



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Timpson
Minister of State for Justice

Chair, Independent Monitoring Board
HMP/YOI Moorland
Bawtry Road
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MoJ ref: SUB128305

21 October 2025

Dear Chair,

**HMP/YOI MOORLAND: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 MARCH 2024– 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

Thank you for submitting your Board's annual report on HMP/YOI Moorland. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your fellow members for your continued commitment to independent scrutiny. Your work is vital in ensuring transparency and accountability across the prison estate, and I am particularly grateful for the time and effort taken in compiling this report while operating with reduced members.

I was most saddened to learn that during the reporting year, four men died of natural causes whilst serving their sentences and there was a further, sadly, self-inflicted death. I offer my sincere condolences to their families and friends. The recommendations of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) are taken very seriously, and I note the concerning comments in one report that the clinical care received by one of the prisoners was not equivalent to what he would have received in the community. Whilst some of this is disputed by the healthcare provider, I welcome your comments that you will increase your monitoring in this area if necessary.

I fully recognise the Board's concern regarding the rehabilitation of prisoners serving Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPP) and I note that this is a recurring issue. The Government remains committed to progressing those serving IPP sentences towards safe and sustainable release. On 17 July 2025, we published a refreshed IPP Action Plan, which places a renewed emphasis on effective frontline delivery across both the prison and probation services. The plan ensures that individuals serving IPP sentences are supported through robust and tailored sentence plans and that they are located in establishments best suited to their rehabilitative needs. To strengthen accountability, the revised plan now includes measurable targets and is subject to statutory reporting requirements introduced through the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024. The refreshed Action Plan was published in our IPP Annual Report and can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmpps-annual-report-on-the-ipp-sentence-2024-to-25>. Alongside this, we continue to work with organisations and campaign groups to ensure appropriate support is available for those still serving IPP sentences, including improved access to mental health services and rehabilitation programmes.

As you note in your report, HMP/YOI Moorland has embedded a comprehensive approach to managing IPP prisoners. It actively monitors IPP cases through monthly Red Amber Green reviews and facilitates engagement through regular forums, which include external stakeholders such as Parole Board caseworkers and staff from the HOPE Unit. These forums serve not only as a communication channel but also as a means of motivating prisoners to work towards successful release. All individuals are allocated Prison Offender Managers (POMs) with varying levels of experience, supported through Senior Probation Officer oversight, peer collaboration and access to internal resources. Psychological input and liaison with community probation services are routinely integrated and Offender Personality Disorder services are utilised where appropriate. Keyworkers receive clear guidance from POMs to ensure consistency in support.

I appreciate that the Board continues to be concerned about the use of single cells to accommodate two prisoners. I want to assure you that it remains under active review. The 10-Year Prison Capacity Strategy outlines our commitment to delivering 14,000 additional places, maintaining the existing estate and exploring new land acquisition. These measures are designed to reduce crowding and improve conditions across the estate. Additionally, implementation of recommendations in the Independent Sentencing Review will ensure long-term, sustainable solutions to the current capacity crisis. At HMP/YOI Moorland, I am reassured that cells are clean, well-maintained and compliant with national standards. The prison is also taking steps to enhance privacy, including increasing the provision of privacy screens. I am confident that HMP/YOI Moorland will continue to do all it can to ensure shared accommodation remains safe and decent.

I would like to thank you for acknowledging the many examples of positive practice observed at HMP/YOI Moorland. I was particularly pleased to read about the quality of mental health and substance misuse provision at HMP/YOI Moorland. The collaborative efforts between the mental health team, prison staff and substance misuse services to ensure safe discharge for mentally unwell prisoners are commendable. It is equally positive to note the continued development of the key worker programme, with more staff trained over the reporting year in preparation for the transition to provision. The prioritisation of vulnerable prisoners and the move towards consistent monthly engagement for all prisoners reflects a thoughtful and inclusive approach to care.

HMPPS comments in response to other issues raised in your report are set out in the attached annex and the Governor will continue to keep you updated, as work progresses, in regard to the local issues of concern which have been raised.

The Deputy Prime Minister and I greatly value the important role that Independent Monitoring Boards have throughout the estate, and we thank you for your ongoing dedication on behalf of HMP/YOI Moorland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James', written in a cursive style.

Lord Timpson
Minister for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending

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HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Delay in Transferring PIN Numbers Between Private and Public Sector Prisons

The transfer of approved PIN telephone numbers between prisons with different telephone providers has long been a source of frustration for both staff and prisoners. Currently, BT and Unify operate across the estate, and incompatibility between systems can result in delays. His Majesty Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) representatives have committed to engaging both providers in joint discussions to explore practical solutions to this issue. In the meantime, HMP/YOI Moorland has implemented a local process to mitigate the impact. Prisoners arriving from private sector establishments are seen in reception and provided with a form to complete. This is prioritised by the Business Hub and PIN numbers are promptly added. Since April 2025, no complaints have been received regarding this issue, indicating that the process is now well embedded and functioning effectively.

Bandwidth Constraints Affecting Body-Worn Video Camera Deployment

The Board's concern about inadequate bandwidth preventing consistent deployment of body-worn video cameras (BWVCs) is acknowledged. Earlier this year, HMP/YOI Moorland experienced recurring issues with Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tag recognition and camera allocation. Motorola responded by updating the system to allow dual RFID processing, which significantly reduced delays. However, the primary challenge remains internet connectivity. BWVC equipment requires a stable connection to the video manager system for RFID-based camera assignment and activation. HMP/YOI Moorland's location at the end of the internet line, fed from Thorne/Hatfield, contributes to performance issues during peak periods. To address this, HMP/YOI Moorland is included in the first phase of the Internet Breakout project, scheduled for rollout between mid-October and mid-November 2025. This will implement split tunnelling to enhance bandwidth performance. In the interim, staff have been supported with guidance on proper docking procedures and system stability has improved following the transition to a cloud-based platform and battery refresh.

Property Lost During Transfers

The handling of prisoners' property during transfers remains a priority for HMPPS. The Board's concern is noted and HMPPS is currently reviewing findings from the IMB national thematic report and Independent Prisoner Complaint Investigations. Governors have been reminded of key property handling protocols, including the importance of compliance with volumetric control limits, which ensure that property within those limits, transfers with the prisoner. The introduction of the digitally recorded Prisoner Escort Record system has improved the accuracy of property tracking and handover between stakeholders. Prisoner Escort and Custody Services has confirmed that no complaints were received from HMP/YOI Moorland during the reporting year in relation to property loss.

Locally, HMP/YOI Moorland's reception team works proactively with sending establishments to resolve issues where property has been left behind. Where necessary, staff are deployed to collect excess property directly. Items exceeding volumetric limits may be posted to family or friends. Weekly Regime Management Plan meetings chaired by the Deputy Governor prioritise property processing and distribution, ensuring that parcels and orders are managed efficiently.