



**Prison Estate Transformation Programme**  
**HM Prison and Probation Service**  
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Dear Judi,

Thank you for your email dated 20th August, in response to Governor Moore's letter of 27<sup>th</sup> July advising that HMP and YOI Hollesley Bay has been authorised to hold Men Convicted of Sexual Offences (MCOSOs). I have been asked to reply.

I would firstly like to assure you that the legitimate concerns of local residents over this change are recognised; it is right that the benefits of testing low risk prisoners in open prisons as they approach release are weighed carefully against the overriding need to protect the public from harm.

In managing the prison population and capacity we need to provide the right type of place for offenders that are appropriate to their risk. This means that where necessary we will change the function (i.e. the type of prisoner an establishment can hold) of a prison to suit demand. There is no formal set of rules applied when making these decisions, rather the decision is based on the prison's ability to provide the right environment and rehabilitative culture.

There are no plans to change the prison from an open establishment, designated to hold category D prisoners who have been assessed to present a low risk to the public. As with current arrangements, the prisoners who will be coming to this prison will be coming towards the end of their sentence or serving a shorter sentence in the first place. The prisoners will

have been helped to change their lives while in closed conditions and will have passed a robust risk assessment.

As Governor Moore set out in his letter to you, there are now 4,000 more MCOSOs in prison than in 2010, many of whom are considered low risk. HMPPS already holds this type of prisoner successfully in open conditions at HMPs Leyhill, North Sea Camp, and Prescoed. However, with the size of this group of prisoners increasing, additional establishments with suitable rehabilitative regimes needed to be identified.

There is no intention to proceed with this population change without full consideration of any concerns raised. We expect that it will take several months to plan implementation, and we will only proceed with introducing the new offender group when we are satisfied that this can be delivered safely without putting the public at risk.

Yours sincerely

Stacey Tasker