



# HM Prison & Probation Service

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HM Prison and Probation Service  
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Dear Charlie,

## **HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress (IRP) at HMP Brixton 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Brixton, whereby you followed up on eight concerns and three Ofsted themes.

I am encouraged to note that you found two areas of notable good practice and have seen good and reasonable progress being made across three of the concerns and Ofsted themes, and note the following:

- Ofsted recognised that staffing in Education had improved since the last inspection and that teachers held suitable qualifications. Managers and tutors had made improvements to the quality of teaching and assessment in English and mathematics and as a result, teachers were equipped with strategies and techniques to support prisoners in the classroom.
- Good progress was also found in tackling illicit drugs use. The Security Department was found to be well led and better resourced, with a significant reduction in the backlog of intelligence reports, improvements in staff searching and a reduction in positive mandatory drug testing results.
- Work to address previous weaknesses in Public Protection was recognised to have made reasonable progress with improved capability in staffing and effective training and assurance practice evidenced.

In respect of the seven concerns and Ofsted themes where you found no or 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:

- The Governor and her team will continue their efforts to recruit to the revised staffing levels at middle management, to reduce spans of control and improve direction and oversight.

- The prison will continue to build on the improvements noted around reliable regime delivery and speedier allocations for work and education and ensure wing work times replicate those for off wing workers, to increase overall time out of cell.
- The Activities Taskforce, chaired by the Deputy Governor will continue to support an increased curriculum of work and education, and improvements will be made in the use of data to inform our allocation processes and address shortfalls in the quality of education and training.
- The prisons Safety Strategy will be refocused to ensure a measurable plan to reduce incidents of harm is in place and build capability to improve the quality of investigations into serious incidents.
- HMP Brixton will continue to grow our plans to encourage positive behaviour, building on the areas of notable good practice found and improving our offer for enhanced prisoners. The prison will revise the prison pay budget to further incentivise engagement with work and education and aim to reduce the impact of prison debt as a driver of violence.

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 progress against HMP Brixton's agreed Action Plan and I can assure you that through my operational assurance functions and the support of the Performance, Assurance, Risk Group we continue to closely monitor progress.

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

Yours sincerely

**Alan Scott CBE**  
**Area Executive Director, HMPPS.**

cc:

Michelle Jarman-Howe, Director General of Operations, HMPPS