**Addendum to National Restrictions Briefing**

Any further updates to the guidance on the November restrictions in England will be added to this document.

1. **Faith services** any corporate worship or communal services within the faith space that involve prisoners mixing from different areas must be suspended in line with the community and our approach in Wales, though pastoral services must continue. Establishments may still allow individuals from the same regime group to attend an activity such as small prayer group where the suspension of this support would cause a significant detrimental impact or risk supports this activity. Such activities must be covered by a local risk assessment for security and COVID safety and approved by the PGD. This will be subject to further review.
2. **Access to opened workshops** can be maintained where COVID safe operations are already in place. Establishments cannot open new work areas or workshops without the explicit permission of GOLD command, but can maintain access to existing facilities. Social distancing must be maintained at all times and activities must be confined to existing regime groups. Prisoners must remain in the activity they are allocated to and new prisoners can be added to activities in line with existing allocations processes, however prisoners should not move between regime groups and activities as we need to minimise mixing between regime groups as much as possible.
3. **Access to education areas** can be maintained where COVID safe operations are already in place. Establishments cannot open new education areas but can maintain access to existing facilities. Social distancing must be maintained at all times and activities must be confined to existing regime groups. This service is run by external partners meaning that this position may change. Prisoners must remain in the activity they are allocated to and new prisoners can be added to activities in line with existing allocations processes, however prisoners should not move between regime groups and activities as we need to minimise mixing between regime groups as much as possible. Establishments will be informed of any updates.
4. **Staff Training.** In general, non- essential training is being suspended but any essential activity and training can continue. This means that POELT Training, including use of force elements, as well as specialist operational training that is necessary to maintain competence of staff in specialist roles should continue during lockdown where SOPs are in place and it is safe to do so. However, all other training, including locally delivered refresher use of force training (Personal Safety, C&R and MMPR) must be paused for the duration of the National Restrictions(until the 2nd of December)
5. **Regime Groups clarification**. During our initial COVID response, the regime group has been defined as a group of prisoners who have daily access to exercise and domestic periods together. With more activities and services running its meaning has also extended to those accessing work, education or any other regular activity together. This means that prisoners are likely to be part of different regime groups, e.g. one for domestic time and one for attending regular activities/work. Therefore we define:

**Household-** One or more prisoners living in the same cell.

**Domestic Regime Group**- (Exercise and Domestic periods) Group of households from the same location/unit/house block who are accessing regime together.

**Activities Regime Group**- (Workshops and Activities) Group of prisoners from one or more domestic regime groups accessing regular service/activity/work together.

Regime Groups mixing

Mixing Regime Groups should be avoided as much as possible. During the period of National Restrictions (at least until 2nd of December) it is a requirement that all activities must be limited to one regime group at a time. This is also considered a good practice beyond this time.

This means that no two or more regime groups shall mix (notwithstanding the removal of prisoners from regime areas due to security/H&S reasons). Prisoners must therefore remain in the activity they are allocated to with no unnecessary movement between groups and activities.

When allocating new prisoners into an activity area, establishments may want to choose individuals from the domestic regime groups already represented in this area. This would minimise the need for mixing of prisoners from different parts of establishments but is not required as it may be deemed operationally challenging.

Consistency within the regime group

What is more, the activity or work of prisoners within the group should be organized in the way that avoids irregular mixing of individuals, (e.g. ***dividing tasks in a consistent manner and allocating prisoners to only one marked workstation / area).***

For example, in a Food Packing Workshop there is one orderly prisoner purely for the control of the packing and one for the COVID Cleaning regime. Those two positions should not change. