



Bob Neill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 July 2019

Dear Bob,

URGENT NOTIFICATION – HMP BRISTOL

As you are aware, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons (HMCIP) invoked an Urgent Notification for HMP Bristol on 13 June 2019. I wrote to you at the time informing you of the Chief Inspector's decision. I am now writing to provide you with an update on progress.

Over the last 28 days, senior officials from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and the Ministry of Justice have been prioritising actions to deliver immediate and sustainable improvements; and providing enhanced senior leadership to deliver improvements.

Initial actions that have been prioritised include:

- a) Immediate procedures to ensure that the safer custody hotline is checked routinely.
- b) Immediate steps to ensure prisoners are again able to call the Samaritans from in-cell phones.
- c) The HMPPS National and Group Prison Safety Teams identifying and helping affect further improvements in the prison's first night procedures.
- d) The HMPPS National and Group Prison Safety Teams assessing the current quality assurance process for Assessment and Care in Custody Teamwork and supporting the prison in making improvements, particularly with regard to risks and triggers.
- e) The appointment of an interim Head of Safety ensuring improved oversight of segregation and adjudication processes.
- f) Continuation of the reduction of capacity until December 2019 to enable further local redecoration across other wings
- g) Changes being made to the on-site management of the education provider, coupled with support from the Regional Quality Team.
- h) Improved access to the library.

Plans for further improvements are detailed in the response from the Secretary of State to HMCIP and in the initial action plan addressing the issues that invoked the UN. Both documents will be published on 11 July 2019 on the UN page of the Gov.uk website. I am enclosing copies with this letter for your information.

I continue to follow the progress made at the prison very closely and the Secretary of State and I will maintain this focus until we are satisfied that there is sustained improvement.

If you have any questions or would like to meet me to discuss progress on urgent action taken, please contact my Private Secretary, Charlie Ogilvie, at Charlie.Ogilvie@justice.gov.uk.

*Yours ever,
Robert*

ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP