



HM Prison & Probation Service

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12 November 2025

Dear Martin,

HMIP reports on the inspection of North Wales PDU, Wales Region – September 2025

Thank you for your inspection reports for North Wales Probation Delivery Unit (PDU), where you made a total of five recommendations.

In respect of the recommendations, I can confirm that all have been carefully considered and the Heads of PDU with the support of the Regional Probation Director will ensure steps will be taken to address them as appropriate. This will include the following.

- Revised guidance and information exchange forms have been issued to staff, developed jointly with Police and Children's Services, to standardise requirements and ensure timely and detailed responses to domestic abuse and safeguarding enquiries.
- "Keeping People Safe" audits have been introduced as a cornerstone of our Tier 1 Assurance approach, driving up expectations of practice quality across assessment, management and review of risk.
- A targeted Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme linked to Professional Registration Standards is being launched, informed by a training needs analysis, to build professional curiosity and strengthen risk assessment and planning.
- Embedding "Start Right" principles through day 1, day 7 and day 28 checkpoints, structured resettlement pathway induction sessions, and improved coordination with custody to enhance delivery for those leaving prison.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still much work to be carried out at North Wales PDU, I am encouraged that positive outcomes were reported and note the following.

- The Head of Service has established a clear and positive leadership presence across North Wales, with well-developed strategic partnerships that enable effective frontline delivery.
- Leaders have successfully promoted a single PDU identity, creating a strong sense of collective responsibility that underpins operational resilience.

- The North Wales Disproportionality Action Plan, Welsh Language Provision and Rural Communities Strategy are evidence of how the PDU is going beyond statutory duties to meet the needs of its communities, delivering services bilingually and promoting the Welsh language.
- The PDU's coordinated response to Fixed Term Recall 48 (FTR48) releases at HMP Berwyn exemplifies its ability to mobilise staff and sustain delivery during operational challenges.

I remain committed to ensuring progress against HMIP recommendations and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of Performance, Assurance and Risk Group (PAR) we continue to closely monitor progress in line with your findings.

Yours sincerely

Ian Barrow
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CC: Private Office
Kim Thornden-Edwards, HMPPS Chief Probation Officer
Nicola Davies, Regional Probation Director, Wales