



Mrs Carole Gee
Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Lindholme
Bawtry Road
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DN7 6EE

27 July 2017

Dear Carole

**HMP LINDHOLME: 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 continued to be short of members.

I was pleased to read that the relative stability at HMP Lindholme has continued with further initiatives introduced and improvements in the provision of equality and diversity. I congratulate the prison for achieving the Decency Officer of the Year award for the North East and Yorkshire prisons 2016.

It was encouraging to read that HMP Lindholme has continued to improve the education provision and that programmes give the prisoners the valued opportunity to attain qualifications, aiding in the progression to employment on release and successful resettlement. I am sure your positive comments on the quality of teaching and the relationship between the prisoners and teaching staff will be appreciated.

I note the Board's comments about the condition of the buildings and fabric of HMP Lindholme. I am pleased two major maintenance projects have been undertaken to include fire and safety improvement works and the provision of improved shower facilities, and that the mould issues in the segregation unit showers have been addressed and work continues to tackle the problems with standing water.

As the kitchen facilities are in a very busy area, the equipment there is prone to failure either during normal operation or as a result of misuse. The original kitchen equipment has suffered a high number of reactive failures and although HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) has a maintenance contract in place, repairs may not always be as quick as desired due in part to the subcontractors being unfamiliar with the equipment manufacturer. I note the problems with the extract ducting system in the bakery building have also been addressed and the bakery is now providing bread locally and for HMP Moorland. Responsibility for the maintenance of the specialist in equipment within the bakery is currently being established and with regard to the heating in the gymnasium, the service delivery manager will request a quotation to reinstall radiators in the main weights room.

I recognise the Board's continued concerns about staffing levels and am pleased HMP Lindholme is successfully recruiting staff and should meet its target of prison officers by the autumn. Workforce

planning is reviewed each month by the Senior Management Team, with additional reviews to ensure the forecasted recruitment requirements are realistic.

Although there remain occasional regime restrictions due to operational issues, the recruitment of new staff along with a reduction in sick absence levels and use of agency operational support grades has already resulted in significant improvements to the regime in the recent months.

The Governor has invested heavily in the funding of the agency probation officers to assist with the completion of OASys initial assessments and support the nine offender supervisors now allocated specifically to offender management. In addition training for Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) is now well established in the learning and development plan.

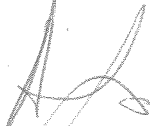
The prison is still working to resolve ongoing staffing issues with the healthcare provider and the Governor will keep you updated with developments.

Although you have not raised it as requiring a response, I acknowledge the Board's concerns about the reported Organised Crime Groups in HMP Lindholme. This issue is being taken very seriously, funding has been allocated to build capability at a national and regional level to target and disrupt serious organised crime and gang offenders, carrying out crime while in custody and under supervision in the community. A regional framework is being developed for managing covert tactics.

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 Lindholme.

Yours sincerely



SAM GYIMAH MP

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

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Substance Misuse

HMPPS is taking seriously the challenges psychoactive substances and other illicit drugs pose to prisons. A range of supply and demand reduction measures will continue to be implemented to address the availability and use of such harmful substances. This is based on a multi-agency approach working closely with health partners and law enforcement agencies.

Nationally prisons have a range of security measures to reduce drugs being smuggled into prisons including physical searching, the use of x-ray machines, CCTV surveillance cameras, intelligence-led searches and drug detection dogs. At HMP Lindholme additional suspicion testing and 1000 prison staff hours are dedicated for searching to find drugs and challenge the users. The prison is actively supporting prisoners with the introduction of the Recovery Wing, which will hold forty prisoners who are seeking to address their substance misuse issues with peer mentors and role models also located on the unit to support and encourage recovery programme participants. New initiatives being introduced including the illicit substance awareness course which prisoners will be able to elect to complete, following a proven adjudication for being under the influence. Those prisoners who positively engage with the course may reduce their overall award on adjudication.

Prisoners with Mental Health Problems

As a working prison, the local reception criteria at HMP Lindholme cannot be adjusted to include the need for good mental health or no diagnosed health conditions. The prison aims to provide all prisoners with an equitable service as those living in the community who may also find it difficult to work.

Waste Management

Whilst the Unit is not complete there have been big improvements in the working environment for staff and prisoners and in returning savings to HMP Lindholme. Further development is planned to create a bigger surface area and allow a suitable base for further training in a suitable environment away from industrial operations. The washing machine and dryers are now commissioned, returning a saving of £1400 since May.

A business case for a wood fired heater has been submitted to be used within the unit, which is intended to burn the waste wood generated within the prison to negate wood disposal while providing a heated area around the proposed sorting area. The prison is also working to remove the avian vermin that continues to cause issues.