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Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Grendon and Springhill  
Grendon Underwood  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP18 0TL

MoJ Ref: ADR 78588

3 June 2020

Dear ██████████,

**HMP GRENDON & SPRINGHILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR  
1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Thank you for your Board's reports for the year ending 31 December 2019. The terrorist attack in November 2019 on London Bridge must understandably have had a profound effect on prisoners and staff who knew those that were tragically killed. My sympathy goes out to their loved ones and also to the family of the prisoner who sadly died in custody on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019 at HMP Grendon.

I am pleased to note your comments on the improvements made to HMP Springhill's living environment but I acknowledge the Board's concerns around infrastructure. I would like to reassure you that HMPPS are considering proposals for additional singular accommodation and ensuite accommodation to add capacity into the open estate. Likewise, refurbishment work to existing accommodation is considered and progressed wherever possible.

Although I note that you have not raised any concerns regarding HMP Grendon for my specific attention, I would like to reassure you that the project to deliver a new fire safety system (including in-cell detection), misting systems and upgrade to night sanitation across all wings is scheduled to commence mid-June. As I am sure you will appreciate, this may be subject to further review in the light of COVID-19.

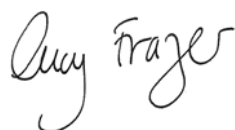
Turning to some of the positives from your reports, it was encouraging to receive your comments highlighting the hard work that has gone into creating a therapeutic and rehabilitative culture across both prisons. I am pleased that the Board acknowledges that preliminary outcomes from the significant clinical therapeutic communities' audits in December 2019 were very positive and good relationships are adopted in the community addressing issues through the therapeutic process.

I also welcome the splitting of diversity statistics between HMP Springhill and HMP Grendon to enable better data analysis and I note the Diversity and Inclusion team are working towards identifying trends. Similarly, for the second year running it is very encouraging to read there were no reported incidents of self-harm at HMP Springhill. I am also pleased to read that visiting experiences at both sites are good and that family day events are held to help build family ties.

I note you have raised some local issues of concern in both reports which the Governor will continue to keep you aware of as work continues. HMPPS comments in response to other issues raised in HMP Springhill's report for their attention are set out in the attached annex.

I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work in capturing these helpful observations, especially as you were very short of Board members during the reporting year. 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 Grendon and HMP Springhill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**LUCY FRAZER QC MP**

## HMP GRENDON & SPRINGHILL: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019

### HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

#### **Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL)**

HMPPS appreciates the Board for recognising ROTL opportunities for prisoners at HMP Springhill have increased. To avoid as much as possible restricting other prisoners to qualify for ROTL, staff will actively manage the balance struck between the need to fulfil activities within HMP Springhill, the rate at which ROTL risk assessments are conducted and progressing of resettlement and sentence plans for prisoners, which will include some prisoners kept in the prison to engage in work and education.

#### **Data Access**

HMPPS Prison and Probation Analytical Service (PPAS) cannot support data obtained directly from the Community Rehabilitation Company or the prison that has not undergone strict data collection and assurance processes. A prisoner's self-reported position prior to release can and will often change so is not considered a reliable metric. For the Board to inform their overall view, PPAS recommends accessing the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) official statistics data which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/community-performance-quarterly-update-to-march-2019>.

MoJ Data Assurance and Reporting team have been working with the IMB Secretariat to allow members to have restricted access to view data on the performance Hub. The data shows accommodation status for offenders on the first night of release from custody and employment status for offenders six weeks post-release.