



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Alan Scott
Executive Director, Public Sector Prisons
(North)

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service,
PO Box 368, Leyland, PR25 9EJ
(site of HMP Wymott)

30th August 2023

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Leeds **18th – 20th July 2023**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Leeds, whereby you followed up 4 key recommendations and 4 Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in June 2022.

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;

- In the area of resettlement, there had been progress in improving the support received by prisoners on remand. There is now provision to help with finance, benefits, debt and accommodation.
- Leaders in education, skills and work had increased the breadth of the curriculum, improved the quality of learning in prison workshops and developed careers information, advice and guidance.
- Novus IAG have helped prisoners identify their short- and long-term career aspirations, mapped these to the activities available and sequenced their choice of activities in priority order.
- Attendance among those allocated to work had also greatly improved. While education periods had been extended and unemployment was now lower than at the previous inspection
- Leaders and managers had ensured that all instructors who provided training in industry workshops had completed, were due to complete soon, or had a start date for a teacher training qualification at level 3.

In respect of the key areas and Ofsted themes where you found insufficient or no 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;

- Transition into custody will be reviewed and there will be improved governance on the identification of self-harm and suicide. An individualised approach to supporting and managing prisoners will support a pre-emptive approach to risk.
- Staff and prisoners will have the appropriate support, training and skills to effectively manage and support risk with a view to reducing our self-inflicted deaths at HMP Leeds.
- Prison leaders were unable to reduce crowding because of pressure for prisoner spaces nationally. There will continue to be investment in infrastructure, assurance on decency and effective use of part time working to ensure that prisoners are held in the best conditions possible.
- Time out of cell will continue to be a priority for the Governor and the Senior Leadership Team. Leaders will ensure there is an establishment approach to improve time out of cell, regime delivery, and attendance at activities to increase time out of cell for prisoners.

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 Leeds 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.

Yours sincerely

Alan Scott
Executive Director, Public Sector Prisons (North)

CC: Private Office
Phil Copple, Director General Operations