



██████████  
Chair, Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay  
Woodbridge, Suffolk  
IP12 2JW

MoJ Ref: SUB 082254

14 October 2020

Dear ████████,

**HMP/YOI HOLLESLEY BAY: 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.

I appreciate the Board's recognition of the efforts made by HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay to secure training and employment opportunities for prisoners within the local community. We are committed to strengthening the current education and careers guidance offer to ensure more prisoners can sustain employment on release. We want to create a Prisoner Education Service focussed on work-based training and skills. We will improve individual prisoner development and employment opportunities by providing a job coach in every prison, an approach that has been proven to reduce reoffending. Regarding overall education provision in prisons, the aim of the Prisoner Education Service is to increase the number of prisoners that secure jobs and retain them. The ability to improve prisoners' functional, vocational and life-skills is also key to supporting wider rehabilitation and reducing reoffending on release.

HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is working to develop this new service and would like to establish it building on the reforms made since the Coates review in 2016 and the Education and Employment Strategy published in 2018. The strategy includes the introduction of a common curriculum and awarding bodies for the most popular subjects across the whole prison estate and devolving education budgets to local governors from April 2019. Both of these aforementioned initiatives provided a clear and effective route for prisons to provide prisoners with crucial education, training and employment skills, together with delivering the right support, incentives, and opportunities so that offenders can turn away from offending and criminality permanently.

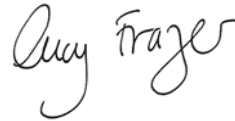
This work complements the Government's ambition on offender employment, where the New Futures Network (the specialist part of HMPPS that brokers partnerships between prisons and employers) is focused on securing employment for prisoners. Instances of good practice are continually being identified with examples shared regularly across the prison estate and with the education providers via the HMPPS National Prison Education Bulletin and through emails to stakeholders.

It was encouraging to note the numerous positive comments throughout the report and reassuring to hear that the prison is a safe place for prisoners and staff, and that prisoners are treated fairly and humanely. I was pleased to read that there is a culture within HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay that encourages dignity and respect between everyone at the establishment. It was also pleasing to note that there is an increased emphasis on the equality agenda and that cases of bullying, although rare, are dealt with promptly. The notable success of the sports personal trainers' courses is also worthy of mention.

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.

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 Hollesley Bay.

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 HOLLESLEY BAY: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 JANUARY 2019 – 31 DECEMBER 2019

#### HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

##### **Physical Condition of HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay**

It is recognised that certain areas of the site require improvements to the physical condition, in terms of both short and long-term maintenance requirements. To establish these requirements a number of condition surveys have already been undertaken through specialist surveyors together with general site inspections conducted by HMPPS' Prison Maintenance Group. These surveys and inspections have enabled forward maintenance data to be captured and is currently being used to inform business cases for investment in the buildings and infrastructure.

At this time, a significant amount of investment is being focussed on the site's infrastructure to ensure that these assets can function and provide essential services for prisoners. Projects to improve the current kitchen infrastructure, replacing electrical distribution equipment and ageing boilers are currently progressing for delivery during 2020-21. The projects to install new fire safety measures, such as alarms and emergency lighting, to ensure the premises meet current standards are progressing and are due for completion later this Autumn.

Other works have already been completed such as the upgrading of street lighting throughout the site and the refurbishment of shower areas in Bosmere Units 1 and 2, Cosford Unit and Wilford Unit. There are also local plans to improve and upgrade existing shower areas on other residential units. Self-cook areas are gradually being rolled out across all residential units to provide prisoners with sufficient opportunity to supplement their diet with purchased food.

##### **Courses at HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay**

The Education and Employment Strategy, published in May 2018, allowed for significant changes to the delivery arrangements for prison education and took full effect from April 2019. From that point, governors took control of their establishment's education budget, determined the curriculum on offer and how it is structured and organised, and decided who their education providers will be.

Governors, therefore, now commission core and bespoke education provision through two new routes; the Prison Education Framework (PEF) for core provision and the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for innovative, specialist or one-off education provision for their establishment. Unlike traditional frameworks which are closed to new entrants for their duration, the DPS allows suppliers to apply to join or decide to leave at any time during its term. DPS also allows Governors to commission provision that reflects any changes in their regional job markets more accurately.

Additionally, a new core common curriculum has been put in place comprising of four common Awarding Organisations (City and Guilds; OCR; WAMITAB and Gateway Qualifications). These qualifications will be used exclusively in eight subjects; maths, English, ICT, English for Speakers of Other Languages, catering and hospitality, construction, planning and the built environment, and cleaning and facilities management. This means that a prisoner who starts a qualification in one prison will be able to complete it at another rather than starting again as they move across the prison estate.

## **Video Conferencing**

HMPPS understands the Board's continued frustration around video conferencing facilities. Due to the location of the prison, there is a long running issue with cabling and broadband capability in the local area which has prevented progress with these facilities. Funding for the facilities, approximately £40,000, was previously allocated, however this had to be withdrawn due to competing priorities nationally. Information Technology infrastructure at the site was recently upgraded to support Video Assisted Visits but the upgrade remains insufficient to adequately support video conferencing. A change of telephony provider is currently being discussed and considered, which may provide further opportunities. In any event, new high-speed cabling will be required to adequately support all aspects of a video conferencing system.

HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay has recently contacted HMPPS' Reconfiguration Project and requested that it be part of the roll out to install Cloud Video Platform Video Meeting Rooms; the prison is currently waiting to hear about the next steps with the project. In the meantime, HMP Warren Hill is the nearest prison with video conferencing facilities and, where possible, HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay utilises their facilities to reduce the number of men transported to court.