



HM Prison &
Probation Service

HMP Risley

A response to the HMIP inspection: 11 May to 21 May 2026

HMIP report published: 24 August 2026

Submitted: 25 September 2026



Introduction

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) for England and Wales are independent inspectorates which provide scrutiny of the conditions for, and treatment of prisoners and offenders.

They report their findings for prisons, young offender institutions, and effectiveness of the work of probation, and youth offending services across England and Wales to Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

In response to the report HMPPS / MoJ are required to draft a robust and timely action plan to address the priority and key concerns.

Action plans provide specific steps and actions to address these concerns, that are clear, outcome focussed, measurable, achievable, with clear accountability and appropriate timescales for completion.

Action plans are sent to the respective HMIP and published on the GOV.UK website. Progress will be monitored regularly through local, regional, and national governance structures.

Priority concerns and actions

No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
1	Prisoners struggled to get their day-to-day issues or complaints resolved. Applications and complaints processes were not working effectively, and consultation arrangements did not actively involve all prisoners.	In partnership with the HMPPS Change Team, the prison will undertake a comprehensive review of the applications and complaints process to identify barriers to timely resolution, streamline workflows, improve response quality, and establish accurate performance reporting.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	The prison will enhance prisoner engagement by broadening representation at the Prisoner Council Meeting and wing community meetings, ensuring that a wider range of prisoner groups and voices are included. Structured suggestion forms will be introduced on all residential units to enable prisoners to raise issues, ideas and concerns, with outcomes reviewed and fed back through wing-based forums.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	The prison will review and redesign the prison's broader prisoner voice framework to maximise participation, strengthen consultation arrangements, and ensure prisoner feedback is translated into meaningful action. Establish clear governance, communication and	Governor	March 2027

No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
		feedback mechanisms so that prisoners can see how their contributions influence decision-making and service improvement.		
2	The prison's infrastructure was in poor condition and continued to undermine standards of decency.	HM Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS) is committed to delivering sustained improvements across the prison estate to maintain safe, secure, and decent environments that support rehabilitation. While all requests from establishments are considered, demand for maintenance funding significantly exceeds available resources. Consequently, capital investment is carefully targeted to address the most critical risks, particularly those affecting life safety, operational capacity, and decency standards across the estate. Several bids have been received for a variety of works at HMP Risley; these remain unfunded and are currently held in the pipeline awaiting compliant and affordable proposals. These include ventilation replacement in the Activities building, CCTV upgrades, replacement of the roof in the Reception and MDT buildings, replacement of heating mains, refurbishment/replacement of shower facilities and upgrade of the main gate.	HMPPS National Estates	Ongoing
	As above	Ongoing active projects include a programme of site-wide fire safety improvements, including replacement of the cell call system, a project to replace the main boiler house, and a project to replace the wiring on C & D Wings.	HMPPS National Estates	February 2028

No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	The prison will continue to submit bids for capital funding to undertake refurbishment, and infrastructure improvement works across the estate, prioritising areas that have the greatest impact on prisoner living conditions, safety and decency.	Governor	September 2026
	As above	Strengthen the work of the local Decency Committee by identifying, prioritising and monitoring repair and maintenance issues, ensuring timely resolution of defects affecting prisoner accommodation and communal areas.	Governor	October 2026
3	Prisoners from some protected characteristic groups felt unsupported. Their perceptions were that some staff were not actively interested in understanding the needs of different prisoner groups.	The prison will ensure all staff complete mandatory equalities training alongside locally delivered cultural awareness, faith awareness and neurodiversity training to improve understanding of the diverse needs of the prison population.	Governor	March 2027
	As above	The prison will expand joint staff and prisoner events, with increased focus on protected characteristic groups, creating opportunities for meaningful engagement, improved understanding and positive relationships between staff and prisoners.	Governor	March 2027
	As above	The prison will continue to develop prisoner forums for protected characteristic groups, ensuring concerns, experiences and	Governor	November 2026

