



HM Prison & Probation Service

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

15 May 2026

Dear Charlie,

HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMP BULLINGDON 13 April to 14 April 2026

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Bullingdon in which you followed up seven key recommendations and five Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in 2025.

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

- Strengthened oversight and scrutiny of the use of force, including consistent review of incidents, improved management of backlogs, and the re-establishment of learning forums to promote reflective practice.
- Improved management of public protection arrangements, including better information sharing with partner agencies, strengthened monitoring systems, and enhanced oversight of prisoners subject to public protection measures.
- Progress in education-related themes, including improved assessment and recording of employability skills and increased coordination and oversight of reading assessment and support.

In respect of the nine 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:

- Continued focus on tackling the availability of illicit drugs, supported by strengthened intelligence processes, improved responses to drone activity, and the ongoing development of the prison's drug strategy and partnership arrangements.

- Further work to improve staff–prisoner relationships and the consistency and quality of key work delivery, alongside efforts to stabilise staffing levels and improve time out of cell.
- Continued improvement activity within health care, building on recent progress following the appointment of a new head of health care. Emphasis will be placed on embedding safe medicines management, improving infection prevention and control, and further developing inpatient care standards.
- Action to improve time out of cell and access to purposeful activity, including education, skills and work, alongside efforts with education partners to improve curriculum coherence, attendance and the quality of teaching.

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 HMP Bullingdon 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.

Chris Jennings
Executive Director
HMPPS South West, South Central & Public Protection

cc Michelle Jarman-Howe, HMPPS Interim Director General Prisons