



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Helen Judge
Area Executive Director
North East, Yorkshire and the Humber
HM Prison & Probation Service

Charlie Taylor
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
HM Inspectorate of Prisons
3rd Floor, 10 South Colonnade
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11 November 2025

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP Report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMP & YOI Deerbolt
13 – 15 October 2025**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress (IRP) report at HMP & YOI Deerbolt, whereby you followed up **seven** priority/key concerns and **four** Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in December 2024.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good or reasonable progress being made across **five** priority/key concerns and significant or reasonable progress against **four** Ofsted themes. I note the following:

- The prison's management team has taken tangible steps to improve all areas of the prison, with progress recognised in all areas reviewed.
- A focus on safety, use of force governance, and violence reduction has led to reductions in self-harm, assaults and improved reporting systems.
- Partnership working with health and education providers has improved outcome for prisoners. Prison and healthcare leaders, along with staff have worked hard to remove barriers to providing care for patients.

In respect of the **two** priority/key concerns where you found insufficient progress, I can confirm that the IRP findings have been carefully considered, and steps will be taken to address them as appropriate. These will include the following:

- Renewing our focus on improving purposeful activity, time out of cell and widening the regime offer by seeking opportunities through partner agencies to create additional workplaces.
- Continuing proactive efforts to develop recovery opportunities for prisoners and reducing the demand for substances through joint prisoner and

partnership working, enhanced staff training, and strengthened security measures.

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 & YOI Deerbolt agreed action plan. I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of the Performance, Assurance and Risk Group, we continue to monitor progress closely.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much work to be carried out at HMP & YOI Deerbolt, I am encouraged that progress is being made and that our monitoring of the prison is in line with your findings.

Kind Regards,

Helen Judge

Area Executive Director – North East, Yorkshire and the Humber

Cc: James McEwen, Director General Chief Executive Officer, HMPPS,
Michelle Jarman-Howe, Interim Director General of Operations, HMPPS,
Simon Walters, Prison Group Director, North East Prison Group