



Ministry  
of Justice

**Sam Gyimah MP**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State for Justice

Mr Graham Foulston  
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Usk & Prescoed  
47 Maryport Street  
Usk  
Monmouthshire  
NP15 1XP

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017

Dear Graham,

**HMP USK & PRESCOED: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1 APRIL 2016 – 31 MARCH 2017**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 March 2017. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for all the hard work that has been put into capturing your helpful observations. I am sorry for the delay in you receiving a reply.

It was encouraging to read that the Board has no serious concerns about the way in which HMP Usk and Prescoed function and that security is managed well. I was pleased to read about the continued provision of family days, the improvements to visits and the success of Cwlrigi farm both in terms of horticulture and training for employment. I hope that the continued success of the farm brings future employment opportunities.

I note that the induction programme at Prescoed includes an education package and that the inclusion of GCSE Religious Education has proved a great success at Usk. I was pleased to read that a member of staff was awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Prisoner Education Trust.

Your feedback about the prison's work with the Clink Restaurant, the volunteering opportunities and the service provided by the Listeners and the buddy scheme are all appreciated. I am also grateful to staff for the efforts made to achieve good employment outcomes for prisoners and to those who were involved in providing excellent care to a terminally ill man in his final days.

As you have raised no issues for my attention, it remains for me to thank you and your Board for your work. I note you have raised some local issues of concern which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. The other areas of concern raised in your report have been responded to by HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) 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 Usk and Prescoed.

Yours sincerely

**SAM GYIMAH MP**

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**HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report**

**Board Meetings**

The arrival of the new Governor and the return of the Deputy Governor from a period of secondment has given more stability to the prison. Since March 2017 all IMB meetings have been attended by the Governor or his Deputy.

**Substance Misuse Course**

The Substance Misuse course will be delivered this business year through funds secured from HMPPS and the Local Health Board. The establishment is currently working with other partners to secure funds for longer term delivery of the programme.

**Communal Dining Areas**

To provide communal dining at HMP Usk would present a challenge due to the Victorian design of the prison and the limited space available to safely provide this facility. However, the Governor will give consideration to what can be done to provide this facility, including the scope to run another communal dining pilot.

**Seven Day Health Care System**

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board have commissioned a healthcare needs analysis. Preliminary work has already started and a formal needs analysis will commence in October 2017 (expected to be completed by the end of March 2018). This will determine the ongoing provision of healthcare at HMP Usk and Prescoed in order to meet the needs of prisoners.