



Ministry
of Justice

Lucy Frazer QC MP
Minister of State for Justice

██████████
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Full Sutton
Full Sutton
York
YO14 1PS

MoJ ref: ADR79702

10 August 2020

Dear ██████,

HMP FULL SUTTON: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY 2019 – 31 DECEMBER 2019

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 December 2019. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work in capturing these helpful observations, especially as you continue to be short of Board members despite an increase in appointments during the reporting year.

I fully understand the Board's concerns about the availability of education provision and meaningful work. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Education and Employment Strategy (May 2018) set out significant changes to the delivery arrangements for prison education which started on 1 April 2019. Since then prisons have had control over their own education budget and the freedom to be flexible in commissioning bespoke provision. Education provision within the Long-Term and High Security Estate (LTHSE) is now solely delivered by Milton Keynes College which has brought a consistent and supportive approach for the particular needs of the long-term population. The curriculum is underpinned with basic education and learning support needs, longer and higher-level courses, courses that support settlement within long-term prisons, as well as opportunities to undertake personal development and a coordinated approach to Careers in Custody across the LTHSE. Individual prisons are also using their flexible Learning and Skills Fund via the Dynamic Purchasing System to commission additional services to deliver learning and skills for their individual populations needs.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the challenges in implementing this new education contract have been considerable, improvements and positive changes are being made. The benefits of these are already being seen within the LTHSE prisons and further improvements will be experienced during the coming year as processes are embedded. It should be noted, however, that Covid-19 will of course have an impact on prison regimes for some time to come. The MoJ is also in the process of creating a Prisoner Education Service focussed on work-based training and skills to strengthen the current education and careers guidance offer to ensure more prisoners can sustain employment on release. In addition, the New Futures Network (NFN), the specialist part of HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) that helps businesses fill skills gaps and prisoners find employment on release, will in due course continue its work with prisons and the LTHSE Employment Broker. This is to help utilise their existing workshop facilities and to explore and develop new opportunities for future work, as this activity was paused while prisons operate restricted regimes due to Covid-19.

Locally at HMP Full Sutton there are now clear reducing re-offending strategies in place to address all weaknesses within the function, including employment and education. The Head of Reducing Reoffending has been in post since January 2020 and will be building on existing work, with an aim of improving

attendance and engagement. Although it is true that there are currently insufficient work places for all prisoners, these are being maximised each day by ensuring other prisoners are ready to fill any space should a prisoner be absent to attend other appointments. The removal of the break period during education has already had a positive impact on attendance and, through all senior and middle Residential Managers driving attendance to allocated work and education, this is having further positive impact. A revised core day and revised staff profiles were also launched in June 2020 bringing further anticipated improvements in regime engagement, achievement of qualifications and overall safety.

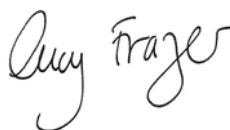
All workshop instructor vacancies have now been filled, except for the wood mill, with the successful candidates currently progressing through vetting. Plans are in place to open the wood mill in late 2020 and the prison is working with MoJ Estates to progress the project as soon as possible. However, due to Covid-19, engagement with Public Sector Prison Industries to open a recycling workshop has had to be paused. The Braille workshop will also close due to the lack of appropriate work, with the space being filled by the Library. The prisoners will continue to be employed to support the Library programme, as well as offering desktop publishing as part of the prison's communication strategy. As part of the Facilities Management contract there are also plans to introduce the Clean, Rehabilitative, Enabling and Decent programme which will bring more work opportunities whilst refurbishing the living environment. In addition, whilst the current prisoner pay levels at HMP Full Sutton are equal in the workshops and education, it is recognised that the production bonuses in some work areas may be leading to the perception that there is a pay disparity. The prison is, therefore, reviewing the pay policy to address any misperception and to avoid discouraging education attendance, with a proposal to use pay bands based on level of engagement in future. However, there is no date for implementation yet as the focus will be on returning prisoners to work and education which is likely to be a gradual and staged return due to Covid-19.

Despite your concerns, it was reassuring to receive your comments that overall the prison provides a calm and safe environment where prisoners are treated fairly and humanely. It was encouraging to read that there have been improvements in the management of prisoners who self-harm and the Segregation Unit. The prison is particularly proud of the progress the Pathways to Progression Unit - Supporting Transition and Enabling Progression - has had with those facing long periods in segregation. I am pleased to note that prisoners with complex needs, serious health issues and those who are vulnerable are now well supported and that healthcare inpatients are receiving excellent care. I understand that the prison has also launched its own vision with supporting ambitions, and I look forward to the Board being able to report positively on the progress with these in the coming year.

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.

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 Full Sutton.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'L' and 'F'.

LUCY FRAZER QC MP