



██████████
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Wayland
Griston, Thetford
IP25 6RL

MoJ Ref: ADR 78564

3 June 2020

Dear ██████,

**HMP WAYLAND: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 JUNE 2018 – 31 MAY 2019**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 May 2019. 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.

I am very sympathetic to the needs at HMP Wayland, and elsewhere across the estate, and I agree it is unfortunate that the pre-construction work of the new Care and Separation Unit (CSU) has not commenced, although the specifications have been agreed and signed off. Prioritising the potential projects to develop the capital maintenance programme for 2020-21 has been a very challenging task for those responsible as, despite an uplift of funding, there are still many very deserving projects that it wasn't possible to provide funding for. There are many critical projects that need to be urgently started, including the CSU at HMP Wayland, which has not made the programme for financial year 2020/21. The decisions of what to include and exclude were not taken lightly or in isolation from operational considerations. However, due to the COVID-19 crisis this will now be deferred to a more suitable time. Looking at HMP Wayland's current population figures, the new CSU will have the capacity to meet the demands and provide for sixteen new cells. My team reassures me that HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) Prison Maintenance Group will try to secure extra funding to allow for a greater number of maintenance projects to be delivered in the future.

I recognise the Board's concern about those that remain in prison serving indeterminate sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP). HMPPS is committed to doing all it can to support the progression of IPP sentenced prisoners and to help them reduce their risk to the point that the independent Parole Board determines that they may be safely released. The work to improve the management and progression of those serving IPP sentences has been underway for some time and is continuing via the joint IPP Action Plan, developed in partnership with the Parole Board. HMPPS is prioritising post-tariff prisoners to access rehabilitative interventions, including Psychology Service led reviews and enhanced case management for those with a complex set of risks and needs. Progression Regimes have also been developed at four prisons across the country, which are dedicated to supporting indeterminate prisoners who are struggling to achieve release via the usual routes.

Across the custodial estate, the population of prisoners serving IPP sentences was at its peak in 2012 and numbered over 6,000. The latest published figures show the IPP population stood at 2,134 at the end of December 2019, which is itself a reduction from 2,315 at the end of June 2019 - demonstrating the

improvement in opportunities available to IPP prisoners to progress in their sentence and an increasing number of releases in recent years.

Locally, the Governor has introduced monthly IPP listener groups to act on the points raised by prisoners and support them in preparing for a Parole Board review.

Turning to some positives captured in your report, I welcome the new Governor's approach and am pleased to hear she is restoring what you describe as 'rehabilitative hope' to the prison. It was encouraging to read that a Family Matters strategy has been set up aimed at maintaining family ties and that two family support workers have been appointed. I note that efforts are being made to increase HMP Wayland's rehabilitative culture and the introduction of a new graphic arts course to enhance a range of skills. Likewise, I welcome the refurbishment of the 150 cells and the successful opening of the first night centre to embed positive relationships between prisoners and staff.

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. HMPPS comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex. Please note that commitments outlined in this letter and the annex will be reviewed in the light of COVID-19 and may be delayed.

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 Wayland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucy Frazer".

LUCY FRAZER QC MP

HMP WAYLAND: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JUNE 2018 – 31 MAY 2019

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Offender Assessment System (OASys) Reports

The Board is right to point out that the backlog has been a long standing issue, not just at HMP Wayland, but across the prison estate. Historically the backlogs originated when prisoners were transferred from local prisons without an initial assessment and receiving prisons were not resourced for this work.

The introduction of Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) model involved a review of resourcing across the estate, embedding a staffing resource model for OASys assessments in training and resettlement prisons and reducing the OASys review frequency. HMPPS has seen a reduction in the backlog across the estate as staffing over the last year has been ramped up for OMiC. A national taskforce has been implemented to support prisons in processing the backlog of assessments, which peaked at 5939 in February 2019 and was reduced to 3329 in March 2020.

HMP Wayland has made significant progress through implementing a backlog plan and utilising staff overtime. The backlog of initial OASys assessments has been reduced from a peak of 109 in June 2019 to 52 in March 2020. However, due to the current difficulties around COVID-19 overtime measures will cease until matters resume back to normal.

The Prison Group Director and Governor have agreed with some local prisons (Norwich and Bedford) to prioritise completing OASys reports for those coming to HMP Wayland which hopefully will reduce the numbers slightly (as a high number of prisoners are received from local prisons without an initial OASys assessment).

Prisoners' Property

It is unfortunate and regrettable that prisoners' property continues to be an issue. The development of the new Prisoners' Property Policy Framework is being informed by a project which was undertaken in summer 2019, involving stakeholders across HMPPS and the escort services. The project involved visiting 14 prisons, consultation with staff and prisoners, and engagement with external stakeholders such as the IMB Secretariat and Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. Its purpose was to support the policy review and identify areas where immediate and more long-term changes may be required to improve operational practice. HMPPS is working closely with IMBs and other stakeholders over the next couple of months to consult on proposed changes and shape the revised content ahead of wider consultation and publication.

The Prisoner Escort and Custody Service (PECS) take steps to transport all property which falls within the agreed volumetric limits with prisoners when they transfer between establishments. A new fleet of vehicles are being provided through the PECS 4 Generation contract which starts in August 2020. These new vehicles will be able to transfer an additional half box of consumable items for each prisoner e.g. products purchased in the prison shop. In addition to this, HMPPS is considering what more can be done to encourage prisoners to send out or dispose of excess items to reduce the amount of their property that cannot transfer with them. Steps are also being taken to ensure a consistent approach when prisons forward on any excess items to prisoners at their new establishments after transfers have taken place.

Meanwhile, staff at HMP Wayland will do all they can to chase sending establishments to respond to property related complaints or investigate. Issues are often resolved through compensation to the prisoner for the loss of personal items.

Isolated Prisoners

HMP Wayland's population has over 60 per cent convicted of index offences of violence, this can vary with the churn. Prisoners tend to isolate for varying reasons such as they feel too vulnerable for the population they are in. Some isolate to orchestrate transfers and others have debt related issues. Isolating Individuals are seen weekly by a member of the Safer Prisons Team. A 'Happy Hour' session is held once a week to encourage re-integration with other prisoners.

As part of the wider safety strategy for prisons, a staff guidance document on Isolated Individuals was published in December 2019. The guidance provides prison staff with the knowledge that they need to identify signs, signals and indicators of those individuals that may be isolating, with advice on recording and supporting individuals to reintegrate in the normal regime. In addition to this guidance, a framework is being developed to enable managers to put in place a viable strategy in establishments for identifying, managing and supporting isolated individuals and is anticipated to be published in the near future.

A snap shot of the number of isolated individuals was recently carried out and will be analysed to further build on the knowledge around the scale and drivers behind individuals isolating, allowing HMPPS to develop support for this cohort. Increasing staff skills and knowledge about these individuals aligns with the safety programme outcomes to reduce violence and self-harm levels.