



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

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**Charlie Taylor,**  
**HM Chief Inspector of Prisons**  
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6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Charlie,

**HMIP report on an Independent Review of Progress at HMP Five Wells, 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Thank you for your Independent Review of Progress report at HMP Five Wells, which followed up six priority/key concerns and four Ofsted themes from your most recent inspection in January 2024.

I am encouraged to note that you have seen good and reasonable progress being made across four priority/key concerns and reasonable progress in four Ofsted themes, and note the following:

- Ofsted observed progress in each of the areas that had been identified as key concerns, and was content the provision of education at HMP Five Wells was heading in the right direction, with a positive partnership with Novus underpinning this progress.
- The regime has improved and there will be continued action to ensure men are allocated to activities relevant to their education, training and employment needs. Employment spaces will be maximised to provide sufficient full-time activity for the population and attendance will be managed robustly.
- Order and control had improved since the full inspection in January 2024 and staff were more confident in challenging anti-social behaviour. There will be continued focus in this area to develop the culture further.

In respect of the two priority / key concerns 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:

- The Safety team has been restructured and a Safety Strategy is being developed to identify the drivers of self-harm and violence within the integrated population, with associated strategies to improve safety outcomes across the prison. There will be more effective assurance that all

serious incidents of self-harm are investigated appropriately and consultation with prisoners will be undertaken to ensure the strategy meets their needs.

- A comprehensive needs analysis of the population will be undertaken and used to develop strategic planning and define priorities for improving outcomes for prisoners and reducing reoffending. The recent changes to the population will be reviewed to ensure the regime provision is appropriate to their needs.
- Governance of safety, Use of Force and reducing reoffending will include robust scrutiny of data to identify and address potential disproportionality for those prisoners with protected characteristics. Leaders and managers have implemented forums for prisoners with protected characteristics and these forums will be further developed to effectively support inclusion and fair treatment through the monthly Diversity and Inclusion meeting.

The Director, with the support of the Senior Contract Manager will continue to progress the full action plan covering all the original priority/key concerns.

I remain committed to ensuring continued progress against HMP Five Wells agreed action plan and I can assure you that through the operational assurance functions and the support of Performance Assurance & Risk Group (PAR) we continue to closely monitor progress.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Robin Seaton**  
**Executive Director, Custodial Contracts Directorate**