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### **HMP CANTERBURY – COMMENDABLE PROGRESS**

HMP Canterbury, which holds only foreign national prisoners, had sustained and built on earlier progress, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the Kent jail.

Canterbury is one of two prisons in England and Wales holding only foreign national prisoners. Our 2007 inspection commended the impressive efforts made by managers and staff to fulfil this new role, despite little central guidance.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- the prison remained safe, with little apparent bullying, well managed security, and good care for those at risk of self-harm;
- there had been a commendable improvement in purposeful activities, with plenty of work available and improved education;
- staff-prisoner relationships were good and race relations issues were well managed;
- the provision of both faith and health services were very good; and
- the strategic management of resettlement had improved, and a new resettlement centre had considerable potential.

Some concerns, however remained:

- although the use of force was low, governance and monitoring arrangements required improvement;
- the Prison Service still lacked a national policy on how the needs of foreign nationals should be met; and
- late notice of removals by UKBA inhibited effective resettlement support to those prisoners being removed.

Nick Hardwick said:

“Staff and managers at Canterbury are to be commended on sustaining and building on the progress that we noted on our last visit. The prison is an essentially safe, respectful and purposeful place, but it could develop further still if there was better national support and guidance, particularly on how best to support the resettlement of those being removed from the country.”

Michael Spurr, Chief Executive Officer of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), said:

"This is a positive report which demonstrates that the Governor and staff at Canterbury have worked hard to build on the progress made since the last inspection.

"I am pleased that the Inspectorate have recognised the good work being undertaken in safety, security, and the provision of faith services and health and purposeful activity all received praise, and staff will work to address the areas of concern raised in this report. The improved strategic management of resettlement and the new resettlement centre will help protect the public and reduce the chance of reoffending.”

ENDS

**Notes to Editors:**

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 16 March 2011 at [www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons](http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons)
2. HM Inspectorate of Prisons is an independent inspectorate, inspecting places of detention to report on conditions and treatment, and promote positive outcomes for those detained and the public.
3. This unannounced short follow-up inspection was carried out from 1-4 November 2010.
4. HMP Canterbury is a category C prison taking foreign national male prisoners.
5. Please contact Jane Parsons in HMI Prisons Press Office on 0207 035 2123 or 07880 787452 from 0915 to 1415 Monday to Friday if you would like more information or to request an interview with Nick Hardwick.