



██████████
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Manchester
1 Southall Street
Manchester
M60 9AH

MoJ Ref: SUB 084011

15 December 2020

Dear ██████████,

**HMP MANCHESTER: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 MARCH 2019 – 28 FEBRUARY 2020**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 28 February 2020. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work in capturing these helpful observations, especially as you were short of Board members during the reporting year. I was sorry to hear that there were eight deaths in custody during the reporting period.

With regard the installation of the secure windows, the position as outlined in my response to the Board of 3 September 2020, remains unchanged. The successful bid is on the Ministry of Justice Projects database but a date for the work to be undertaken has not yet been identified. The Governor recognises that this is a high priority piece of work and will attempt to press this issue at every opportunity.

I continue to recognise the Board's request that prisoners be able to dine out of their cells. Further to my recent response to the Board's last report, the top half of the prison is now entirely single cell accommodation. Dining tables have been purchased, delivered and built, however, due to Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing, the deployment of these to the wings has been halted. Funding has been secured and allocated to create kitchenettes on A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I and K wings. This work has been slightly delayed due to the pandemic but is anticipated to commence shortly.

In respect of the Board's repeated concerns about the handling of prisoners' property, it is disappointing that the new Prisoners' Property policy framework has not been published. The project involving 14 prisons has been concluded and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is working closely with stakeholders to consult on proposed changes to the policy. As previously advised, in light of the pressures placed on Boards by Covid-19, HMPPS agreed with the IMB Secretariat to push consultation with Boards back until August and September. I am pleased to be able to confirm that this consultation exercise did resume in August of this year. The feedback received from those members will be considered alongside the comments received earlier this year from other stakeholders, and comments from the operational engagement which is now taking place. There has been a slight delay in us being able to circulate a revised draft policy framework because of the need to ensure sufficient operational engagement. We anticipate the draft framework will be circulated for wider consultation at the beginning of 2021.

Although it is now a requirement for staff at HMP Manchester to use Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVCs) during cell clearances, it is recognised that this is not happening for every clearance. The prison's Head of Residence has been tasked to look into this further and embed a process that works on the principles that the BWVCs are tools to be utilised to deter violence, protecting staff, prisoners and those that visit our establishments.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) will continue to monitor the time taken from referral to transfer and ensuring there is effective liaison with specialised commissioning. New performance metrics are being developed by NHSE&I via a strategic reporting tool to monitor those being assessed under the Mental Health Act (MHA) and tracking assessment and transfer waiting periods. The Prison Transfer and Remission Guidance 2011 has now been refreshed and is awaiting publication, as the planned date for publication was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Alongside this work, the new mental health service specifications have been published for low and medium-secure hospitals. The NHS led Provider Collaboratives service for adult medium and low secure care gives local ownership to providers for the whole pathway. This includes the interface with the criminal justice system, and resources for their own populations, enabling them to make commissioning decisions to improve and integrate services. In terms of high secure care, a strategic commissioning plan will be developed by April 2021. This will describe the clinical model, pathways and the required capacity for implementation during 2021/22. The Government is also committed to reforming the MHA and we are working closely with Department for Health and Social Care to respond to the recommendations of the independent review, chaired by Professor Sir Simon Wessely. A White Paper will be published in the coming months.

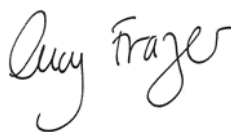
Locally, the Long Term and High Security Estate's Pathways to Progression team works closely with healthcare colleagues on an individual basis and through a joint HMPPS / NHS meeting. This collaboration has seen improved outcomes for men being referred to hospital.

Despite the concerns raised in your report, it was encouraging to receive your comments that prisoners are treated fairly and consistently, and any incidents within the prison are professionally managed. I was pleased to hear about the improvement programme that has taken place at HMP Manchester with new showers on some of the wings, the completion of converted cells to accommodate disabled prisoners and the use of H1 Wing to maintain a calm and structured regime for older prisoners. The provision of telephones for prisoners in every cell, except the segregation unit, is also a welcomed development enabling prisoners to maintain contact with the relatives and friends.

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 Manchester.

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