



Accounting Officer Memorandum

HMP Fosse Way Houseblock H – Full Business Case (FBC)

It is normal practice for accounting officers to scrutinise significant policy proposals or plans to start or vary major projects, and then assess whether they measure up to the standards set out in Managing Public Money. From April 2017, the government has committed to provide a summary of the key points from these assessments, making them available to Parliament when an accounting officer has agreed an assessment of projects within the Government's Major Projects Portfolio.

Background and context

HMP Fosse Way is a new build Category 'C' resettlement prison near Leicester, which will hold up to 1,715 prisoners. This FBC is seeking approval to:

- Amend the construction contract for HMP Fosse Way to include a new houseblock and supporting ancillaries increasing the capacity of the prison from 1715 to 1960 places.
- Amend the operator contract with Serco for HMP Fosse Way to include the management and maintenance of the additional houseblock.

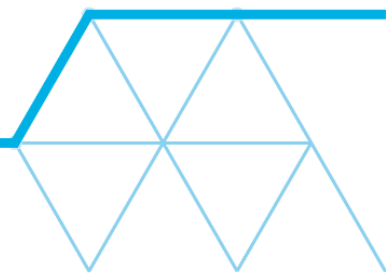
Assessment against the accounting officer standards

Regularity

The HMP Fosse Way Houseblock H FBC is assessed as regular. The Prison Act 1952 includes that the Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury, alter, enlarge or rebuild any prison and build new prisons. I therefore consider that the department has the required spending powers to enter into the contract amendments required to build and then operate the additional houseblock. The FBC is fully compliant with other relevant legislation and the project has obtained legal input throughout its development.

Propriety

The HMP Fosse Way Houseblock H FBC is assessed as proper. The FBC has passed the internal project and departmental governance. I am satisfied that all relevant governance and assurance procedures are in place and expected to be complete ahead of submission to HM Treasury and Cabinet



Office for final assent. The FBC is fully compliant with the relevant legislation. The project is affordable within SR21 budgets, and has been selected based on its cost, feasibility, strategic fit and overall value for money.

Value for money

The HMP Fosse Way Houseblock H FBC is assessed as value for money. There is national and regional demand for the places proposed under this project. Progressing Houseblock H will provide capacity for Category C resettlement prisoners. This will support the department in upholding the sentences of courts and the law across England and Wales. This project is therefore of significant value in terms of increasing capacity within the prison estate.

Feasibility

The HMP Fosse Way Houseblock H FBC is assessed as feasible. The project management arrangements, internal governance and assurance processes are already in place and embedded to control, oversee and manage the HMP Fosse Way main build, of which this project is part.

Conclusion

I have considered this assessment of the HMP Fosse Way Houseblock H FBC against the four accounting officer standards of regularity, propriety, value for money, and feasibility. I am satisfied that these responsibilities are met.

As the accounting officer for His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service I considered this assessment of HMP Fosse Way Houseblock H FBC and approved it on 17 October 2022.

I have prepared this summary to set out the key points which informed my decision. If any of these factors change materially during the lifetime of this project, I undertake to prepare a revised summary, setting out my assessment of them.

This summary will be published on the government's website (GOV.UK). Copies will be deposited in the Library of the House of Commons, and sent to the Comptroller and Auditor General and Treasury Officer of Accounts.

A copy has also been provided to the principal accounting officer for the Ministry of Justice, who has seen my assessment and endorsed my decision on the basis of my assurance that my accounting officer responsibilities are met.



Amy Rees

HMPPS Chief Executive and Accounting Officer