



26 July 2019

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Dr Wollaston

### **Prison healthcare inquiry recommendations**

Thank you for your letter dated 27 June 2019. In your letter, you ask the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons) for information relating to three aspects of the recommendations made by the Health and Social Care Committee as part of its inquiry into prison healthcare. We respond to each of these in turn below.

### **The prominence given to health and care in HMI Prisons and CQC's joint reports**

You ask in your letter whether there has been any progress on providing a more distinct picture of healthcare provision in inspection reports. CQC and HMI Prisons regularly keep our inspection methodology under review to ensure that it provides clear assessments of outcomes for prisoners. This has included discussions over recent years of how we can best present information about healthcare provision in inspection reports. Following on from the joint evidence we provided to the Committee, we have met to re-visit this issue, and have begun considering a range of options for reporting healthcare findings.

### **The commissioning of health and care in prisons**

Your letter asks whether CQC will conduct a special review into the commissioning of health and social care in prisons. CQC and HMI Prisons recognise that where the design of a commissioned service does not adequately reflect the needs of prisoners, the care provided is unlikely to be equivalent to that provided elsewhere in the community (CQC and HMI Prisons expect the standard of healthcare provision for those held in prison to be similar to that they would receive elsewhere in the community). CQC would therefore welcome the opportunity to carry out a section 48 review into the commissioning of health and social care in prisons.<sup>1</sup> CQC has accordingly submitted outline proposals and costings for such a review to the Department of Health and Social Care but as yet, have not been asked to conduct a review.

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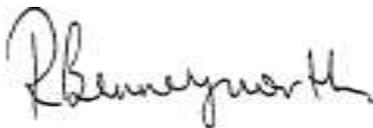
<sup>1</sup> Outside of such a review, CQC's powers do not allow it to comment on the quality of commissioning.

## The use of incentives in prisons

You ask in your letter if HMI Prisons, either independently or together with CQC, will conduct a review on how incentives are applied in prison and whether this has any adverse consequences on the health of prisoners' or their ability to maintain basic standards of health and wellbeing. As part of all inspections of prisons, HMI Prisons' inspectors consider how the prison's approach to managing behaviour impacts on outcomes for prisoners, including considering how fair and proportionate progress and rewards schemes are and whether they take into account individual needs.<sup>2</sup> Inspectors consider a range of issues when assessing the impact of schemes, including the impact on time out of cell, ability to access activities and basic necessities and whether family contact is affected. Findings are reported in each inspection report and a brief summary of inspection findings for the year is included in HMI Prisons' annual report. In addition, HMI Prisons carried out a thematic inspection of behaviour management in establishments holding children and young adults, which considered the use of incentives schemes. The findings from this report, *Incentivising and promoting good behaviour*, were published in March 2018.<sup>3</sup> The government has since introduced a new Incentives Policy Framework, the impact of which will take some time to become evident. Given the work HMI Prisons has undertaken on this issue to date, and the time it will take for any changes arising from the new Policy Framework to become evident, HMI Prisons does not intend to carry out a further thematic review on incentives in prisons at this time.

We hope that the above information clearly answers your questions but please do not hesitate to contact us should further information be useful. You can contact CQC via Chris Hares, Parliamentary and Stakeholder Engagement Manager ([christopher.hares@cqc.org.uk](mailto:christopher.hares@cqc.org.uk)), and HMI Prisons via Jade Glenister, Senior Policy Officer ([jade.glenister@hmiprison.gov.uk](mailto:jade.glenister@hmiprison.gov.uk)).

Yours sincerely



**Dr Rosie Benneyworth**  
**Chief Inspector of Primary Medical**  
**Services and Integrated Care**  
**Care Quality Commission**



**Peter Clarke CVO OBE QPM**  
**HM Chief Inspector of Prisons**

Cc Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister for Care, Department for Health and Social Care  
Cc Jackie Doyle-Price MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention

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<sup>2</sup> See, for example, expectation 4 of *Expectations: criteria for assessing the treatment of and conditions for men in prison*, available at <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2018/02/Expectations-for-publication-FINAL.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The full report is available at <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2018/03/Incentivising-and-promoting-good-behaviour-Web-2018.pdf>.