HMP Risley Action Plan – (September 2026)

No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
		recommendations are captured, acted upon and communicated across the wider staff group.		
	As above	The prison will introduce regular feedback and assurance processes through the Equalities Meeting and Equalities Action Team to monitor themes raised, track actions and ensure identified needs are being addressed.	Governor	December 2026
4	There were insufficient activity spaces for the prison population, and too few accredited programmes to meet need.	The activity offer across HMP Risley will be reviewed to ensure available activity spaces are used as effectively as possible, and availability promoted within the prison to maximise prisoner access and increase participation in purposeful activity including Tier 2 provision.	Governor	November 2026
	As above	The prison will undertake regular population needs analyses to ensure the education, work and intervention offer reflects the needs and risks of the prison population and submit a bid to develop additional spaces with the decarbonisation project.	Governor	March 2027
	As above	HMP Risley transitioned over to Building Choices during 2025-26, providing greater flexibility to meet a wider range of local population demand for accredited programmes. This includes now being able to deliver both high and moderate intensity variants of Building Choices. Building Choices is also delivered to those with learning difficulties and challenges. Demand will remain under review as the digital prison system develops a better digital approach to referrals	Psychology Services group	Ongoing

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		into accredited programmes and assessment of risk and need eligibility for Building Choices nationally.		
	As above	The prison will deliver all accredited programmes to maximum capacity and introduce dual delivery across appropriate programmes to increase the number of prisoners able to access interventions and work with regional psychology team to ensure offer is aligned with the population need.	Governor	March 2027
5	The interdepartmental risk management team meeting was not effective. Key risk management actions were not always identified, recorded or progressed, which limited the impact of the meeting on the management of risk of harm at the point of release.	The Public Protection Unit will verify each prisoner's MAPPA level prior to release, with all cases within four months of release being reviewed through Interdepartmental Risk Management Meetings (IRMMs) to strengthen risk management and release planning.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	HMP Risley will improve attendance and representation at IRMMs and introduce clear action plans, defined ownership, and robust tracking of actions to ensure timely progression and oversight. In addition, a joint review of the IRMM process will be commissioned with Probation and the Regional Office, with any findings and recommendations implemented to strengthen the effectiveness of risk management arrangements.	Governor	December 2026

HMP Risley Action Plan – (September 2026)

No.	Concerns	Response: Action taken / Planned	Responsible owner	Target date
6	Too many prisoners were released homeless.	HMP Risley will maintain robust oversight of all prisoners approaching release through the professionals governance meeting, with a particular focus on accommodation planning and early escalation of those at risk of homelessness.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	HMP Risley will work closely with Probation and community partners to maximise access to available accommodation and will regularly share demand and outcomes data where gaps in provision are identified, ensuring this information informs regional planning and future contractual discussions regarding community accommodation provision.	Governor	March 2027
	As above	Through the National Plan to End Homelessness, MoJ and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have committed to halving the proportion of people released homeless from prison and increasing the proportion in settled accommodation three months post release by the end of this Parliament (2029).	HMPPS - Rehabilitation and Change Directorate	End of Parliament - 2029

