

Mark Leech
[REDACTED]

data.access@justice.gov.uk

10 September 2018

Dear Mr Leech,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 180814006

Thank you for your request of 14 August 2018 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), in relation to HMP Nottingham and HMP Exeter:

Can you please tell me, in respect of all the tasks identified in the Action Plan, and in respect of the completion dates set out in the Plan, which: i. were fully implemented by the completion date shown in the plan, and ii. which remained outstanding on the completion date shown in the plan. The tasks are:

- 1. The national Operational System and Assurance Group, with input from the national Prison Safety Team, will conduct a comprehensive safety audit at HMP Nottingham, with a focus on the operational arrangements related to violence reduction, suicide prevention and self-harm reduction. 7th Feb 2018**
- 2. Following the above audit, the national Prison Safety Team will ensure the deployment of a Safety Taskforce of specialist safety staff into the prison to work intensively for several weeks with the establishment and the Regional Safer Custody team, developing a package of measures to address the establishment's safety needs. While the details will be developed following the audit, a range of known areas for improvement will be included in the package as follows: Mid-February to end of March 2018**
 - The national Prison Safety Team will provide information on best practice in local prisons on reception and early days in custody, with particular reference to vulnerable prisoners, and will work with Nottingham staff to implement best practice and ensure it is embedded. Mid-February to end of March 2018**
 - The Challenge, Support and Intervention Plan (CSIP) case management of prisoners at raised risk of harming others will be introduced. 31st March 2018 • Additional resources will be provided to the establishment immediately to clear the backlog of security intelligence reports. 21st March 2018**
 - The Prison Safety Team will ensure recommendations from the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are implemented. (Compliance issues will be addressed by improving assurance systems, management grip and staffing - see also actions 7 to 11). 14th February 2018**
 - A concerted effort to ensure that basic procedures are followed reliably in relation to the timely answering of cell bells; removing blockages to observation panels; use of body worn video cameras; and effective operation of the incentives and earned**

privileges scheme, and the prisoner complaints and applications processes. (Compliance issues will be addressed by improving assurance systems, management grip and staffing - see also actions 7 to 11). From mid-March and ongoing.

3. Capital Funding has been provided to create two private interview rooms within the prison's reception area; Amey have been issued an instruction to complete this work. The work is programmed to commence in March and be completed for this financial year. 01st April 2018

4. We will improve stability by:

- Removing the 50 Young Adult offenders currently at Nottingham following their next court appearance or earlier, and temporarily realigning the court catchment designations so that young adult offenders are not allocated to HMP Nottingham directly from court; the period this arrangement will apply will be subject to review, with the first review to take place in June 2018. From 7th February 2018

- Prioritising HMP Nottingham in the allocation of sentenced Category B prisoners to the Long Term High Security Estate. From 7th February 2018

5. Local leadership, supported by the national drugs taskforce, local partners, and national and prison group resources, will undertake:

- a vulnerability threat assessment to identify immediate action to reduce drug supply. 14th March 2018

- a full, 'deep-dive' diagnostic process which will identify action on supply and demand reduction, treatment and recovery, and continuity of care. 31st March 2018

- enhanced searching of prisoners on recall to custody and of staff attending for work, with an initial increase supported by national resources and a plan for sustained increases through local capability building. 31st March 2018

Can you please tell me, in respect of the following tasks on the Action Plan and in respect of the completion dates set out in the Plan, which: i. were fully implemented by the completion date shown in the plan, and ii. which remained outstanding on the completion date shown in the plan. The tasks are:

1. Safety strategy. The establishment will refresh their Safety Strategy, using the newly introduced National Safety Framework to address the drivers of both violence and self-harm. HMP Exeter has been identified as a Prison of Concern for Safety and will therefore receive enhanced, bespoke support from both the National and Group Prison Safety Teams in the development and implementation of the refreshed strategy. End of July 2018

2. Reception and early days in custody.

(i) HMP Exeter will introduce and ensure adherence to a formal protocol that sets out the role and daily routines of C1 landing. The regime will be broadly equivalent to that provided to vulnerable prisoners (VPs) elsewhere in the establishment, and will include association, time in the open air, access to showers, access to the induction programme, and access to peer support. VP induction prisoners temporarily housed on C1 will be relocated to B wing as soon as space allows. End of June 2018

(ii) The establishment will introduce improvements to its reception and early days processes, in light of advice from the national Prison Safety Team on best practice within local prisons in these areas, with particular reference to vulnerable prisoners. End of July 2018

3. Constant supervision

(i) An additional constant supervision cell will be provided (cell A4-1), in accordance with the existing local proposal.

(ii) HMP Exeter will then have two constant supervision cells on normal location. The constant supervision cell in the Care and Separation Unit will only be exceptionally considered for use if no constant supervision cell is available on normal location. In that event, a case review will consider whether the interests of the prisoner, and the effective management of suicide risk, are best served by the use of that facility or by an urgent transfer to a different prison where constant supervision can be provided on normal location. In all circumstances where it is used for this purpose, the cell will be properly furnished and these procedures will be supported by appropriate governance. By 27th July 2018

4. Cell call bells

(i) HMP Exeter, with support from the National Prison Safety Team, will develop appropriate local management information to improve assurance of cell call bell response times. Local procedures will be reviewed to include the introduction of formal covert testing and a system to ensure that staff prioritise the response to cell bells for those prisoners subject to Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures.

(ii) The management of cell call bell responses will be incorporated into a new Custodial Manager performance and assurance role. Annual staff performance plans will be updated to require staff to respond to cell bells within five minutes wherever possible. Residential Supervisory Officers will each have a personal objective to ensure this is delivered and managers will have an objective to provide assurance that it is being delivered in practice. End of July 2018

5. Violence reduction

(i) The establishment will convene a violence summit to understand the views of prisoners and staff. Focus groups will be completed by the end of June 2018 and wider analytical work will follow to agree both short and long-term priorities to improve safety outcomes. End of July 2018

Your request has been handled under the FOIA. Where more than one request is received for the same or similar information, section 5(2) of the FOI and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 allows public authorities to aggregate requests and respond to them together. I have therefore aggregated your requests.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and I have provided it below.

Please note that the action plans for both Exeter and Nottingham included due dates, not completion dates, as some actions referred to work that should begin by a particular date but that would continue after that date.

HMP Nottingham

Safety actions 1, 2, 4 and 5 were implemented by the initial due date outlined in the Action Plan. Action 3 was not able to be completed by 1 April due to delays getting the new interview rooms decorated, fitting their doors, and fitting alarms. The outstanding work was completed by early May.

HMP Exeter

Actions 1, 2, 4 and 5 were implemented by the initial due date outlined in the Action Plan. The second task in Action 3 was also implemented by the initial due date. The first task in Action 3 was not able to be completed by 27 July as a door and windows needed to be specifically manufactured and this was not factored into the original timeframe. These fixtures have now been fitted and the new constant supervision cell should be available shortly.

We created the Urgent Notification process to ensure that we are accountable, and we remain absolutely committed to turning Nottingham and Exeter around.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response.

data.access@justice.gov.uk

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice, 10.38, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Harris
Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service