



HM Prison & Probation Service

Alan Scott CBE

Area Executive Director, North West &
Women's Group
His Majesty's Prison and Probation
Service,
PO Box 368, Leyland, PR25 9EJ
(site of HMP Wymott)

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

19 January 2026

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an independent review of progress at HMP & YOI Foston Hall
8th - 10th December 2025**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP & YOI Foston Hall, whereby you followed up seven priority/key concerns and four Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in January 2025.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good progress being made across three priority/key concerns, and note the following:

- Meeting the needs of the changing population has been a clear priority as the number of remanded or recalled women is ever increasing. A dedicated support officer was appointed to solely work with the cohort of recalled women to ensure their needs were met and to further understand the reasons behind the recalls. Peer workers now meet these women to speed up their allocation to education, training and work and there has been a noticeable improvement in Commissioned Rehabilitative Services support for remanded women.
- Improving staff/prisoner relationships has required focus due to the inexperience within a significant proportion of the staff group. By focussing on specific training such as Behind the Behaviour and Mental Health Awareness, it has equipped the staff to appropriately manage/support the women in our care, resulting in more positive communication being utilised rather than restrictive measures.
- The Education, Skills and Work curriculum was reviewed to ensure that it now matches employment opportunities in release areas as well as the employment preferences evidenced in the needs analysis. The curriculum now focuses on the knowledge, skills and behaviours women need for employment after release rather than what is required for maintaining the prison and the range of English and Mathematics qualifications has increased to allow women to study up to Level 2. The prison now has a much broader offer than previously.

In respect of the one Ofsted theme where you found insufficient progress, I can confirm that the finding has been carefully considered and steps will be taken to address it as appropriate. This will include the following:

- The recently recruited careers specialist staff will receive focussed support to ensure the backlog is worked through in a timely manner. Quality assurance will take place on the targets/plans and feedback provided on an individual basis. This will be monitored through the monthly Contract Review meeting with the Career Information Advice and Guidance provider, Career Connect. Both the Head of Education, Skills and Work and Governor will attend these meetings. The establishment will also continue with the support already in place for CV writing and disclosure processes.

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 agreed action plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance function and the support of Performance and Assurance and Risk (PAR) group we continue to closely monitor progress.

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

Alan Scott CBE
Area Executive Director, North West & Women's Group

CC Michelle Jarman-Howe
Carlene Dixon