



Ministry
of Justice

Lucy Frazer QC MP
Minister of State for Justice

Sir Robert Neill
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: [MC123456]

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Dear Sir Robert,

PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH INTO SUBSTANCE USE IN PRISONS

I am writing to inform you about a research paper which is being published on gov.uk on Wednesday 28th October. The HMPPS research is entitled 'Exploring Substance Use in Prisons: A case study approach in five closed male English prisons. The research explores the factors associated with substance use in five category c prisons across England and Wales, and addresses the cultural features of prisons that may influence levels of drug use. The findings stress the importance of a rehabilitative focus to addressing substance use, in line with the current Prisons Drug Strategy. Recommendations arising from this predominantly qualitative analysis included recognising the extent of drug use, the need to focus on 'recovery capital', and adopting a prison wide approach. Improving and strengthening staff and residents' relationships, a greater use of rehabilitation over a solely punitive stance, better training for staff, a focus on improving perceptions of procedural justice, and improving communication between staffing groups regarding Substance Misuse Services (SMS) and healthcare services were also recommended.

I will deposit a copy of this letter and the report in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely

LUCY FRAZER QC MP