



Mr John Logan  
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP & YOI Kirklevington Grange  
Yarm, Cleveland  
TS15 9PA

20 July 2017

Dear John,

**HMP/YOI KIRKLEVINGTON GRANGE: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1 JANUARY 2016 – 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 period. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your report due to the General Election period.

It was encouraging to receive your comments that HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange has continued to operate at the highest performance level and that prisoners are generally very positive about their experience at the prison.

I was pleased to read about the focus placed on prisoners' resettlement needs and the success of the prison's coffee shop and car valeting service. Initiatives such as these provide prisoners with valuable skills and qualifications, and this is clearly reflected by the high number of men who have gone on to secure employment outside of the prison. I was also encouraged to read that education courses are well presented, varied and meet the needs of prisoners, and that success rates in English and mathematics are high. I have noted your comments about the positive results arising from HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange's status as an early adopter reform prison.

As you have raised no issues for my attention, it remains for me to thank you and your Board for your support. HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out 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/YOI Kirklevington Grange.

Yours sincerely



**SAM GYIMAH MP**

## HMP/YOI KIRKLEVINGTON GRANGE: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY 2016 – 31 DECEMBER 2016

### HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

#### **Drugs**

HMPPS does not tolerate drugs in prisons and there are a range of robust measures in place to detect substances including physical searching, cell searching, x-ray machines, surveillance and detection dogs. We are also trialling new and innovative security measures such as the use of body scanners to stop prisoners from concealing contraband within their bodies to evade detection.

To address the use of psychoactive substances, we have introduced new laws, including the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, making it a criminal offence to supply and possess psychoactive substances in prisons, carrying a maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine. HMPPS has also developed an innovative new programme of mandatory drug testing for psychoactive substances and we are continuing to work with our contracted laboratory to analyse data to ensure we are testing for the most commonly misused substances

Outlined in the recent White Paper on Prison Safety and Reform are a range of new measures we will employ to further tackle the issue. These include improving our searching capability, enhancing our drug testing regime, trialling new technology to block methods of conveyance, and reducing the demand for illicit substances through more purposeful activity and joint commissioning of health and treatment services.

As an open establishment, HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange encourages men to be responsible for their behaviour and to seek support when they need it. The prison is supported by Lifeline and has prisoners who act as substance misuse mentors to other prisoners. Support is available on a daily basis as well as through support groups.

#### **Maintenance**

Whilst funding had been sought over the last three years to carry out refurbishment work, the prison has only been able to secure the funding this year. As the Board will be aware the toilets and showers on A, B, C, F and H wings have been refurbished and improvement works carried out to the heating in the gym and education.

#### **Offender Assessment System (OASys)**

HMPPS continues to review the OASys backlog and the prioritisation criteria remain in force, which ensures the highest priority cases are completed in full, with a reduced assessment for those lower risk cases. In addition, we are also revising our current offender management model. The new model will ensure there is increased time for building effective relationships with prisoners, and also a more robust approach to prioritising assessments.

HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange has a good relationship with sending establishments and is making efforts to do some in-reach work to assist with the selection and progression of prisoners.