



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

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20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Lowdham Grange -  
8 – 10 January 2024**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Lowdham Grange, whereby you followed up seven key concerns and three Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in May 2023.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen reasonable progress being made across all three of the Ofsted themes and note the following.

- Purposeful activities had recently reopened, leaders and managers now provide sufficient activity spaces for the population to be occupied purposefully.
- The prison had extended and broadened the education and vocational training curriculum for learners.
- Leaders and managers had ensured that a large proportion of the prison had been screened to identify any learning difficulties or disabilities.

In respect of the seven key areas 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;

- The prison will ensure that all incidents of violence are reported on the incident reporting system and that poor behaviour is challenged via the effective use of disciplinary processes such as adjudications.
- That the safer custody team is adequately resourced and enhanced with support from experienced HMPPS managers. A review of the regime and support for self-isolating prisoners will be prioritised.
- That staff are upskilled and encouraged to submit security intelligence reports and that this intelligence is quickly analysed and acted upon.

- Alongside all other actions to improve public protection, we will review the use and oversight of the in-cell text messaging service; if the public protection risks cannot be adequately managed, we will suspend the use of the service whilst suitable safeguards are implemented, or the system withdrawn.

As the prison continues to operate under contract but with HMPPS public sector leadership, the Governor with the support of the Custodial Contracts Directorate and Sodexo will continue to progress the full Action Plan covering all the original recommendations.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against the HMP Lowdham Grange 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 early initial progress is being made in some areas since step in and that our monitoring of the prison is in line with your findings.

**Neil Richards**

Executive Director Custodial Contracts Directorate

CC: Private Office

Phil Cople, Director General Prisons