



Mr Keith Jaimeson
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI Nottingham
Perry Road
Sherwood
Nottinghamshire
NG5 3AG

 August 2017

Dear Keith,

**HMP/YOI NOTTINGHAM: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR
1 MARCH 2016 – 28 FEBRUARY 2017**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 28 February 2017. I want to assure you that we take these reports very seriously and 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 members throughout the year.

I acknowledge and regret staffing shortages have had a severe impact on prisoners gaining a sense of fulfilment. We are investing an extra £14 million to recruit over 400 additional staff to deliver new ways of working in ten prisons worst affected by levels of violence and self-harm, and HMP/YOI Nottingham is one of these prisons. Our plans include recruiting 2,500 new prison officer staff nationally and increasing the number of former armed forces personnel becoming prison officers. In addition, we are improving the support that applicants and new prison officers receive, engaging them throughout the process and supporting them through to the completion of their training and probation. A total of 75 prison officer mentors are being appointed to lead this work, and at 30 of the most challenging recruitment sites we are giving prison governors greater freedom to hire the staff right for them, with the expertise and skills they need.

I am pleased that staffing levels at HMP/YOI Nottingham for Band 3 prison officers now exceed the level set under the Benchmark (218 against a target of 174) and that the staffing requirement will increase to allow delivery of meaningful interactions between prisoners and named key workers. Although recruitment continues, it is encouraging that the regime has already expanded, the education department has reopened and workshop capacity is increasing. As more staff arrive at HMP/YOI Nottingham the regime will be expanded further which will include better access to prisoner property. I also note medical escorts are now being met and hospital attendance continues to improve. I express my thanks to the Governor and staff at HMP/YOI Nottingham for doing their utmost under difficult circumstances.

I share the Board's concern around transfers to secure units in hospital. The National Health Service England (NHSE) continues to work with partners across the criminal justice system to improve services for offenders with mental health difficulties and accepts at times there is pressure on some categories of secure beds in certain parts of the country. NHSE are currently undertaking a service review across all medium and low secure services to help ensure high quality care is available when needed. The pressures experienced within the prison estate is being considered as part of the review as well as other issues including the capacity required, levels of security, gender, service types and geographical location.

A key principle of the review is for secure beds to be part of a pathway of care and where relevant this includes prisons. A more detailed understanding of difficulties in the system in relation to remissions from hospital to prison is being considered so that access, egress and throughput is improved. This is key to ensuring that the appropriate capacity is planned for the future.

NHSE are also working robustly with criminal justice partners to review the mental health service specification, in line with their commitment set out in the Next Steps for the Five Year Forward View, to enable access to high quality care when it is required. Furthermore, Optimum Service Modelling work is taking place for prison mental health services to utilise the expertise of those staff working within prisons, commissioners of health services, clinicians and patients to redesign current services to develop prototypes of new service models which can be piloted in 2017-18.

Offenders are treated in hospital for mental illness or to stabilise their personality disorder before returning to the offender estate to finish their sentence when they no longer need inpatient hospital treatment. The benefit of investing with In Reach and bespoke offender personality disorder services within prison enables more people to be treated and to divert them from needing to be transferred to hospital. An offenders' length of stay in hospital can exceed their sentenced tariff and clinicians are ethically bound to discharge people who no longer meet the criteria for an inpatient admission whether this be back to prison or to another setting.

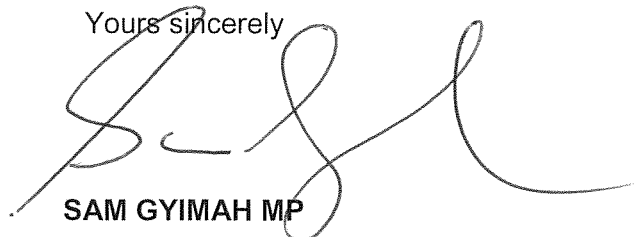
Access to a range of appropriate clinical and psychosocial support is in place at HMP/YOI Nottingham and accessible to those that require it, including prisoners transferring in from Rampton secure hospital. A bespoke review meeting was held in June between Health & Justice commissioners and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to review current service capacity to care for those with severe mental health needs and dementia. Should levels of demand and interventions increase further, matters will collaboratively be addressed.

HMPPS comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex. I also note you have raised some local issues of concern in your report which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues.

Your feedback on improvements made in particular to discrimination incident reporting and clothing exchange are appreciated and I welcome the in cell technology installation, which should prove beneficial. Despite the difficult circumstances faced during the reporting year, it was pleasing to read that the segregation unit team were commended for their efforts and for carrying out their duties to a high standard as well as the efforts of the staff working on the vulnerable prisoner wing.

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 Nottingham.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Gyimah', written over the typed name 'SAM GYIMAH MP'.

SAM GYIMAH MP

**HMP/YOI NOTTINGHAM: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR
1 MARCH 2016 – 28 FEBRUARY 2017**

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Dispersing of Prisoners

HMPPS appreciates the work of receiving prisons in accommodating prisoners transferred at short notice as a result of temporary loss of accommodation. HMPPS endeavours to spread the number of receiving prisons as far as possible to minimise the pressures on individual establishments and there are no plans to review the current arrangements for dispersing prisoners following a major incident.