



# Accounting Officer Memorandum

## HMP & YOI Parc Houseblock Expansion - Outline Business Case (OBC)

It is normal practice for accounting officers to scrutinise significant policy proposals or plans to start or vary major projects, and then assess whether they measure up to the standards set out in Managing Public Money. From April 2017, the government has committed to provide a summary of the key points from these assessments, making them available to Parliament when an accounting officer has agreed an assessment of projects within the Government's Major Projects Portfolio.

### Background and context

HMPPS is delivering 20k additional prison places. A new houseblock at HMP & YOI Parc could deliver 258 places as part of the Private Prisons Expiry and Transfer Tranche 3 project. This OBC is seeking approval to progress the project to FBC stage at which point a final investment decision will be taken.

### Assessment against the accounting officer standards

#### Regularity

The project is assessed as regular. The Prison Act 1952 includes that the Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury alter, enlarge, or rebuild any prison and build new prisons. I therefore consider that the department has the required spending powers to progress the project to its next decision point at Full Business Case (FBC) stage. The OBC is fully compliant with other relevant legislation and the project has obtained legal input throughout its development.

#### Propriety

The project is assessed as meeting the required standards of propriety. The OBC has passed our internal project and departmental governance. I am satisfied that all relevant governance and assurance procedures have been completed ahead of submission to HM Treasury and Cabinet Office.

#### Value for Money

The investment in the programme has been assessed as delivering value for money. This is based on meeting the demand for prison places, closing the medium-term capacity gap and delivering a design and specification that meets the operational requirements. Value for money has also been assessed



through the total cost per place, assured by commercial and assessed against key set of criteria that takes into consideration, strategic viability, deliverability and the time required to deliver the places.

## **Feasibility**

The HMP Parc Expansion OBC is assessed as feasible from a design, construction and delivery perspective.

## **Conclusion**


I have considered this assessment of the HMP & YOI Parc Houseblock Expansion OBC against the four Accounting Officer standards of regularity, propriety, value for money, and feasibility. I am satisfied that these responsibilities are met.

I have prepared this summary to set out the key points which informed my decision. If any of these factors change materially during the lifetime of this project, I undertake to prepare a revised summary, setting out my assessment of them.

As the Accounting Officer for His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service I considered this memorandum and approved it on 6 March 2025.

This summary will be published on the government's website (GOV.UK). Copies will be deposited in the Library of the House of Commons, and sent to the Comptroller and Auditor General and Treasury Officer of Accounts.

A copy has also been provided to the Principal Accounting Officer for the Ministry of Justice, who has seen my assessment and endorsed my decision on the basis of my assurance that my Accounting Officer responsibilities are met.



Amy Rees  
HMPPS Chief Executive and Accounting Officer