



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Isle of Wight - 20 September - 07 October 2022

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Isle of Wight, whereby you followed up six concerns and three Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in September/October 2022.

I am encouraged you found leaders had taken the inspection very seriously and acted swiftly in consultation with staff and prisoners. I am pleased that you have seen good and reasonable progress being made across eight of the concerns and Ofsted themes, and note the following;

- Most of the Category C prisoners had been relocated to the Albany site with plans for a more appropriate environment and regime for this cohort on track.
- The trauma-informed wing was found to be developing well, with therapy and community sessions having resumed.
- There had been a considerable improvement in the regime which was deemed more reliable and Accredited Programme delivery had increased with ambitious plans for the current year.
- The oversight of high-risk releases was found to be improving with significantly more prisoners being transferred to the mainland prisons to access support before release. The small remand population was now seen weekly by a Community Probation Service Officer.
- Recognition of a whole prison approach to reading and literacy which had been introduced including trained peer mentors for promoting reading and writing, to improve overall confidence and skills in reading. A dedicated resource was now allocated to ensure prisoners had regular opportunities to visit the library.

All IRP findings have been carefully considered and further steps will be taken to continue the progress made to date. This will include the following;

- HMP Isle of Wight will commit to a more robust process for timely investigations of serious incidents of self-harm. There will be improved oversight of incidents with a platform introduced for learning to be disseminated.
- The Governor is committed to rejuvenating the Trauma Informed work within HMP Isle of Wight and to further improve the care of prisoners in crisis by reviewing the Safer Custody processes through a trauma lens to address continued high levels of self-harm.
- As part of the Reducing Reoffending Strategy, HMP Isle of Wight will maximise work and education opportunities through robust allocation and waiting list management and by further linking the skills offer in line with career aspirations to support reducing reoffending.
- HMP Isle of Wight will continue through the People Plan to improve the retention and recruitment of staff, with a drive to improve the engagement, training, development and mentor opportunities across all staffing groups.

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

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Isle of Wight'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.

Richard Vince

Executive Director – Long Term & High Security Estate

CC: Private Office

Phil Copple, Director General of Operations