



Mr Ivan Harrison
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Long Lartin
South Littleton
Evesham
WR11 8TZ

20 July 2017

Dear Ivan,

**HMP LONG LARTIN: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 FEBRUARY 2016 – 31 JANUARY 2017**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 January 2017. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for all the hard work that has been put into capturing your helpful observations, particularly as the Board has continued to operate with a shortage of members during the reporting period.

It was reassuring to receive your comments that despite the character and complexity of the prison population, use of force has remained commendably low and the number of incidents in 2016 was lower than in the two preceding years. I am pleased that the Board attributes this achievement to the professionalism of staff in their daily working relationships with prisoners, and in particular to their skill in de-escalating potentially violent incidents where anger and aggression are displayed.

I was pleased to read that the education department has an atmosphere of purpose, and classrooms are calm and well ordered, with prisoners fully engaged in their learning. The education and training opportunities provided in the workshops, kitchen and gym to deliver introductory skills-based learning is also encouraging. I was also pleased to read that the chaplaincy and visits staff are continuing to run excellent family visits, enabling men to interact informally with their families.

I note your continued concerns that the oldest wings are still without in-cell sanitation or running water, and that the system of electronic unlocking (Nightsan) does not meet the needs of prisoners. It is acknowledged that the sanitation arrangements on A - D wings do not offer the same level of provision as the newer wings, however, whilst the electronic unlocking system is far from ideal, it is considered to be adequate. The remaining sites without internal sanitation are on a list in priority order, and will be reviewed after the current strategic estate transformation and reconfiguration project has been completed. The Governor has recently asked for estate investment proposals to be re submitted.

The containers provided to prisoners are for use in exceptional circumstances, such as if the Nightsan system fails. HMP Long Lartin does not advocate that prisoners use the containers as a routine alternative to accessing wing based facilities, but some prisoners do choose to use them independently. The Governor has noted the Board's concerns about the use of the current containers and will review the type of containers provided for emergency use and the processes for cleaning outside areas.

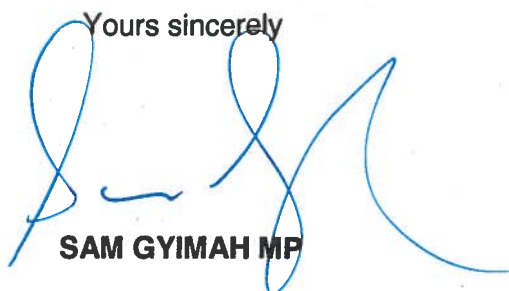
I understand your concern that prisoners located in the segregation unit and healthcare unit have not had the opportunity to take part in educational programmes. Due to the split population at HMP Long Lartin, the education provider has to offer a mirrored delivery to both mainstream and vulnerable prisoners, making it difficult to employ a peripatetic tutor necessary to offer the one-to-one provision needed in the healthcare and segregation units. However, through utilising the new funding strands this situation will be rectified by employing an additional tutor. The post is anticipated to be operational by November 2017, subject to recruitment and clearance considerations.

HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) has stripped out unnecessary rules and governance from the education contracts to allow governors more oversight and control of existing services following publication of the White Paper 'Prison Safety and Reform'. HMPPS will also be making prison governors fully responsible for the education delivered in their prisons, so that they can buy the services they think are most appropriate in their individual prison. This will enable them to decide how to structure their education, who provides their learning delivery and how they will spend their budgets effectively. To support this a needs analysis is being undertaken at HMP Long Lartin. Once completed and analysed, the results will be used to inform the planning of a new curriculum, taking in to consideration the needs of the men located in healthcare and the segregation unit.

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 Long Lartin.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sam Gyimah', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SAM GYIMAH MP

HMP LONG LARTIN: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 FEBRUARY 2016 – 31 JANUARY 2017

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Difficult and troubled prisoners

A Pre-Intervention Psychologically Informed Planned Environment (PIPE) Unit is due to open at the prison during the summer 2017, providing improved access to personality disorder treatment services. A Managing Challenging Behaviour and Complex Behavioural Management wing will also open later in the year. Both of these specialist units will support care and management of some of the most complex prisoners.

HMP Long Lartin's progress as a pilot site for 'progressive segregation' within the Long Term & High Security Estate (LT&HSE) offers potential in improving the care and rehabilitative support to some of the more complex prisoners held at the prison, as well as improving the strategic options for delivery across the LT&HSE.

Equalities Monitoring Tool (EMT)

The EMT is currently produced at an establishment level following each quarter and allows for comparisons both between establishments and with national level data. The EMT is produced in as timely a manner as the data allows, as individual case records require extensive cleaning and manipulation to produce meaningful and accurate outputs. HMPPS Equalities team is aware of the issues with the EMT data and is working with Planning and Analysis Group to overcome these.

Security Clearance

HMPPS realises that the time taken to process national security vetting at Counter-Terrorist Check (CTC) level can present difficulties in deploying personnel. However, the situation around processing time is one that is common across Government. The processing checks for CTC are undertaken by United Kingdom Security Vetting (UKSV), the single provider of Government National Security Vetting Services. Due to significant demands on their time and resources, HMPPS is regrettably not able to offer assurances that this situation will improve at the present time. HMPPS is, however, focusing on the full end-to-end recruitment procedures to make sure all aspects of the process are optimised, with the intention to reduce time to hire.

Substance Misuse Team

Since the Board's report an additional Psycho-Social Counsellor has joined the team and a member of staff has very recently returned from maternity leave. Given the number of people in treatment the service provider does not consider the team to be under-resourced. However, as with all aspects of healthcare delivery, performance is monitored on a monthly basis and should performance fall below expectations this would be picked up with the provider. In addition, a review of all West Midlands prison services against a new substance misuse service specification is planned for 2017/18. This will help identify any gaps in current services against new service expectations.

Purposeful Work

HMP Long Lartin is working with its partner agencies to source sustainable purposeful activity that will also lead to qualifications. Work has commenced in reconfiguring the workshops and procuring suitable machinery. A contract has been secured to convert workshop 3 into a textile workshop and additional contracts have been secured for the laundry workshop. The number of orders received by workshop 7

(woodwork) has also increased following the production of a new catalogue to assist with the marketing of their work.

Further work is ongoing to future proof the workshops by looking at work options that are life skills orientated, for example plumbing, bricklaying and general maintenance skills, which are less susceptible to the market fluctuations experienced for light assembly work.

Rule 45 Boards

Rule 45 Boards are now held on set days and there is a standing invitation list which includes both healthcare and psychology. As recognised in the Board' s report some improvement was made towards the end of the reporting period and the Governor is confident that this improved attendance will be sustained with managerial oversight to ensure compliance. The healthcare provider is proposing to provide training for the healthcare assistants and will discuss with the IMB how this can be monitored.

The Governor is committed to ensuring that Rule 45 paperwork is submitted to the Executive Director, LT& HSE in a timely manner in order to aid completion and return. The establishment also now operates a process to log and chase up paperwork and this has resulted in improved timeliness. The LT&HSE Directorate have effective processes in place to ensure that reviews are completed on time.