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Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Preston
2 Ribbleton Lane
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 5AB

MoJ Ref: SUB 082290

14 October 2020

Dear ████████,

**HMP PRESTON: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 APRIL 2019 – 31 MARCH 2020**

Thank you for your Board's report for the year ending 31 March 2020. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your hard work in capturing these helpful observations, especially as you remained short of Board members.

I am very sympathetic to the needs at HMP Preston, and elsewhere across the estate. 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 where it has not been possible to provide funding for. The decisions of what to include and exclude were not taken lightly or in isolation from operational considerations.

Looking at HMP Preston's current position, I am pleased to report that the body scanner machine is now in operation, which should help tackle contraband entering through reception. In terms of the reception area, quotations are currently being gathered for minor work adjustments although at this present time no funding is in place to complete the works. However, HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) Prison Maintenance Group is in the process of working collaboratively with HMP Preston to put together an Estates Investment Proposal (EIP) bid for submission to the Ministry of Justice Estates Investment Board. The EIP will cover many options for the reception building, including demolition of the existing building and rebuilding a reception fit for purpose, although it must be recognised that it will be far from straight forward given the physical layout, particularly as the current building houses prisoners on upper levels and the site area is extremely tight. This will also be a very expensive project to fund. The Governor will keep you updated on any progress made.

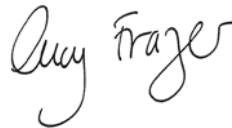
With regards to installing an air conditioning system in the visits hall, work is progressing. A contractor has been appointed and once the partnering agreement has been signed, detailed design surveys will be undertaken in readiness for the installation. However, please note that due to Covid-19, work schedules can often be deferred to a more suitable time.

Despite your concerns, it was encouraging to hear the Board continues to find HMP Preston a well-run prison and there are generally good relationships between staff and prisoners, as evidenced over the reporting period by the low levels of use of force and the decline in the number of complaints against staff. It was also encouraging to receive your comments that the general performance of Amey has improved and through the Q Branch initiative a team of tradesman-qualified prisoners helped with small non-contracted maintenance jobs. I also appreciate the feedback on the Sycamore Tree course and the cell survey outcome.

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 the other issue raised in your report for their attention is 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 Preston.

Yours sincerely

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

LUCY FRAZER QC MP

Annex

HMP PRESTON: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1 APRIL 2019 – 31 MARCH 2020

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prison Perimeter

HMPPS Security, Order and Counter Terrorism revisited HMP Preston to carry out a review of the perimeter security threat level. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] For the time being, HMP Preston will continue to work in partnership with Lancashire police force and anyone found guilty of being involved in any form of compromise to the perimeter security will face prosecution.

It should be noted that the CCTV installed detects movement [REDACTED] area and the Security team closely monitors the footage, together with intelligence and general surveillance/officer patrols. The police will be contacted if suspected movement is detected. The roof area is also protected by Darnet wire, another physical barrier to make access more difficult.