



HM Prison & Probation Service

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12 May 2025

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Belmarsh 7 - 9 April 2025

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

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

- **Safety/early days in custody** – Notable improvements were identified during the review, and I am further encouraged by the Safer Custody Group taking over management of the First Night in Custody. This will ensure that effective systems are in place to deliver individualised care needs and maintain high levels of decency within the First Night centre.
- **Safety/suicide and self-harm prevention** – It was identified that the levels of self-harm were lower than comparators, and prisoners felt well supported. The quality and management of ACCTs were identified as potential good practice. The safety intervention meeting continues to be well attended and enables a multidisciplinary approach to ACCT care plans.
- **Respect/living conditions** – Improvements were recognised in this area, and there are plans in place to work with the Royal Horticultural Society on a young adult horticultural programme.

In respect of the one Ofsted theme where you found insufficient progress, I can confirm that the IRP finding has been carefully considered, and steps have been taken to address it as appropriate. This includes the following:

- A new Careers Information Advice & Guidance (CIAG) contract commenced April 2025, and delivery and progress will be monitored through monthly contract meetings.
- Staff working under the new contract are trained CIAG advisors and can provide appropriate support and guidance.

- An effective action plan has been put in place to decrease the backlog of Personal Learning Plans, and new reception prisoners are now captured on induction.

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 the HMP Belmarsh agreed action plan and can assure you that through my operational assurance function and the support of Performance Assurance and Risk (PAR) group we continue to closely monitor progress.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still some work to be done at the prison, I am encouraged that progress is being made and that our monitoring of the prison is in line with your findings.

Richard Vince

Executive Director – Long Term & High Security Estate

CC: Michelle Jarman-Howe, Director General Operations, HMPPS
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