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### **HMP EXETER – GOOD PROGRESS ON SAFETY**

HMP Exeter had seen significant improvements in safety and in health care, but less progress in other areas, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the local jail in Devon.

HMP Exeter is a Victorian city centre prison holding a transient population of remanded and sentenced men and young adults, some of whom require a high level of care and/or control. Its last inspection was fairly critical.

Inspectors were pleased to find that:

- violence reduction was well managed, security was better resourced and use of force was low;
- prisoners at risk of self-harm were properly cared for;
- drug treatment had been successfully introduced, providing a good level of care and treatment for substance abusers;
- reception facilities had been refurbished and transformed;
- relationships between staff and prisoners were generally good; and
- health care had improved.

However, inspectors were concerned to find that:

- first night facilities were not consistently available;
- the needs of foreign national prisoners and prisoners with disabilities were not being adequately met;
- little progress had been made on the provision of work, education and training and almost 50% of prisoners were found locked in their cells during the working day; and
- there were backlogs in offender management and too many delays in transferring sex offenders to other prisons which could address their risks.

Nick Hardwick said:

“Exeter prison faces all the challenges of an elderly, city centre local prison, including limited infrastructure and a transient population of prisoners with a vast array of risks and needs. The prison had made commendable progress on safety, about which we had previously been very concerned. Progress was less visible in many other areas, although we recognised that managers and staff were working hard to further develop the prison and we hope these efforts will bear fruit in the coming months.”

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

"I am pleased that the Chief Inspector found that Exeter has made significant progress in the areas of safety and healthcare and that the use of force was low.

“The Governor and her staff will continue to work hard to improve in areas where less progress has been made such as purposeful activity and diversity.”

ENDS

**Notes to Editors:**

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 21 October 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 5-7 July 2011.
4. HMP Exeter holds adult and young adult prisoners on behalf of Devon, Cornwall and West Somerset.
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.