PUBLICATION OF HMCIP’S ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

You will be aware that Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Prisons (HMCIP), Peter Clarke, is publishing his annual report 2017-18 on Wednesday 11 July.

In his report Peter Clarke raises a number of issues he has encountered while carrying out his inspections. I take HMIP reports very seriously and I want to reassure you that work is being carried out across the prison and youth custody estates to improve outcomes for prisoners.

For prisons to be effective, I am clear that we must get the basics right. This means prisons that are safe, decent and secure, with clean wings and humane living conditions. We are holding prisons to account for the general cleanliness of prisoner accommodation, with targeted packages of remedial work to cells and shared areas in prisons such as Liverpool, Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubs.

We are addressing the issue of violence in prison by recruiting extra staff and implementing the Offender Management Model in Custody, with every residential officer taking on a key worker role supporting prisoners and challenging and supporting them away from violence. A case management model for violent individuals, known as the Challenge, Support and Intervention Plan has also been made available across the estate.

We are also committed to ensuring that prisons address the issues raised by HMIP and develop a robust action plan. A reduction in the length of time taken for prisons to produce an action plan to address the agreed recommendations has been achieved and these are published to ensure greater accountability for their implementation. HMPPS is also developing assurance activities which will hold prison governors to account for the implementation of the full action plan. HMIP has also been given additional funds to provide independent, transparent and timely scrutiny of their recommendations, in response to your Committee’s recommendation on this point.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call to discuss further, please contact my Private Secretary, Andrew Milner, at Andrew.Milner@Justice.gov.uk.

RORY STEWART MP