



HM Prison & Probation Service

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Martin Jones
HM Chief Inspector of Probation
1st Floor, Manchester Civil Justice Centre,
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27 November 2025

Dear Martin,

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

Thank you for your inspection reports for Gwent PDU, where you made a total of six 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.

- Introduction of Keeping People Safe Audits as part of our Tier 1 Assurance approach, strengthening standards and expectations of work to assess, manage and review risk of harm.
- Revised guidance and information-sharing forms issued jointly with Police and Children's Services to improve the quality and consistency of information exchange to inform assessments and risk management plans.
- Implementation of a regional framework for intervention planning and delivery, ensuring all people on probation have access to timely, needs-led, and evidence-based interventions that support desistance and reduce reoffending.
- Launch of the Professional Curiosity in Practice package to develop practitioner confidence and capability in analysing, assessing and responding to risk effectively.

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

- Staff across Gwent have shown exceptional commitment and professionalism, maintaining motivation and purpose despite significant workload and staffing pressures.
- Inspectors recognised a positive shift in organisational culture, with staff feeling more engaged and confident in the leadership team's direction and responsiveness.

- The inspection identified clear links between the PDU business plan and operational activity, enabling daily coordination, redeployment and risk mitigation that supported improved engagement and planning work with people on probation.
- Practitioners were observed to be skilful in building relationships, taking flexible approaches to engage individuals and support meaningful progress on their supervision.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Barrow', written in a cursive style.

Ian Barrow
Area Executive Director HMPPS Wales

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