

## **HMP DARTMOOR NAMED MOST IMPROVED PRISON**

Dartmoor Prison gained recognition for its exceptional work in 2004-05 when it was named Most Improved Prison in this year's High Performing Prison Awards today.

Both HMP Dartmoor and HMP Brixton have been jointly awarded this title, which has been introduced as part of the High Performing Prison Awards for public sector prisons in 2004-05.

Through a determined commitment to improve, both establishments have climbed from Level 1 to Level 3 in the performance rating system in the last two years.

The Prison Service introduced the High Performing Prison Awards for public sector prisons in 2003, to celebrate the achievements of its best establishments as part of an annual system of recognition.

Director General of the Prison Service, Phil Wheatley said:

"I am proud to celebrate the achievements of our best establishments. The Most Improved Prison is a new award and the progress made by both Brixton and Dartmoor shows what can be achieved when managers, staff and unions work together to deliver a better prison.

"Dartmoor is now a safer, more secure prison delivering better outcomes for prisoners. The prison has improved rapidly since the performance test in 2003. The prison has fully embraced its Category C role, with a high level of constructive activity for prisoners. The prison's resettlement function now serves as a model for other establishments and has deservedly attracted significant external recognition."

Five establishments have been named as High Performing Prisons for 2004-05. HMPs Bedford, Frankland, Usk/Prescoed, Wayland and Whatton have been recognised for their commitment to continuous improvement against a full range of performance indicators.

### Notes to Editors

1. If you wish to interview the Governing Governor of HMP Dartmoor, Serena Watts, please contact Tony Early on 01822 892017.

2. The High Performing Prisons (HPP) awards go to establishments

that have performed consistently at Level 4 in the published ratings and have demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement against the full range of indicators. The Most Improved Establishment award has been introduced to encourage those striving for Level 4 but starting from a lower baseline.

3. The first HPP awards were issued in June 2003 to Frankland, Lancaster Farms, Usk/Prescoed and Whatton.