

## IMB National Monitoring Framework

### Ministerial foreword

Independent Monitoring Boards (IMBs) play a vital part in the oversight of prison and immigration detention. In these closed environments, it is right and necessary that the conditions and treatment of those held in custody are subject to independent scrutiny. IMBs act as the 'eyes and ears' of the public and provide crucial feedback about what is happening day in, day out, and the impact on prisoners and people in immigration detention.

We therefore warmly welcome this new National Monitoring Framework which sets out a clear basis for the work of IMBs and which can be adapted to different custodial settings. It shows how monitoring can provide evidence, both of concerns and of good practice, in order to help drive improvements at the frontline and national level.

One of the key strategic priorities of the Ministry of Justice is to have a prison and probation service that reforms offenders, and we hold in high regard our responsibility for the care of those in our establishments. The Home Office also takes seriously the care and welfare of those held in immigration detention, both in removal centres and in short term holding facilities, reflected in one of our key priorities being to protect vulnerable people. IMB findings make a significant contribution to both these objectives.

Finally, we recognise the dedication of IMB members - who all carry out this important statutory role without payment - and we thank them for their continued commitment.



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