



HM Prison &
Probation Service

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HM Prison & Probation Service

Area Office, HMYOI Wetherby

Charlie Taylor,
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
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23 May 2025

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Hull 14th – 16th April 2025

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report for HMP Hull, reflecting that you followed up **five** priority/key concerns and **four** Ofsted themes from your inspection in June/July 2024.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen significant/reasonable progress across seven of the concerns and Ofsted themes.

Purposeful activity is a particular priority for me, I consider it critical to the safety and stability of the prison as well as the rehabilitation of prisoners. I am very pleased therefore to see acknowledgement of all the efforts the prison has made to improve the number and range of activities and access to these that has been achieved. The inspection recognises the 15 per cent increase in activity spaces, in an offer that meets the needs of the population. Action to provide equality of access and integrating mains and vulnerable prisoners has significantly broadened the education skills and work offer. I am very pleased too to see recognition that allocations were efficient, taking account of court dates, prioritising sentenced prisoners and keeping wait times to a minimum. I was delighted to see acknowledgement of very effective action to implement the reading strategy, and effective collaboration with the Shannon Trust.

Substance misuse too is one of our top priorities in the area. I am pleased to see recognition of a focus on recovery rather than punishment, incentivising abstinence and recovery, with proactive and effective leadership on the Incentivised Substance Free Living and Recovery unit. I'm delighted that prisoners spoke effusively about the support and opportunities they had been given.

Alongside this, the Head of Security will continue to coordinate with the local police and HMPPS regional search teams. Funding has now been secured to improve physical security, including the introduction of window grilles in accommodation identified at higher risk of ingress. We will continue to invest in the additional resource on nights to identify drones.

In respect of the two key areas 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.

While the number of prisoners released homeless had not improved, the collaborative work with the Local Authority and other external agencies was found to be excellent and will continue. I personally met Local Authority Chief Executives in Yorkshire and the Humber recently to discuss this, and a Task and Finish group will drive progress for our area. There is a shortage of suitable accommodation for the population locally, and it is a challenge, but we will work hard to provide every opportunity we can to ensure prisoners access housing on release.

We will also build on our settlement pilot keywork project which sees all prisoners receiving four keywork sessions in their first month at the prison. This identifies housing needs and helps us co-ordinate pre-release panels with local authorities.

While we acknowledge the conclusion that insufficient progress has been made on crowding, the Governor and his team work very hard to provide a decent environment for their population. I consistently find Hull very clean, with immaculate gardens and the report acknowledges several measures in train to drive further improvements.

The Governor, with the support of the Prison Group Director, will continue to progress the full action plan covering all priority/key concerns, both those on which progress has been made and those on which it has been insufficient.

They will have my strong personal support in all their endeavours, and we will assure ourselves on their progress. HMP Hull are doing a great amount of excellent work, and I am very pleased to see it acknowledged. The Governor and his leadership team takes a real pride in driving progress there and I am very proud of them and of the staff. I always enjoy visiting.

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