



# HM Prison & Probation Service

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Dear Charlie,

## **HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress (IRP) at HMP Wandsworth 31<sup>st</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Wandsworth, whereby you followed up on ten concerns and five Ofsted themes and I am encouraged that you acknowledge reasonable progress. I would note the following

- The new Governor had brought energy and focus to HMP Wandsworth and the prison and was prioritising critical areas of safety and decency. The Governor was assisted and supported by the Prison Group Director (PGD) and there was a more cohesive senior team.
- The safer custody and security teams had been strengthened since the unannounced inspection resulting in the rates of violence and self-harm reducing. The prison was taking a much more focused approach to reducing the supply of drugs and furthermore, the Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) positive rate was also lower than at the unannounced inspection.
- HMPPS had made substantial investments in staffing and training and more experienced staff had been transferred from, other prisons to support on a temporary basis.

In respect of the concerns and Ofsted themes where you found no/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:

- The prison and both local and regional HR teams will work to address the shortfalls in both permanent and capable Custodial Managers to address the deficiencies identified within the middle management positions.

- The continued drive by the prison to reduce the availability of drugs will continue with support from the regional team and other local agencies e.g. Police. HMP Wandsworth will continue to drive their well-coordinated drug action plan with the aim to prevent entry and use of drugs in the prison. As well as providing appropriate support from their local substance misuse teams and their planned Incentivised Substance Free Living Unit (ISFL) to support those with an identified drug need.
- Despite longer term refurbishment plans prison, the Governor will ensure that the prison will continue to improve the conditions of prisoner accommodation areas with greater senior manager assurance and cell ready schemes being implemented site wide, utilising dedicated decency staff and prisoner work parties.
- The prison will review the current regime with the intent of reducing Prisoner absences due to legal visits, primary health care appointments, and prisoner illness. The overwhelming majority of these absences appear due to prisoners refusing to attend in order to access a wing-based regime during the core day.

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 continued progress at HMP Wandsworth, and I assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of the Performance, Assurance and Risk Group we continue to closely monitor progress.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much to do at the prison, I am encouraged that progress is being made and that our monitoring is in line with your findings.

Yours sincerely

**Gabriel Amahwe – Interim Area Executive Director, HMPPS London.**

cc:

Michelle Jarman-Howe – Interim Director General of Operations, HMPPS.