress the full action plan covering all the original priority/key concerns.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much work to be carried out at Feltham B, I am encouraged that progress is being made and that our monitoring of the prison is in line with your findings.

Yours sincerely



Alison Clarke
Executive Director, Youth Custody Service

CC: James McEwen – Chief Executive Officer HMPPS
Michelle Jarman-Howe – Director General of Prisons HMPPS