

HMP WHATTON RECOGNISED AS HIGH PERFORMING PRISON

Whatton Prison is one of five establishments being recognised today, receiving a High Performance Award for its exceptional work in 2004-05. This is the second time the prison has received this award.

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.

High Performing Prisons are chosen from those that have performed consistently at Level 4 in the performance ratings and have demonstrated a commitment to further improvement against the range of performance indicators.

Director General of the Prison Service, Phil Wheatley said:

"I am proud to celebrate the achievements of our best establishments. High Performing status is about more than meeting targets. As well as providing high levels of safety and security, the level of care and support provided by staff to prisoners in these prisons sets a benchmark for other establishments to aim for.

"The significant progress made by all the establishments considered for these awards highlights the commitment and enthusiasm of staff all around the Prison Service.

"The example shown by all the establishments recognised today gives me confidence that we can achieve our aim of becoming the provider of choice in the National Offender Management Service."

The other establishments named as High Performing Prisons for 2004-05 are HMPs Bedford, Frankland, Usk/Prescoed and Wayland. HMP Brixton and HMP Dartmoor have been jointly awarded the title of Most Improved Prison, a new award for this year.

Notes to Editors

1. If you wish to interview the Governing Governor of HMP

Whatton, Viv Hart, please contact Lyn Steptoe on 01949 859415.

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.