



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

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Charlie Taylor,  
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6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Brixton  
21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Brixton, whereby you followed up 14 key recommendations and 4 Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection that took place March 2022.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good/reasonable progress being made across some of the recommendations and Ofsted themes', specifically:

- **Respect** – Recognising staff-prisoner relationships to be more professional and the environment on the wings had improved.
- **Strategy, clinical governance, and partnerships** – The introduction of 'speak up' sessions on the wings are a positive initiative that engage the wider patient group and provide an opportunity for them to take concerns directly to a health care manager.
- **Rehabilitation** – An 'employment hub' has been developed to provide prisoners with practical support, advice, and guidance during the 12 weeks before their release. There are an impressive number of partnerships and agencies available to support prisoners. Employment fairs and recruitment days for different industries also take place.
- **Public Protection** – Considerable effort and action has been taken to achieve a reduction in the number of unidentified MAPPA levels at the point of release. The inspectors found no prisoners due for release over the next 28 days for whom a MAPPA level had not been identified.
- **Ofsted** – Engagement with employers had improved since the last inspection, which provided good quality information on trends in employment, terms and conditions and local vacancies. IAG staff used this information well and used links with employers to enable prisoners to achieve interviews which often led to employment.

In respect of the seven key areas and Ofsted themes where you found insufficient or no meaningful progress I can confirm:

- **Early days in Custody-** HMP Brixton will focus on ensuring every first night cell is fully equipped with correct items for new receptions. The work started on improving induction will continue and an assurance process will be implemented. The prison has appointed an experienced permanent manager to this area.
- **Safeguarding-** HMP Brixton have recently implemented a single case manager model for all Assessment Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCTs). The new process aims to ensure accountability for managers to ensure care plans reflect the initial and ongoing concerns for the prisoner.
- **Redress** – Delays in responding to complaints had been hampered by staffing shortages in the business hub. There is now a full-time team in this department to ensure complaints are responded to in a timely manner addressing the issue the prisoner raised.
- **Ofsted theme 1 Prisoner's access to activities-** There has been further focus on ensuring prisoners attend activities that have been allocated and non-attendance is managed through the incentives scheme for those that do not have valid reasons. Residential managers now monitor daily sessions in their meetings to improve attendance.

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 Brixton'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 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.

**Sarah Coccia**  
Executive Director

CC: Private Office  
Phil Cople, Director General Prisons