



Ministry
of Justice

Rory Stewart OBE MP
Minister of State for Justice

Bob Neill MP
Chair Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref:

12 November 2018

Dear Bob,

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF PRISONS (HMIP): PLANS TO PILOT FOLLOW-UP VISITS

On 25 June 2018, I wrote to advise you that I would be accepting your Committee's recommendation, that HMIP be given additional resources to follow-up on recommendations and hold prisons to account when they do not achieve their recommendations. I want to update you on developments and progress made to date in this regard.


I welcome HMIP's collaborative approach in working with my officials to develop this new methodology. The Chief Inspector has selected HMP Nottingham for the first of two pilots of this new process which HMIP intend to conduct on 12-14 November 2018. The second pilot will take place at HMP Woodhill on 14-16 January 2019.

HMIP has developed a methodology for these visits, to be known as **Independent Reviews of Progress** or IRPs, and the visits to Nottingham and Woodhill will be part of the testing process. The aims of the IRP process are as follows:

- a. to provide an independent evidence-based assessment of how the prison is progressing against the key concerns and recommendations identified at the previous inspection
- b. to assess progress in terms of outcomes for prisoners in the areas of main concern
- c. to support improvement
- d. to identify any emerging difficulties or slippage in progress at an early stage
- e. to assess the sufficiency of the leadership and management response to HMIP's main concerns at the previous inspection.

A review visit is not a re-inspection and HMIP will not make judgements against their healthy prison tests. Instead, they will follow up a selection of their recommendations and make judgements about the extent of progress made in achieving them. HMIP's intention is that review visits will have a much lower impact on staff time than inspections.

I will keep you informed of progress. I understand that Peter Clarke is shortly giving evidence to your Committee in relation to the prison population inquiry and will no doubt want to discuss this.

RAF with


RORY STEWART MP