



Mr Rob Wondriak
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Grendon and Springhill
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HP18 0TL


10 July 2017

Dear Rob

**HMP GRENDON AND SPRINGHILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JANUARY 2016 – 31 DECEMBER 2016**

Thank you for your Board's reports for the year ending 31 December 2016. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for all the hard work that has been put into capturing your helpful observations. I apologise for the delay in replying.

It was encouraging to receive your comments that prisoners are being treated humanely and to read about the many areas of excellence in both prisons. I am pleased to read that catering and healthcare are both maintaining high standards and I note your assessment that HMP Grendon continues to be a safe establishment with improvements to safer custody and an excellent promotion of diversity.

It was also positive to read of the work of the prison council at HMP Springhill in identifying problems and implementing improvements and of the Enabling Environment initiative. The improvements you note in preparing prisoners for release, the opportunities for further education and employment, safer custody work and the library are all encouraging.

As you have raised no issues for my attention, it remains for me to thank you and your Board for your work. I note you have raised some local issues of concern in your reports which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. The other areas of concern raised in your reports have been responded to by HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in the attached annex.

The Justice Secretary and I appreciate the valuable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are very grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP Grendon and Springhill.

Yours sincerely


SAM GYIMAH MP

HMP GRENDON AND SPRINGHILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY 2016 – 31 DECEMBER 2016

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

General Maintenance Work

Carillion's performance generally has improved against key performance indicators. Unfortunately, however, problems do remain with the performance and speed at which the remedial works are addressed. It is anticipated that Carillion's regional account director will drive forward further improvement.

HMP Grendon

HMPPS facilities management team have been working closely with Carillion to identify factors which have contributed to delays. Carillion's regional account director recently visited the establishment to meet with the Governor and kitchen manager and also arranged meetings with the maintenance provider overseeing the catering equipment repairs. This was to ensure that all outstanding matters are rectified as quickly as possible and that future repairs are addressed in a timely manner. An environmental health officer recently visited the establishment and was pleased with the remedial works undertaken to address the issues associated with pest control.

HMP Springhill

There are inevitably challenges with the maintenance of an old building and HMPPS facilities management team are working with Carillion to develop a more forward focussed maintenance strategy. Carillion have now carried out condition surveys on all assets they are responsible for maintaining; enabling proactive preventive maintenance and reducing subsequent impact on operations. However, as with all expenditure this will be subject to current financial limitations.

Delays to Prisoner Transfers from HMP Grendon

When transferring a prisoner out of therapy, it is important they are transferred to a suitable prison that can meet their needs and enable progression to be maintained and built upon; this can, unfortunately, take time. HMP Grendon strives to create relationships with other prisons to ensure that prisoner transfers are progressive, appropriate and carried out in as timely a fashion as possible. As part of prison reform, HMPPS will be reorganising the existing prison estate to ensure it is being used as effectively as possible and that prisoners are held in environments which match their risk and needs and which address the current imbalance in the estate between capacity and demand for certain prison places.

HMP Grendon's management team closely monitors transfers at monthly therapy policy meetings and weekly population management meetings and this has resulted in a reduction in the number of prisoners waiting more than three months. A revised policy for out of therapy prisoners was agreed last year and this should ensure greater consistency and clarity regarding access to activities and the support available.

Prisoners Removed from Open Conditions and held at HMP Grendon

As the Board notes, better processes have been introduced to ensure that potential transfer problems are reduced. While these new systems do not always operate perfectly, they have reduced issues highlighted and staff are continuing to focus on improving this practice further.

Release on Temporary Licence at HMP Springhill

The Offender Management Unit (OMU) had been the focus of concern from prisoners when arrangements for release on temporary licence (ROTL) were not working satisfactorily. As the Board notes, ROTL arrangements improved significantly during 2016. A positive development has been that the OMU have

now organised drop in sessions which provide a better opportunity for prisoners to address issues that have been raised. A recent prisoner consultation showed prisoners value these sessions as they have an opportunity to speak to OMU staff directly which helps prisoners and encourages staff engagement. HMP Springhill will continue to monitor this situation in order to sustain the progress that has been made.