



Ministry  
of Justice

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

Mrs Jayne Harrison  
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HMP Ranby  
Retford  
Nottinghamshire  
DN22 8EU

25 September 2017

*Dear Jayne*

**HMP RANBY: 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. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for all the hard work that has been put into this report, particularly as you have been short of members during the reporting period.

It was encouraging to receive your comments about the increase in the level of employer engagement and that agreements are in place with employers to work with learners to gain employment on release. I was pleased to read about the compassionate pastoral support provided to prisoners and their families by the Chaplaincy team. It is also encouraging to read that 'Storybook Dads' continues to be popular enabling men to maintain family ties and bond with their children.

I was reassured to read about the continued hard work and commitment to prisoners' wellbeing by healthcare staff and the work of the equalities team. I am grateful to the Board for recognising the high standard of care demonstrated by officers working in the segregation, particularly as these prisoners can be difficult to manage.

As you have raised no issues for my specific attention it remains for me to thank you and your Board for your support. I 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. 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 Ranby.

**SAM GYIMAH MP**

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

**Healthcare**

*24 hour care*

The current healthcare contract does not require the provider to deliver 24 hour healthcare services. Critical care emergencies are managed via the usual emergency services. However, the co-commissioning and procurement of new integrated healthcare services is currently underway. The new contracts are due to go live on the 1 April 2018 and will include 24/7 (365 days of the year) primary healthcare services.

*Prisoners with severe mental health issues*

Liaison and Diversion (L&D) services based in police custody suites and courts are commissioned by NHS England Health and Justice Teams across the country, with the aim of identifying people who have mental health, learning difficulties, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system. L&D services support people through the early stages of the criminal justice system pathway, refer them to appropriate health or social care support or enable them to be diverted away from the criminal justice system and prison into other, more appropriate settings if required.

NHS England is aware that there is pressure on some categories of secure beds in certain parts of the country, which is why a service review across all medium and low secure services commenced in June 2016. The pressure being experienced within prisons is being considered as part of the review and new service specifications have been developed, including greater clarity in relation to access assessment services and forensic outreach and liaison services. Optimum service modelling work has also taken place for prison mental health services which concluded in June 2017 and five new service prototypes are being considered for piloting in 2017/18. The learning from this modelling is also being embedded in the review of the mental health service specification for prisons. In relation to high secure services, a review of the clinical model and specification has also recently commenced, including a focus on access assessment services. The learning from all of the above work streams will be included in the review of the current Prison Transfer and Remission Guidance published by the Department of Health in 2011. It is anticipated that revised timescales for transfer from prison to hospital will be developed by the autumn to enable the current guidance to be reviewed by the end of the year.

**Purposeful Activity**

The vision for prisons set out in the 'Prison Safety and Reform' White Paper, published in November 2016, included plans for education and employment. Offenders must be working, learning and reforming, so when they leave prison they can be useful members of society. HMPPS, through ONE3ONE Solutions and Public Sector Prison Industries centrally, will continue to work hard to support this aim, including replicating initiatives that provide real employment opportunities for offenders on release. As part of the new arrangements, Governors will have greater authority and accountability for managing their workshops. HMPPS is working with the Governor of HMP Ranby on a number of pipeline initiatives to increase work including E.ON lantern recycling. An arrangement has also been made with an existing provider of laundry work to increase work at HMP Ranby. Weekend work is now available at HMP Ranby

in the laundry, plastics and textiles workshops. The visits café, which is run by prisoners, has also opened, and a barber shop is due to open shortly.

## **Resettlement**

### *Accommodation on release*

Whilst the Board acknowledges that accommodation services for offenders have improved, HMPPS is not complacent and is aware of the challenges faced in providing accommodation for offenders. Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) are required to provide support for all offenders when they are released from prison, including those sentenced to less than 12 months. This includes working together with local partners to help offenders find accommodation and supporting them to maintain their accommodation as part of a package of support tailored to meet their individual needs. HMPPS has been carrying out a comprehensive review of the probation system to improve outcomes for offenders and communities while making sure public protection remains our top priority. It considered all aspects of the probation system, including 'through the gate' services. The review has now concluded and HMPPS will be publishing the findings in due course.

