



Ministry
of Justice

Charlie Taylor

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

MoJ ref: SUB118802

6 November 2024

Dear Charlie,

URGENT NOTIFICATION – HMP MANCHESTER

Thank you for your letter where you shared your serious concerns following the full inspection at HMP Manchester and invoked an Urgent Notification, published on 10 October. I'm pleased to provide you with this response within the 28-day timeframe as outlined in the protocol between MoJ and HMIP.

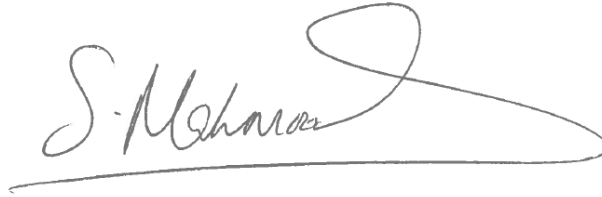
You have raised serious concerns regarding the number of weapons and other illicit items found, levels of violence, self-harm and self-inflicted deaths, lack of regime and poor living conditions. I assure you that I take these matters very seriously. As an urgent measure, we have implemented additional oversight and will continue to monitor progress beyond the initial 28-day period until we are confident of sustained improvement at HMP Manchester.

I am acutely aware that I am writing to you again shortly after we responded to the Urgent Notification at HMP Rochester and after the invocation of another Urgent Notification at HMP Winchester. I am resolute in my commitment to not only address the issues at HMP Manchester but also to work closely with HMPPS to significantly enhance the performance of our prisons. Our clear aim is to improve the quality of our services and reduce the need for future Urgent Notifications, ensuring a safer and more effective prison system for all.

I have enclosed a copy of the initial action plan for HMP Manchester that will be published alongside this letter. The action plan addresses the concerns identified in your inspection and includes measures that we will take in relation to leadership, staff confidence and capability, physical security, safety, physical environment and purposeful activity.

I assure you that I will be closely monitoring the situation at HMP Manchester in the coming months to ensure sustained improvement. I would like to extend my gratitude to you and your team for the thorough scrutiny of our prisons, and I look forward to receiving your full inspection report in due course.

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