



HM Prison & Probation Service

Charlie Taylor,
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
3rd floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

Richard Vince
Executive Director
Director of Security
HM Prison and Probation Service
8th Floor
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

13 July 2022

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Woodhill - 6-8 June 2022

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Woodhill, whereby you followed up eight key recommendations and three Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in September 2021.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good and reasonable progress being made across some of the recommendations and Ofsted themes, and note the following;

- Both safety recommendations, relating to managing behaviour and safeguarding, had been recognised as having made reasonable progress.
- Both respect recommendations, relating to living conditions and prisoner consultation and application redress, had been recognised as having made reasonable progress.
- Notable positive practice had been identified, this included the trauma-informed initiative that provides a range of therapeutic interventions to prisoners with complex needs and the weekly safety 'snapshot' bulletin which is a simple and effective way of communicating key safety objectives and current risks to all staff.

In respect of the three key areas and Ofsted themes where you found insufficient meaningful progress, I can confirm that all the IRP findings have been carefully considered and steps will be taken to address them as appropriate. This will include the following;

- As highlighted throughout the report, there are a number of additional support mechanisms being provided in response to the significant staffing pressures. HMPPS Standards Coaching Team have received approval to extend their offer on site to continue developing and supporting operational frontline staff. Other support mechanisms will remain in place, as well as new opportunities sought, while HMP

Woodhill continue on their COVID recovery journey and work hard to recruit and retain a sufficiently skilled workforce.

- The delivery of the Reducing Reoffending Action Plan will be prioritised to ensure work spaces are maximised to improve time out cell opportunities for all prisoners at HMP Woodhill. The Regime Management Plan has been reviewed to ensure consistency in regime delivery and to prioritise attendance at activities.
- The Governor will engage with the regional lead for probation, as well as the Long Term and High Security Prisons Group Offender Management Unit Lead, to prioritise the recruitment of probation Prison Offender Managers (POMs) and where necessary the use of agency staff.

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 Woodhill agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of OSAG we continue to closely monitor 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 line with your findings.

Richard Vince

Executive Director – Long Term & High Security Estate

CC: Private Office

Phil Cople, Director General Prisons