



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
Dominic Raab MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

Official
Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair of the Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ Ref: 90943

24 September 2021

Dear Sir Bob,

URGENT NOTIFICATION – HMP/YOI CHELMSFORD

Further to your recent telephone call with Minister Atkins, I am also writing to provide you with an update on progress at HMP/YOI Chelmsford. As you are aware, HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) invoked an Urgent Notification (UN) at Chelmsford HMP & YOI on 27 August 2021.

Over the last 28 days, senior officials from Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the Ministry of Justice have been prioritising actions to deliver immediate and sustainable improvements on the areas identified by the inspectorate.

Immediate plans and further improvements are detailed in my response letter to HMIP and in the action plan that addresses the issues that invoked the UN. Both documents will be published on 24 September 2021 on the UN page of the GOV.UK website. I am enclosing copies with this letter for your information. We also anticipate that HMIP will publish their final report in approximately three months, and this will be found on the HMIP report page of their website.

I will follow the progress made at the establishment very closely and I will maintain this focus until we are satisfied that there is sustained improvement.

I can personally assure that we are doing all we can to support HMP/YOI Chelmsford throughout this process. If you have any questions or would like to meet with me to discuss progress on urgent actions taken, please contact my office (PS.LordChancellor@justice.gov.uk) to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely

RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP