



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Alan Scott CBE
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HM Prison & Probation Service

Charlie Taylor

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23 June 2026

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP Report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMP Liverpool
18 to 20 May 2026**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress (IRP) report at HMP Liverpool, in which you followed up on **nine** priority/key concerns and **four** Ofsted themes identified during your most recent inspection in August 2025.

I am encouraged to note that you have observed good or reasonable progress being made across **five** priority/key concerns. In particular, I note the following:

- The Governor and his team have taken significant steps to improve absence management, with a reduction in absence levels of about a third, which has resulted in fewer regime curtailments, ensuring a more consistent regime for prisoners.
- The Drug Strategy and work to support recovery has strengthened, contributing to a reduction in demand for illicit substances. The supportive environment provided on the Incentivised Substance Free Living unit within a reception prison environment, and the management response to changing risks and intelligence, are helping to tackle drug and drone issues.
- There is evidence of effective longer-term support, including family contact, support for substance misuse, and engagement with purposeful activity provided to complex prisoners. There has been improvement in quality assurance of Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork documentation, alongside ongoing work to implement a consistent single case manager approach.
- Leaders are encouraging attendance at purposeful activity and the more reliable delivery of evening association, with fewer prisoners locked up during the working day at the time of the inspection.

- There have been improvements in public protection work with the introduction of a dedicated and knowledgeable Public Protection Unit. The weekly Interdepartmental Risk management Team meeting, and recently implemented quality assurance measures, are beginning to identify and address shortfalls in practice.

In respect of the **four** priority/key concerns and **four** Ofsted themes where insufficient progress was identified, I can confirm that the IRP findings have been carefully considered, and steps will be taken to address the issues they identify. These will include the following:

- HMP Liverpool has engaged in a project to drive attendance at purposeful activity, including a review of processes and systems.
- The Governor and Deputy Governor are providing strategic oversight in relation to the four Ofsted themes. Additional regular meetings have been introduced to drive forward initiatives and to monitor progress on agreed actions.
- Continuing to progress the agreed investment in enabling works as part of the reception re-roll, which will significantly support a reduction in waiting times in reception. In the interim, local process improvements will continue to be identified to reduce waiting times and improve the experience for prisoners on arrival.

The Governor, with the support of the Prison Group Director, will continue to progress the full action plan addressing all the original priority/key concerns.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against the agreed HMP Liverpool action plan. I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and with the support of the Performance, Assurance and Risk Group, we continue to monitor progress closely.

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

Kind Regards,

Alan Scott CBE

Area Executive Director – North West and Women’s Group

Cc: James McEwen, Director General Chief Executive Officer, HMPPS,
Michelle Jarman-Howe, Interim Director General of Prisons, HMPPS,
Mark Livingston, Prison Group Director, Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Prisons Group, HMPPS