



██████████
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange
Yarm, Cleveland
TS15 9PA

Moj ref: SUB 90178

16 August 2021

Dear ████████,

**HMP/YOI KIRKLEVINGTON GRANGE: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JANUARY 2020– 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 December 2020. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work in capturing these helpful observations during an unprecedented period and under challenging circumstances.

I appreciate the Board's continued concerns around maintenance and the fabric of the site. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Estates Team has confirmed that the three units taken out of use have now been approved for demolition. This is due to be completed this summer subject to any unforeseen issues arising.

The current MoJ commitment is to undertake the re-build of a minimum of two 40-bed accommodation units within the 2021-22 financial year. The design process for the replacement units is already underway and it is anticipated the first unit will be located within the established K unit fence-line footprint, and the second unit will be in either the D wing or E wing area. The most appropriate location for the second unit will be determined by discussions between the establishment and design team.

HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange is an ageing site requiring constant maintenance. To alleviate these ongoing challenges, over £780,000 has been invested to improve the site and overall decency. These improvements include the heating systems and boilers, gym flooring, roads and car parks, and the TV system. The temporary accommodation that was installed (M Unit) enabled extra prisoners to have in-room sanitation and this will now be available to the prison for up to five years.

The reporting year coincided with the pandemic and it is remarkable that there were minimal infections, no hospitalisations, and thankfully no deaths. I would like to echo the Board's comments that the Governor and all staff at HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange are to be congratulated on the way they performed during the year and their response to the changing situations.

It was further encouraging to receive your comments about the marked improvement in healthcare provision, the swift resolution of reported discrimination incidents and very low levels of complaint escalation. I was also pleased to read about the excellent work with 'Little Sprouts' helping locally disadvantaged families and individuals.

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/YOI Kirklevington Grange.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Chalk'.

ALEX CHALK MP

**HMP/YOI KIRKLEVINGTON GRANGE: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JANUARY 2020– 31 DECEMBER 2020****HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report****Prisoners' Property**

Further to last year's response there was a pause in the development of the new Prisoners' Property policy framework due to COVID-19, however a meeting with IMB representatives took place in August 2020. The feedback received from those members was considered alongside the comments received from other stakeholders, together with comments from subsequent operational engagement. HMPPS has now circulated the draft framework with internal and external stakeholders, including the IMB Secretariat and the IMB representatives previously consulted, and the comments received are being considered. The new framework is due to be published later this year.

The framework will provide greater direction and standardisation on a national basis and has been designed with procedural justice at its core. It will strengthen guidance on known problem areas such as volumetric control and seeks to ensure prisoners' property is managed efficiently, effectively, consistently and with care and respect. While digital improvements to property processes are being explored, the nature of that work means that any digital changes are likely to be longer.