



HM Prison & Probation Service

Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts
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Dear / Annwyl Chair

Publication of the Secure School Funding Agreement

Further to the Committee's 13th Report of Session 2022-23, 'Secure training centres and secure schools', and following my letter of 31 January 2024, I am writing to you with a further update on recommendation five.

Recommendation five of the report states:

'The Ministry / HMPPS should set out how the Funding Agreement will incentivise the secure school provider to deliver high-quality care for all children in custody, including how they would manage underperformance or children being refused a place.'

In our [letter](#) to you in January 2024 we provided you the [draft Funding Agreement](#) and set out how it would be used to manage the performance of the secure school provider. This included illustrating the circumstances under which the Secretary of State may issue a termination warning notice for the Funding Agreement on the grounds of poor performance, and the requirement for Secure Academy Trust's to collaborate with the Youth Custody Service (YCS) on all placements to the school. We made clear that persistent refusal of placements could be considered a breach of the provisions of the Funding Agreement for which the Secretary of State could issue a termination warning notice.

We linked the publication of the final Funding Agreement to the Ofsted site registration, which commenced on 9-11 April 2024. We do not now anticipate any substantial changes to the draft Funding Agreement. We therefore now consider recommendation five to have been implemented. The final Funding Agreement will be published when the school opens. We will notify the Committee if there are any substantial changes to the draft funding agreement.

The Ofsted site registration process was previously scheduled for March, however due to delays to site completion, primarily linked to the supply chain, the decision was taken to reschedule for April. The project team is working through the feedback from Ofsted, and will engage further with them and the provider, Oasis Restore, to complete the process and bring the school into operation. The YCS remains

committed to delivering a site that will achieve Ofsted registration and gives Oasis Restore the best platform for the delivery of the secure academy model.

We remain committed to opening the school at the end of the Spring, subject to completing Ofsted registration.

Yours sincerely / Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Rees".

Amy Rees,
Chief Executive, HM Prison and Probation Service
Prif Weithredwr, Gwasanaeth Carchardai a Phrawf EF