



HM Prison &
Probation Service

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Charlie Taylor,
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30th September 2022

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Chelmsford -
15-17 August 2022**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Chelmsford, whereby you followed up 8 key recommendations and 3 Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in August 2021.

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:

- **Respect (Decency)** – this area in particular had seen significant improvement with an increase of managerial accountability, oversight and visibility. Additionally, prisoners and staff interactions are now positive and supportive. An improved frequency in decency and kit check has now been implemented across the establishment.
- **Safety (Self-harm & Violence)** – perpetrators of violence are well managed under CSIP. The establishment has an improved data analysis system which offers a better understanding of the reasons of violence, which has been reduced by 17% in the last 12 months. Staff were much more confident in using the ACCT document and the quality of reviews and care planning had improved.
- **Safety (Drug Strategy)** - Notable positive practice had been identified, this included how the prison had reduced the ingress of drugs, the number of 'throwovers' had vastly reduced, and that mandatory drug testing indicated a 10% failure rate, mostly for diverted medication.

In respect of the three key areas and Ofsted themes where you found insufficient 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;

- As highlighted throughout the report, there are a number of additional support measures being provided in response to the staffing pressures. A reprofile of the prison has been conducted and further staff resources have been identified in order to deliver a consistent and purposeful regime.
- Purposeful activity will be prioritised to ensure education and workspaces are maximised to improve time out of cell opportunities for men at HMP & YOI Chelmsford with significant focus on attendance and punctuality.
- The Governor will engage with the Healthcare provider and NHS Commissioners to ensure that prisoners in the Enhanced Care Unit have their risks appropriately managed and that responses to prisoners' health complaints are improved.

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 Chelmsford'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, Public Sector Prisons South

CC: Private Office
Phil Cople, Director General Prisons