



HM INSPECTORATE OF PRISONS

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Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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7 May 2021

Dear Sir Robert

HM Inspectorate of Prisons – Return to full inspections

On 29 July 2020, my predecessor wrote to inform the Justice Select Committee that HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons) would be introducing Scrutiny Visits (SV). I am now writing to inform the Committee that the Inspectorate will be returning to full inspections of prisons and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) from 10 May 2021.

As with previous full inspections, we will score outcomes for those detained against our four healthy prison tests (safety, respect/care, purposeful activity and rehabilitation and release planning). We will also assess progress against key recommendations made at the previous full inspection and, where applicable, SV. Inspection reports will be published around 14 weeks following an inspection.

For the time being, we will notify the establishment on the Friday prior to an inspection commencing as this will allow us to conduct a final health and safety assessment. We will return to completely unannounced inspections as soon as it is safe to do so. Full inspections of court custody will also continue as before.

I hope that the return to full inspections will encourage and assist the return to fuller regimes. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Taylor', is shown within a rectangular box.

Charlie Taylor
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons