



Ms Jean Adam  
Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Kirkham  
Freckleton Road  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR4 2RN

July 2017

Dear Jean,

**HMP KIRKHAM: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2016**

Thank you for your Board's report 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, particularly as you have been short of Board members during the reporting year. I apologise for the delay in responding to your report.

I was pleased to read about the success of the barber shop and commend the two prisoners who have gone on to set up their own successful businesses on release; as the Board acknowledges, this is a positive message for prisoners to work towards training, qualifications and engage with resettlement.

I was encouraged to read that the library has been a hub of activity throughout the year and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the prison's librarian, Sarah Fleming, for her Butler Trust commendation, which she received in recognition for her positive contribution to the library. Despite the issues with drugs, in particular psychoactive substances and steroids, I was pleased to read about the North Lancashire Integrated Substance Misuse Service (Inspire) and its team of prisoners who are working hard to promote to their peers the benefits of getting help with their addiction.

I understand the Board's concerns about the long delays in carrying out improvement works. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is committed to ensuring that repairs are carried out to maintain safe and healthy standards throughout the accommodation and work areas. As the Board is no doubt aware, the issue with the heating has now been resolved. The issue came about following a change to the service provider. The new provider attended the site to complete the annual combustion / analysis checks and subsequently placed notices on a number of the boilers; urgent action was then required to ensure the site was fully compliant. Whilst it is recognised that it did take some time to get the boilers back on line, supplementary heating was placed in several high priority areas, including the timber workshop.

Unfortunately the issue of the lack of drinking water on billet E2 was not reported in line with the agreed process. Immediate action has now been taken to resolve the issue. The National Service Management Team will work with all parties at the site to ensure that similar mistakes are not made in the future. Amey has taken steps to resolve the issues with the toilets used by the farms and gardens workers and several small repairs have been carried out.

The refurbishment of the toilets has been placed as a high priority on the decoration programme and this will include the replacement of the old style toilets with new. This will be monitored to ensure the work is completed in a timely manner.

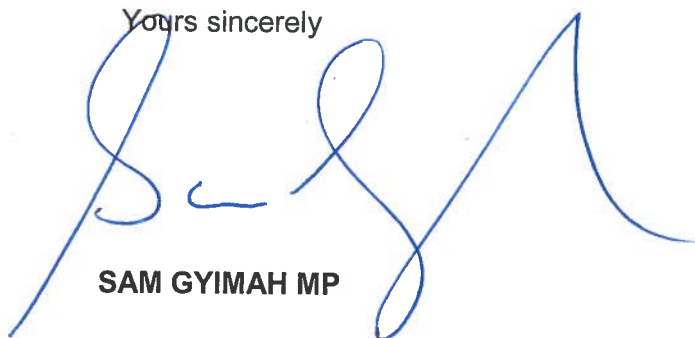
I acknowledge the Board's ongoing concerns about prisoner's property and was pleased to read about the new initiative introduced at HMP Kirkham whereby property is transferred at a later date once the prisoner has settled at their new prison. Last year's response to the Board explained that the review of the national Prisoners' Property policy had been postponed to take into account current work on reducing litigation claims related to prisoners' property. HMPPS now expects to be able to issue a revised policy in 2017. In the meantime, when any prisoner's property levels exceed the volumetric control limit for in-possession items, they will continue to be encouraged to send items out, or have them disposed of, to avoid the risk of loss and cost to the tax payer for the transfer or storage of items.

I note the Board's continued concerns that some of the prisoners being sent to HMP Kirkham are not suitable for open conditions. Whilst it is important to keep the open estate as full as possible, which in turn creates space elsewhere in the system, this rests upon the identification of appropriate prisoners. HMPPS continues to recognise that it can be difficult for some prisoners to adjust to open prisons and that it is important to support prisoners through this transition. I was pleased to hear that the 'Connect, Grow and Thrive' initiative at HMP Kirkham continues to assist men settling into open conditions. Prisoners in open conditions continue to be monitored and if concerns are raised about their behaviour, or if there is intelligence to suggest an increase in risk levels, this will be reviewed. Should a prisoner be found unsuitable for the very low security in open prisons, they will be returned to a secure closed prison straight away.

There are no other issues raised in your report for HMPPS to respond to.

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 Kirkham.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sam Gyimah', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**SAM GYIMAH MP**