Dear Governor,

In response to the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak and the ‘Cohorting Guidance’ issued on 31/03/2020, please see below for updated guidance regarding laundry processing for all Public Sector Prisons.

**Clothing and linen laundry processing:**

All sites that have a **Reverse Cohort Unit (RCU) and Protective Isolation Unit (PIU)** will use water soluble (Alginate) bags for all of the linen present in the individuals’ accommodation unit. All bedding, towels and Prison issue clothing should be placed in the water soluble bags, which will then be sealed and placed in a red banded laundry bag (or a normal laundry hamper which is then identified with a wide red band).

The bags will be sent to the Clothing Exchange Store (CES) where they will be stored separately ready for despatch to the industrial laundry.

Any private personal kit should be placed in a net bag and should be taken for processing at the nearest domestic washing machines. This should be processed on the highest temperature possible for the items. Water soluble bags should only be used if the soluble bag is suitable for the wash temperature being used (please check with the PSPI Laundry team if unsure). All movement of work should be done using suitable PPE and processes.

 ***PSPI Recommendation****: Whilst an individual is infected or suspected of infection, they should be asked to wear Prison issue clothing since this can be washed in a thermo-chemical disinfection process, whereas Private kit cannot be processed to this level.*

For those sites with a **Shielding Unit (SU) or other locations** where there are no confirmed or suspected Covid-19 cases, all Prison issue laundry should be sent to the industrial laundry in the normal laundry hampers as per the usual process.

Private personal kit should be processed as per the usual process, however, care should be taken to reduce the risk of cross contamination in instances where there are shared facilities with other cohorts.

The PSPI laundry team will monitor the availability of water soluble bags and where required will agree to increase the ordering cap for individual sites. The PSPI laundry team will make sure that all work sent to the industrial laundries is processed and returned as quickly as possible. As of the date of this note, the majority of the 33 industrial sites are operational, nonetheless, PSPI have identified a minimum number of processing sites that they will work with to process work for the whole estate. In the event there are breakdowns or a reduction in service, work will be washed, dried, folded and returned as quickly as possible to your site. However, it is extremely likely that at this point the return of laundry will be extended and it is recommended that you look at your available stock levels to make sure that there is sufficient kit available to last for 7 days.

Separate to this note, PSPI have issued a flowchart for ease of reference to processing washing, ‘Coronavirus kit handling v2 update’.

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