



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

MoJ Ref: ADR 081152

15 October 2020

Dear ██████████,

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

I understand the Board's concerns about the accommodation fabric and the request for investment so that substantial maintenance works can be undertaken. The Board will be aware that when I wrote to you in January 2020, in response to your 2018 annual report, it was recognised that some of the accommodation at HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange, particularly K unit, was potentially nearing its practical life expectancy. Since then due to the deteriorating condition of K unit a business case was prepared by the local HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) Service Delivery Manager to support an estate bid proposal to undertake the required remedial works which was submitted in March 2020. However, due to further deterioration surveys were commissioned to consider the structure of the unit. These were completed during September 2020 and are being considered to inform the appropriate action required.

Governance processes remain in place at the prison to ensure that the facilities maintenance provider, AMEY, are continuing to do all they can to maintain the remaining accommodation to a decent standard. Regular meetings are also being held with the prison's Functional Heads to monitor repair work alongside the Works Committee Meeting chaired by the Governor. Whilst vandalism levels have also reduced this continues to be an agenda item at these meetings to support a cross functional approach to identifying, repairing and tackling hot spots. As part of the Ministry of Justice's forward planning, funding for the replacement of the heating system pipework and roof of the main building will also be considered for 2021/22 financial year.

In addition, initial works have been completed to replace the television network system within the main building to improve the TV and radio reception. A re-tuning programme, various repairs and the incorporation of the Way Out TV Service to all prisoner rooms (which provided an interactive education and information service) has taken place. A further re-cabling survey to investigate the possibility of enhancing the service quality have also taken place. Further improvements are also planned following approval to replace the network system to all outlying accommodation buildings at the prison and it is anticipated these additional works will be completed this year. This will provide much improved signal reception to all rooms.

Despite your concerns, it was reassuring to receive your comments that overall the prison continues to be well-run and prisoners are positive about their safety. I was encouraged to note that equality and inclusion continues to be promoted successfully through a range of cultural events and that prisoners have regular opportunities to address issues with staff via equality representative meetings and focus groups. It was pleasing to read about the increased number of prisoners accessing work in the community, release on temporary licence for community reintegration and an increased number of visitor days which have all had a positive impact.

I am also grateful that the Board recognised the positive conclusions made by HM Inspectorate of Prisons following their visit in August 2019 where outcomes for prisoners were assessed as good in all four healthy prison tests, the highest available. I look forward to the Board being able to report positively during the coming year on HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange's progress with the 15 recommendations HMIP made in its report. I note you have also raised an issue about property in your report and HMPPS comments in response 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 that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LUCY FRAZER QC MP

Annex

HMP/YOI KIRKLEVINGTON GRANGE: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2019

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prisoners' Property

It is unfortunate and regrettable that prisoners' property continues to be an issue. The development of the new Prisoners' Property Policy Framework involved a large project undertaken in summer 2019. Following the conclusion of the project, HMPPS has worked closely with stakeholders to consult on the proposed policy changes to the policy. Discussions ahead of consultation with IMB members began with the IMB Secretariat in late February 2020, who proposed meetings take place with Board members in April. In light of the pressures placed on Boards by Covid-19, HMPPS agreed with the IMB Secretariat to pause this consultation until August and September. This work is now moving forward again and the feedback received from IMB members at these meetings will then be considered alongside the comments received earlier this year from other stakeholders, with the intention that the draft policy framework will be circulated for wider consultation at the end of 2020.

The new Prisoner Escort and Custody Service 4 Generation contract also began during August 2020 with a new fleet of vehicles which allow for an additional half box of consumable items to be carried for each prisoner on top of the existing agreed volumetric limits. In addition to this, HMPPS is looking at what more can be done to encourage prisoners to send out or dispose of excess items to reduce the amount of property that cannot transfer with them. Steps are also being taken to ensure there is a consistent approach when prison staff forward on any excess items to prisoners at their new establishment after a transfer has taken place.