Locally at HMP Ranby case administrators in the Offender Management Unit (OMU) are working with CRCs, the provider delivering Bail Accommodation and Support Services and Probation to ensure that all avenues of support are available for those due to be released without a suitable address.

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

Initial Start of Custody Assessments should be completed within agreed timescales by local establishments whom are allocated those resources. HMPPS continues to review the OASys backlog and the prioritisation criteria remains in force, which ensures the highest priority cases are completed in full, with a reduced assessment for those lower risk cases.

The new Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) model will also address the issues which prisons currently face around completing OASys reports. The new model will move the resource for OASys report completion into the training/resettlement estate and away from local/reception prisons. The model also removes the dual Offender Supervisor/Supervising Officer role and Offender Supervisors are replaced by Offender Managers, who will be based in the prison. Roll out of the new OMiC model has commenced within the 10 pathfinder sites and HMP Berwyn. HMPPS is currently working through the roll out schedule into the wider estate, but the new OM model will be in place in all closed prisons by March 2019.

## **Drugs**

HMPPS takes seriously the ongoing challenges that psychoactive substances and other illicit drugs pose to establishments and continues to implement a range of supply and demand reduction measures to address both 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.

Prisons have at their disposal 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. HMPPS has also introduced new intelligence units which are working with establishments and law enforcement partners to develop intelligence on individuals and organised crime groups linked to the supply of drugs in prisons. To deter and disrupt the use of dangerous drugs, HMPPS are the first jurisdiction in the world to have developed a drug test for psychoactive substances which as of September 2016 was available in all prisons. HMPPS continues to work with the contracted laboratory to analyse data to ensure testing for the most commonly misused substances takes place.

Following the introduction of the Psychoactive Substances Act (PSA) in May 2016, there have been a number of successful convictions for possession in a custodial setting, including punishments of 14

months imprisonment. In addition to the PSA, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was amended in December 2016 to make all third generation synthetic cannabinoids (a group of psychoactive substances commonly found in prisons) a Class B drug. The amendment to the Act provides another powerful tool to charge those found in possession of psychoactive substances and carries a heftier maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment.

Drug treatment also has a very important role to play in tackling the problem. Substance misuse services are commissioned through NHS England to provide a range of services. Alongside these treatments, HMPPS is working closely with health partners to provide information, guidance and support to prisoners, visitors and staff on the impact and damaging consequences of drugs.

HMP Ranby acknowledges there were several incidents involving psychoactive substances within the workshops. Intelligence led security has allowed the prison to target individuals and the prison has a range of other measures to combat contraband, which the Governor can advise you on locally.

### **Prisoners' Property**

HMPPS understands the importance of property to prisoners and strives to ensure it is managed as effectively and efficiently as possible. It is in the interests of both prisoners and staff that property is dealt with promptly, fairly and with attention to detail. A review of the Prisoners' Property policy is currently taking place alongside a national project to reduce HMPPS annual litigation expenditure. A national cost reduction project began in early 2017, with work streams focusing on improving the handling of claims and preventing the causes of litigation. This work will feed into the prisoners' property review. HMPPS expect to issue a revised policy during 2017

### **Transfers**

GEOAmev are tasked with collection and delivery of inter prison transfers (IPT) out of HMP Ranby as required through the HMPPS population management booking system. Prisoner Escort and Custody Services (PECS), along with HMPPS population management, have agreed levels of court escort resources to meet IPT service requirements and this capacity currently meets HMPPS demands. All IPT bookings are made between population management and the establishment and, as such, volume requirements are not made by the contractor. The escort contractors respond to IPT requirements via population management; cancellations may occur due to operational reasons at the sending/receiving establishments or new priorities due to localised population pressures. PECS constantly monitor and challenge all aspects of the escort contractors' performance, including IPT cancellations, meeting with them regularly to review operational issues.

The Observation Classification and Allocation (OCA) department at HMP Ranby work with HMPPS Population Management and OCAs across the country to ensure every effort is made to support those that wish to, or need to, transfer for their individual reasons. Consideration is being given to having a single OCA unit across the three reform prisons which will help place prisoners based on their need with regard to interventions and geographical location.