Key concerns and actions

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
7	Body-worn video camera recording during use of force incidents was not robust. Cameras were either not activated in time to capture the escalation or not positioned appropriately to record the full incident, limiting effective scrutiny.	The weekly scrutiny meeting has been developed to ensure that use of Force incidents are consistently reviewed, with a specific focus on the timely activation and appropriate positioning of Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVC) to ensure incidents are accurately recorded and subject to effective oversight.	Governor	September 2026
	As above	A process is in place to identify and challenge staff who fail to collect, activate or appropriately use their BWVCs, with learning and expectations reinforced through local management action and ongoing Use of Force assurance processes.	Governor	September 2026
	As above	Themes and trends identified through the monthly Use of Force meeting will be used to improve staff compliance and recording standards, ensuring footage captures the escalation, use of force and outcome of incidents wherever possible.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	Managers will ensure that staff in their areas have collected BWVCs at the beginning of each shift as part of the staff briefing.	Governor	October 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
8	Too many untrained and unsupervised peer support orderlies were supporting prisoners with social care needs, posing a significant risk.	A full review of the peer support offer will be undertaken to ensure peer roles are clearly defined, appropriately supervised and aligned to the needs of prisoners requiring support. Clear governance and oversight arrangements will be implemented to ensure peer supporters operate within agreed boundaries and that any concerns or identified social care needs are escalated promptly to the appropriate professionals.	Governor	November 2026
	As above	Training requirements for peer supporters will be reviewed and delivered where appropriate to ensure they have the knowledge and skills required to undertake their role safely. Ongoing assurance processes will monitor the effectiveness of the scheme and ensure risks are identified and managed appropriately.	Governor	March 2027
9	The generally positive staff-prisoner relationships were undermined by derogatory comments, dismissive attitudes and poor engagement by some staff.	There will be a sustained focus on staff capability through delivery of the Enable Programme core capability packages and locally delivered development activity to strengthen professional curiosity, communication skills and effective prisoner engagement.	Governor	March 2027
	As above	Clear expectations regarding professional standards, respectful behaviour and positive staff-prisoner interactions will be reinforced through team meetings, supervision and one-to-one conversations, with robust challenge and management action where behaviour falls below expected standards.	Governor	December 2026

No.	Concerns	Response: action taken / planned	Responsible owner	Target date
	As above	Leaders will continue to monitor prisoner feedback, complaints, surveys and consultation forums to identify themes relating to staff behaviour and ensure concerns are addressed promptly and appropriately.	Governor	October 2026
10	Clinical environments were of a very poor standard. Long-standing issues, including damaged flooring, sinks and fixtures, fell below infection prevention standards and posed a risk to patient safety.	The prison will work with the healthcare provider to determine work required to address environmental deficiencies within clinical areas, including damaged flooring, sinks and fixtures that fall below infection prevention and control standards. Additional work requests will be submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration.	Governor / Practice Plus Group	October 2026
	As above	Progress against identified actions will be monitored through the Local Delivery Board, with priority given to issues that present the greatest risk to patient safety and clinical service delivery.	Governor	October 2026
	As above	Healthcare and prison partners will continue to monitor clinical environments and implement interim control measures where necessary to mitigate infection prevention and patient safety risks until permanent repairs and refurbishment works are completed.	Governor	October 2026
11	The curriculum for prisoners in workshops was not sufficiently ambitious, and there was too little to	HMP Risley will review the structure and content of activities delivered within all industry workshops to identify opportunities to promote skills development, progression and employability.	Governor	November 2026

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	support them in their wider development.			
	As above	AQA Unit Awards will be introduced across all industry workshops to formally recognise the skills, knowledge and achievements gained by prisoners.	Governor	December 2026
12	Too many prisoners either did not have a sentence plan or were unaware of it.	There will be a clear focus on ensuring all eligible prisoners have an up-to-date sentence plan in place while at HMP Risley, with prioritisation of cases where the absence of a sentence plan is impacting progression. Prison Offender Managers (POMs) will meet with prisoners within 5 days of their arrival within the establishment, during this meeting sentence plan expectations will be discussed. This will ensure that prisoners will be actively engaged in the sentence planning process and supported to understand their objectives, progression requirements and the actions needed to reduce their risk and achieve their sentence plan goals. POMs will complete the Information Sharing Form and send to the Community Offender Managers (COM), prior to the prisoners release.	Governor	December 2026
	As above	Management oversight will be strengthened to monitor completion rates and ensure sentence plans are regularly reviewed, updated and discussed with prisoners. POM supervision sessions will be conducted quarterly during which complex cases will be discussed and recorded.	Governor	October 2026