



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Robin Seaton
Executive Director, Contracted Operational Delivery
HM Prison and Probation Service
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

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

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Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMP Peterborough Men, 21st – 23rd October 2024

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Peterborough Men, whereby you followed up seven priority/key concerns and two Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in January 2024.

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

- **Returning to the community** – Improvements are actively being driven, with a focus on innovative strategies and structured support to address the factors that contribute to reoffending. Work to improve outcomes for prisoners being held on remand, are case managed by a dedicated resource, giving them access to support on release, including housing, and preparing them for court. There is a good clear focus in this area that will prepare the prison for the upcoming changes in population where the remand population will increase to 82%
- **Education, skills and work** – The number of available places within Education, skills, and work have been expanded to enable sufficient spaces for all prisoners. Prisoners are now purposefully engaged in activities to help them progress and meet their sentence plan objectives, preparing them for release and giving them opportunities to succeed.

The quality of teaching has also improved since the last inspection. Lessons are planned to meet curriculum intent and accreditation requirements. A peer support model has been introduced which supports prisoners with learning difficulties and disabilities. Prisoners are benefitting from this greatly. Introducing reading zones in workshops has had a positive impact

on prisoners, providing them with valuable access to books, literature, and a quiet space for reading. These zones serve as areas for personal growth, and self-education.

- **Security** – The prison has made improvements in enhancing collaborative efforts across functions, placing a stronger emphasis on balancing both demand and supply needs. This approach has allowed for a more targeted and effective resource allocation. There are also improvements of productive joint working with the police, aimed at bolstering security measures and achieving better outcomes.

Specific areas have been identified to prevent drug ingress into the prison. These targeted efforts demonstrate a proactive stance in managing contraband control and support a safer environment within the prison.

In respect of the four priority/key concerns and where you found insufficient and no meaningful 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:

- **The management of those arriving at the prison with drug and alcohol problems** – The clinical observations and monitoring practices were found to be inconsistent and did not meet expected standards. However, improvements have been implemented since the conclusion of the IRP, and observation frequency has been increased to address this issue. The prison will continue to monitor this to ensure that the required standards are achieved.

Additionally, not all prisoners undergoing detoxification were housed on the stabilisation wing. The prison is actively collaborating with healthcare partners to address this gap, with ongoing efforts focused on ensuring appropriate placement and support for prisoners who are going through the stabilisation period.

- **Time out of cell** – The limited number of deployable staff in the prison has led to a fragile regime, with frequent curtailments when emergency escorts are required. Recently, the prison has revised its weekly absence review meetings to more rigorously address staff sickness, absences, and staff who are on restrictions. Additionally, there is an ongoing focus on recruitment to bolster staffing levels.

A key priority is to strengthen the prison regime, ensuring that prisoners have more time out of their cells. Efforts have begun in collaboration with managers to achieve this goal, with the aim of enhancing prisoner engagement and activity.

- **Structured enrichment or personal development activities** – The limited availability of structured activities, clubs, and groups on the wings has contributed to boredom among prisoners. In response, the prison has developed a timetable specifically for structured on-wing activities, with input from prisoners to ensure relevance and engagement. Necessary items have been purchased to support these activities, and the new programme is set to be implemented over the coming months. The prison aims to provide more purposeful engagement for prisoners and reduce boredom within the residential areas.

The Director, with the support of the Senior Contract Manager will continue to progress the full Action Plan covering all the original priority/key concerns.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Peterborough Men 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,

Robin Seaton
Executive Director, Contracted Operational Delivery