



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Peter Clarke CVO, OBE, QPM
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31st May 2019

Dear Peter,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP The Mount
23 – 25 April 2019

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP the Mount, whereby you followed up 13 key recommendations, from your most recent inspection in April 2018.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen progress being made in 7 of the recommendations which you have reviewed. You have identified improvements in key areas, including the areas which had the poorest outcomes in your previous inspection:

- **Living conditions**

Daily Senior Manager decency checks, identification of a designated decency lead staff member and increased accountability from wing managers has overseen and supported good progress. The introduction of a party of residents to undertake basic *handyman* tasks and a substantial, ongoing refurbishment programme.

- **Activities, education and resettlement provision**

Good workshop provision and plans to increase accreditation in these areas are praised. Substantially increased engagement with employers has resulted in a small number of residents gaining interviews and employment.

- **Purposeful and predictable regime**

Time out of cell has improved, including time in the fresh air. Plans are in place to address a shortage of activities spaces and the process for allocation has been reviewed and revised.

In respect of the 6 key recommendations where you did not find sufficient progress, I can confirm that additional actions are planned or are now in place. For example:

- **Violence Reduction (VR)**

A new head of function will review the new VR Strategy to ensure it is fit for purpose. The Challenge, Support and Intervention Plan process will be re-launched and specific training for staff undertaking the process will be delivered. Resources for safer custody have been improved and will be monitored via the weekly Regime Management Plan meeting to ensure the function is consistently supported.

- **Use of Force (UoF)**

A UoF co-ordinator has been put in place to ensure paperwork is completed and collated within required timescales. The process for planned removals has been reinforced and will be checked daily by the Orderly Officer and Duty Governor. Scrutiny of paperwork and digital footage has been strengthened and governance processes put in place.

- **Governance of Segregation**

A full review of current practices is being undertaken and training for CSU staff put in place around documentation. A weekly Care and Separation Unit meeting has been put in place to discuss each CSU resident and their needs ensuring effective management, consistency of approach and legitimate support based on individual needs. Actions are documented and taken forward from this meeting

- **Protected Characteristics / Equality Data**

A local equality strategy is being developed, which includes monthly equality meetings, analysis of equality data (in areas such as adjudications and use of force) and an updated equalities action plan. This is overseen by a new Head of Function and resourced via the weekly Regime Management Plan meeting to ensure effective work in this area. The Senior Management Team Protected Characteristic Champions initiative continues to be developed.

- **Integrated Drug Strategy**

The local Drug Strategy is under review to ensure it meets national requirements and local needs. A working group is now in place, including staff from all key areas, service providers and a number of residents, to ensure it meets the needs of the population. Up to date drug detection technology, including the use of body scanners and funding arrangements for trace detection equipment, is being explored nationally as part of a wider HMPPS programme to restore stability to the prison estate.

The Governor with the support of the Prison Group Director will continue to progress the full Action Plan covering all the original recommendations.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Mount's agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of OSAG we continue to closely monitor the progress.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much work to be carried out at the prison I am encouraged that progress is being made and that our monitoring of the prison is in accord with your findings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Jarman-Howe', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michelle Jarman-Howe

Executive Director (PSP South)

CC: Private Office and Phil Copple, Director General Prisons