**Prison video work: allowing site access to contractors and staff**

* During the COVID-19 pandemic, we worked with establishments to open up video links by installing Cloud Video Platform Video Meeting Rooms (CVP VMRs). Subsequently, and in response to the unprecedented demand for video links, work is progressing to increase prison video capacity across the entire custodial estate (public and private) through the Prison Video Capacity Expansion (PVCE) project and the delivery of Video Conferencing Centres (VCC).
* The work of the PVCE project is to deliver additional prison video capacity, primarily aimed at ensuring that offenders can maintain access to legal professionals, probation and other critical professional services via video links as part of case or sentence progression and so that parole hearings can be held remotely.
* Establishments with no existing video equipment have the opportunity to get prison video installed, and those with existing equipment will get additional capacity. You will also appreciate the operational benefits this approach brings as well as the potential to mitigate prisoner concerns over access to justice and parole hearings in these exceptional times.
* We are working within very tight timescales, and with a finite capital budget that was allocated specifically for this task, and the proviso that it be spent by March 2021. Therefore, in order to deliver the programme, a number of scoping, technical and enabling surveys must take place prior to the necessary installation activities.
* In parallel to the estate-wide PVCE project work, the team is continuing to deliver the VCC design and construction activities at HMPs Hewell, Thameside, Berwyn, Birmingham, Altcourse, Preston, Norwich, Nottingham, Exeter, Bronzefield and Belmarsh.
* Maintaining momentum and traction for both of these workstreams is vital and it is therefore critical that those involved in that work, from a number of organisations (Vodafone, PMG, MoJ Estates and their contractors, Amey), as well as members of the PVCE project team, can undertake this work with establishments.
* Wherever practically feasible, Governors and Directors are asked to consent to colleagues and contractors visiting their establishments to permit this work to continue, as they would other key workers. Because of the critical nature of this work, the HMPPS project team and our supply partners are categorised as key workers, and all are briefed on the latest HMPPS Covid guidance and instructed to comply with local policies and directions when visiting establishments.
* All visits are arranged via an establishment’s nominated SPOC.  Any concerns regarding access to an establishment should be initially addressed to reconfigurationpmo@digital.justice.gov.uk.