



9 March 2011

020 7035 2123

NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 00.01, FRIDAY, 11 MARCH 2011

HMP FRANKLAND – SAFE, DECENT AND PURPOSEFUL

HMP Frankland has improved significantly since its last inspection, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the Co Durham prison.

Frankland is the largest high security dispersal prison in England and Wales, holding over 800 of the most serious offenders in the system. Our last visit identified some concerns, principally regarding safety. This inspection found, commendably, that outcomes were now reasonable against all four of the Inspectorate's tests of a healthy prison: safety, respect, purposeful activity and resettlement.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- safety arrangements had improved and support for those at risk of self-harm was reasonably good;
- security procedures were very good, and there was an innovative reintegration unit that helped some very challenging prisoners to avoid indefinite segregation;
- staff-prisoner relationships were better, with a consequent improvement in dynamic security;
- diversity was well managed, there was less obvious evidence of tension between Muslim and other prisoners and, unusually, black and

minority ethnic prisoners reported on their experience in the prison in similar terms to white prisoners;

- prisoners had a reasonable amount of time out of cell and there were sufficient activity places with some good educational and vocational provision; and
- sentence planning was much improved with good offender management, up to date assessments and an impressive range of interventions.

However, inspectors had some concerns:

- more needed to be done to reduce violence and challenge bullying behaviour;
- some prescribed medication was being abused;
- despite health services beginning to improve, there were still problems with medicines management while mental health provision was over-stretched; and
- the demand for offending behaviour programmes still outstripped supply.

Nick Hardwick said:

“Frankland has both expanded and improved since our last visit. It now houses more serious offenders than any other prison in the country, but does so in an environment which is essentially safe, decent and purposeful. It also places an appropriate focus on reducing the multiple risks and needs that these prisoners pose. There are, inevitably, a number of areas where we consider further progress is required, but staff and managers are to be commended on what has so far been achieved.”

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

"This is a positive report. It demonstrates that the Governor and staff at Frankland have worked hard to deliver significant improvements since the last inspection.

"Security, diversity and purposeful activity are all managed well and staff are working to improve health services further.

Frankland manages long-term prisoners very effectively on behalf of the public."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 11 March 2011 at 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 full follow-up inspection was carried out from 9-19 November 2010.
4. HMP Frankland is a high security category A/B dispersal prison with potentially category A remands, holding adult males.
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.