



HM Prison & Probation Service

Charlie Taylor,
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
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Chris Jennings
Executive Director
HMPPS South West, South
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23rd July 2024

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Bristol 24th – 26th June 2024

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Bristol whereby you followed up 6 key recommendations and 3 Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection completed 10–20 July 2023.

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

- That the Inspectorate has acknowledged the coordinated and innovative work completed in an effort to reduce the levels of violence.
- That the Inspectorate has acknowledged that Bristol has successfully increased the average time out of cell. This progress is reflected in our own data which shows an increase from two hours (2023) to seven hours (2024) out of cell for two thirds of the population.
- That Ofsted and the Inspectorate have acknowledged the significant improvements made to the allocation and attendance to activities and work and the offer of accredited courses.

In respect of the key area where you found insufficient progress, I can confirm that all of the IRP findings have been carefully considered and steps will be taken to address them as appropriate. This will include the following:

- We will continue to build capability and confidence within our Prison Officer and staff group. This will enable them to recognise and improve the lived experience of people in custody including those who are vulnerable and/or in crisis.
- We will continue to develop our initiatives to reduce the frequency and severity of self-harm, with a focus on better understanding the needs of the individual.

- We will continue to review processes to better understand and reduce prisoner frustrations, addressing issues at the lowest level and at the earliest opportunity.
- We remain committed to enhancing hope and opportunity. Through collaborative working with our stakeholders, we aim to achieve improved outcomes related to accommodation and employment on release.
- We are committed to improving outcomes for prisoners living with addiction. By fostering effective partnerships with the Police and healthcare providers, we are implementing structured programs that include peer support and robust security measures. Our goal is to reduce drug ingress while providing a supportive environment for recovery.

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 Bristol's agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of Performance and Risk Group (PAR) 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

Chris Jennings

Executive Director

HMPPS South West, South Central & Public Protection

CC: Private Office
Phil Copple, Director General Prisons