



Ministry
of Justice

Sam Gyimah MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Justice

Mrs Diana Kelshaw
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Wymott,
Ulnes Walton Lane
Preston, Lancashire
PR26 8LT

29ⁿ October 2017

Dear Diana,

**HMP WYMOTT: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JUNE 2016 – 31 MAY 2017**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 May 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 are short of Members during this reporting period.

I understand the Board's continued concerns over the Healthcare provision at HMP Wymott. I hope my letters of 1 June and 24 August 2017, in response to your letters to the former Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State have already gone some way to alleviate some of the concerns raised in your report.

Bridgewater Community NHS Trust continues to prioritise the allocation of resources, clinical and managerial staff and the quality team to address concerns. NHS England have also invested additional financial resources and continued to support the current provider to deliver the service, and I am pleased that there have been notable service improvements. There is a multiagency task and finish group in place to monitor remedial action planning and care delivery at HMP Wymott.

I am pleased substantive General Practitioners (GPs) have now been recruited for both HMP Wymott and HMP Garth along with a full time GP locum, allowing additional sessions to be added to the clinic rota to address long waiting times and service to the Care and Separation Unit to resume. Other improvements have been made to the delivery of appointment slips and the monitoring of Did Not Attend (DNAs). Dental services are in place, with plans to add additional sessions by NHS England, along with Podiatry and Physiotherapy clinics.

The recruitment drive for nurses is ongoing, however due to the national shortage of nursing staff, current vacancies continue to be covered through the use of agency staff and the temporary redeployment of Health and Justice Staff into the service.

I recognise the Board's concerns for the lack of pharmacy services. As previously explained the provider continues to use the Lloyd's service until October 2017 when pharmacy provision will be provided by the in house Bridgewater pharmacy arrangements in place at HMP Risley. A full time pharmacist has been recruited and is reviewing the patients with long term conditions and completing medication reviews with the GP. Medication incidents are now monitored and service provision has improved with no recorded medication supply problems.

Work continues to improve and monitor all healthcare processes, however it is expected that stabilisation of the service will take several months to address.

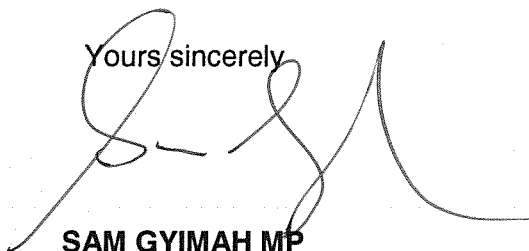
It was encouraging to receive your comments about HMP Wymott continuing to be a generally decent prison, ensuring prisoner's safety and actively engaging them in a wide range of activities.

I am pleased to read that the Board regard overall that Education and Training at HMP Wymott is very good and am grateful for the Board's acknowledgment of the Education Department working closely with Offender Supervisors to ensure prisoners are provided with the educational needs of their sentence plan. The development and maintenance of a wide range of contracts with external organisations generate income and, more importantly, enabling prisoners to gain the skills for employment upon release is impressive.

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 Wymott.

Yours sincerely

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

SAM GYIMAH MP

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Older and Disabled Prisoners

All establishments in the prison estate must make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the prisoners they hold, including those prisoners who are vulnerable or needing specialist care. Locally at HMP Wymott capital funding has been secured to create a number of Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant cells and a major capital bid will be submitted to refurbish A & B wings to include appropriate cells and living accommodation to meet the requirements under the Equality Act 2010. In addition a palliative care suite is to be created on I wing annex that will provide appropriate facilities for prisoners and their families. A full review of all other residential areas will be conducted to ensure there is accessibility for prisoners with restricted mobility.

Suitably risk assessed peer support workers currently provide assistance, liaison and support to wheelchair users at HMP Wymott and directly employed social carers continue to provide social care working alongside staff employed by Allied Healthcare to ensure continuity of care.

Accommodation

The preparation of the tender brief is progress for the workshop roofs, with upgrade works to the gate currently on site. The further work to the Estate Investment Proposal for A and B houses, subject to planning consents, the necessary financial approval and operational requirements is planned for the 2018-19 financial year. At this stage it is not possible to confirm if CCTV will be within the scope of the refurbishment projects.

In the meantime reactive works are taking place at HMP Wymott to improve the facilities and maintain standards on the Wings, including urgent repair works to the roof to protect the workshop facilities and fabric of the building, remedial work in communal bathroom and shower areas on A and B wing, flushing the heating system to improve performance and prisoner painters painting the wings. Although the heating is now working at full capacity, extra blankets will continue are issued to prisoners.