



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

**Alan Scott**  
**Area Executive Director, North-West  
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Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service,  
PO Box 368, Leyland, PR25 9EJ  
(site of HMP Wymott)

**Charlie Taylor,**  
**HM Chief Inspector of Prisons**  
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London  
E14 4PU

16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMYOI Hindley, 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMYOI Hindley, whereby you followed up eight priority/key concerns and three Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in Dec 2023.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen reasonable progress being made across three priority/key concerns and two Ofsted themes, and note the following:

- HMYOI Hindley has made improvements in developing constructive relationships between staff and prisoners. It was evident that prisoners expressed positive feedback about the officers and managers on their residential units, with a significant reduction in complaints regarding inconsistent treatment. Inspectors noted a more stable environment on the wings, alongside staff who were confident and proactive in challenging poor behaviour.
- A significant reduction in the levels of violence was noted, with Prisoner-on-Prisoner assaults reducing by 20%, and assaults on staff reducing by 40%. It is also noted that leaders had a good understanding of the main drivers of violence, and this is used effectively to inform the associated action plan.
- Since the last full inspection, enrichment activities for prisoners have increased, with prisoners citing the positive impact these activities had on their mental health, raising levels of self-confidence, providing a purpose and routine to their day and opportunities to take on responsibilities.

In respect of the five key concerns and one Ofsted theme 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:

- HMYOI Hindley aims to improve its Activity Profile, ensuring all prisoners have access to at least part-time opportunities to increase time out of cells each day. The report noted that the limited availability of purposeful activity spaces stems from the original design of the establishment as a Young People's prison, which features large education classrooms but insufficient industry workshops. The HMPPS Custodial Capital Maintenance team will review and consider funding projects requests based on risk to life, capacity, and decency. HMYOI Hindley will continue to raise the need for additional support to provide appropriate activity spaces at the establishment, and other projects including replacing/refurbishing A-D wings.
- HMYOI Hindley will continue with its strategic plan to modify accommodation based on a risk-based approach for prisoner placement. The establishment will develop the multi-disciplinary Drug Strategy Improvement Board and work with Substance Misuse Service partnerships to reduce drug demand. The prison will continue to support the Crime in Prisons officer's role to ensure successful prosecutions. Although the prison was considered for Enhanced Gate Security (EGS), the high cost of modifying existing infrastructure led to Hindley to become a Tier 2 site, which received additional searching equipment instead. Currently, there's no funding for EGS, but the prison will receive support from the Risk and Capabilities Unit.
- HMYOI Hindley will address the level of self-harm by focusing on improving the quality of the ACCT documents. The prison will develop a debt strategy to address the presence and impact of debt and how this effect self-harm behaviour. HMYOI Hindley will continue with work on addressing gang related issues within the population to reduce the impact on self-harm behaviours.
- HMYOI Hindley will improve the applications system by reviewing best practices from other prisons and aligning the local system with these insights to improve the process and ensure effective implementation.

The Governor with the support of the Prison Group Director will continue to progress the full Action Plan covering all the original priority/key concerns.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMYOI Hindley agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of Performance Assurance & Risk Group (PAR, formerly 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 some progress is being made and that our monitoring of the prison is in line with your findings.

Yours sincerely,

**Alan Scott**  
**Area Executive Director – North West & Women's Group**