



Ministry
of Justice

Lucy Frazer QC MP
Minister of State for
Prisons and Probation

Sir Bob Neill MP

Chair, Justice Select Committee

By email

26 May 2020

Dear Sir Bob,

HMPPS REPORTING OF STAFF CASES OF COVID-19

This is to draw your attention to the findings of some recent analytical work we have been undertaking to better understand the movements in prison Covid-19 cases.

Our analysis has demonstrated encouraging downward trends across both prisoners and staff. I wanted to draw to your attention that our review has also identified some inconsistency and under-reporting in the cumulative number of staff that have tested positive for Covid-19 and we have been reporting publicly, including as part of our daily media release summary. I wanted to let you know that the under-reported figures are largely closed cases reaching back to the start of the pandemic and do not indicate any acceleration of the outbreak in prisons.

We have moved towards a more robust way of reporting Covid-19 staff cases, and have provided renewed guidance on the process for reporting that must be followed by all establishments, and we are also putting additional assurance checks in place. We are continuing to review our reporting arrangements for Covid-19 data to ensure we are providing a meaningful and transparent report on progress on the spread and our response to the virus.

We are today reporting publicly a revised figure of **873** for total confirmed staff cases. This should not be interpreted as a rise in the total provided on Friday and the overall declining trend in new cases continues.

I hope this notification is helpful for you and thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

LUCY FRAZER QC MP