



# HM Prison & Probation Service

Charlie Taylor,  
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons  
3rd floor, 10 South Colonnade  
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London  
E14 4PU

28 November 2025

Dear Charlie,

## **HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP Guys Marsh 3 – 5 November 2025**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Guys Marsh in which you followed up eight key recommendations and four Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in January 2025

I am encouraged that you have seen good and reasonable progress being made across seven of the recommendations and Ofsted themes, and note the following:

- A significant reduction in self-harm and violence since the last inspection, supported by more effective analysis and our understanding of the underlying drivers.
- Improved living conditions across all residential areas, in particular the Induction Wing and first night cells.
- The increase in the number of places on English and Mathematics courses available, with waiting lists eliminated.
- The supportive Recovery and Peer-Led initiatives to address addiction and substance misuse, including Finding Rat Park, First Contact, and multiple physical activity-based programmes.

In respect of the five key areas and Ofsted themes 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 as appropriate. This will include the following:

- The focus on tackling the illicit economy and reducing drug use continues. The newly implemented Drug Strategy and joint Action Plan, sets clear priorities to prevent ingress, educate, and provide interventions for rehabilitative opportunities.
- A formal and bespoke development programme will be introduced in 2026, to improve the quality of leadership across all managerial grades.
- HMP Guys Marsh will receive an additional twenty-two Band 3 staff, via a dedicated national recruitment campaign (First Deployment Scheme), to support its ongoing resourcing challenges.

- The Local Quality and Delivery Board will ensure a focus on urgent actions and improved patient care. This will include a review of current practices regarding the prescribing and administration of Sublingual Buprenorphine, used to treat opioid dependence.

The Governor, with the support of the Prison Group Director, will continue to progress the full Action Plan covering all the original recommendations.

I remain committed to ensuring continued improvement against the Guys Marsh Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of the Performance, Assurance and Risk Group (PAR) we continue to closely monitor progress.

Whilst I acknowledge that further work remains, I am encouraged by the positive momentum and that our monitoring of the prison aligns with your findings.

**Michelle Jarman-Howe**

Interim Director General of Operations, HMPPS

cc: Private Office