



HM Prison &
Probation Service

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18 February 2026

Dear Martin,

HMIP reports on the inspection of Plas Y Wern Approved Premises - November 2025

Thank you for your inspection report for Plas Y Wern Approved Premises, where you made a total of six recommendations.

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

- Review signage in each Approved Premises site in Wales and adapt or request new bilingual signage to ensure compliance with Welsh Language Scheme commitments.
- Use weekly team structures to review the completion of pre-arrival contacts and identify barriers in facilitating these. This is a focus for Quarter 4 of 2025-26 following internal tier 1 assurance that identified inconsistencies.
- Conclude the audit plan for 2026 and implement a standardised audit tool designed to cover key practice development areas.
- Refresh and disseminate recording guidance related to alcohol and drug testing across Approved Premises in Wales.
- Implement tracking mechanisms to monitor and trigger the timely reviews of Safety and Support Plans.
- Continued liaison with the National Approved Premises Team who are working in collaboration with the Probation Workforce Team on an Activity and Resourcing Review for Approved Premises. Recommendations are due to be communicated in Quarter 1 of 2026 and will be carefully considered. Suggested changes will be dependent on securing funding.

Whilst I acknowledge that there is still work to be carried out at Plas Y Wern Approved Premises, I am encouraged that positive outcomes were reported and note the following:

- Strong leadership was observed, whereby the vision and values of the Approved Premises was well communicated and understood throughout the staff group. A positive culture of collaboration was recognised.
- Staff are described as motivated, compassionate and committed to delivering a high-quality service.
- Partnership working is a strength at Plas Y Wern, with external agencies involved with residents to promote desistance, rehabilitation and public protection outcomes. Staff's relationship with police also added value to critical information sharing and responsiveness to risk.

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 and Risk Group (PAR) we continue to closely monitor progress in line with your findings.

Regards

Ian Barrow

Executive Director, HMPPS Wales and Community Accommodation Services

CC: Kim Thornden-Edwards, HMPPS Chief Probation Officer

Manjinder Purewal, Probation Director - Community Accommodation Services