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Updated Expectations on Education, Skills and Work

We are pleased to present updated Expectations on Education, Skills and Work for men's prisons and for children in custody, which will come into effect on I February 2020.

Expectations are the criteria by which HMI Prisons inspects the treatment and conditions of those detained in prisons and young offender institutions. They are based on international human rights standards and are used to examine all aspects of life in detention.

In England, inspections of prisons and children in custody are carried out jointly with Ofsted. Ofsted inspectors lead on the inspection of Education, Skills and Work.

To ensure that establishments are held accountable to the same standard of performance as schools and colleges in the community, HMI Prisons' Expectations for Education, Skills and Work explicitly adopt Ofsted's inspection framework.

Ofsted has recently changed its inspection framework following extensive consultation. The new framework is informed by research into educational effectiveness and has a focus on the curriculum.

The framework evaluates the quality of education and training: what is being taught; how well it is being taught; and how effectively this teaching and training sets up learners to succeed at the next stage of their lives. It also focuses on learners' behaviour and attitudes to learning and work, on their personal development and acquisition of the social and employment skills they need and on the leadership and management of education and training which should make this all happen effectively.

Ofsted has applied the new inspection framework to ensure it fits well into the Education, Skills and Work context for the inspection of prison education. It has extensively shared and discussed the proposed approach with those responsible for delivering prison education

through regional dissemination roadshows for prison managers and staff. Proposals have been shared with prison governors and learning and skills managers, and meetings held with key stakeholders, such as Prison Education Framework (PEF) providers and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

Ofsted has revised its 'Handbook for the inspection of education, skills and work activities in prisons and young offender institutions' to reflect the new framework: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-education-skills-and-work-activities-in-prisons-and-young-offender-institutions-eif.

This letter confirms that the new Ofsted inspection framework has been incorporated into HMI Prisons' Expectations for Education, Skills and Work for men's prisons and for children in custody. We have today published these updated Expectations and will begin using them from I February 2020.

We have not updated the Expectations for women's prisons at this stage. HMI Prisons is currently undertaking a full review of the Expectations for women's prisons; revised women's Expectations are due to be published in April 2020 and will incorporate the new Ofsted framework: https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/about-hmi-prisons/current-consultations/. In the meantime, the existing women's Expectations are aligned with the judgements in the Ofsted inspection handbook.

We very much hope that these updated Expectations will support establishments in their efforts to improve outcomes for prisoners in Education, Work and Skills.

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