



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
Shabana Mahmood MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

Charlie Taylor
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
HM Inspectorate of Prisons
3rd Floor, 10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

MoJ ref: SUB116092

5 August 2024

Dear Charlie,

URGENT NOTIFICATION – HMP WANDSWORTH

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 2024, addressed to my predecessor and published on gov.uk, invoking an Urgent Notification (UN), following the full inspection at HMP Wandsworth between 22 April and 2 May.

I am grateful for the work of your inspection team and both shocked and saddened by their findings. I am absolutely clear that these findings are completely unacceptable, and the situation must improve.

Due to restrictions as to what could be published during the pre-election period, it falls to me to provide you with a response to your findings and a copy of the initial action plan, which is enclosed with this letter.

As outlined in this action plan, HMPPS have already taken significant steps to support HMP Wandsworth and improve performance at the establishment. Some of the key progress made since your inspection includes:

- HMPPS appointing a new, experienced Governor who has prioritised the urgent changes which are needed and will provide clear direction and strong leadership.
- To support the new Governor, an additional £1.2 million will be invested in staffing at all grades.
- We are committed to investing £100 million by 2027 in HMP Wandsworth to improve living conditions and improve decency. This will include investment in health care facilities and works to improve safety and security at the prison.
- We deployed the national Prison Officer Standards Coaching Team (SCT) to the prison on 6 June in an effort to drive up standards. SCT is formed of experienced officers who have been trained in coaching skills and will remain at the prison until 20 September to focus on the development of prison officers.

However, these measures are just the start. Your letter acknowledged the time, effort and resources it will take to turn around HMP Wandsworth and I am determined that we will succeed in that endeavour. We will take whatever steps are necessary to effect long-term, sustainable improvement at the prison and I will monitor progress very closely until I am satisfied that we have achieved that aim.

As per our usual process, the initial response action plan will be followed by a more detailed plan once your full inspection report has been published. This will address concerns contained within that full inspection report and how we will drive improvement in these areas. I can confirm that this will be published by no later than 29 August 2024.

I would like to thank you, and your team, for the robust scrutiny of our prisons that you continue to provide, and I look forward to discussing this with you shortly at our introductory conversation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mahmood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RT HON SHABANA MAHMOOD MP

LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE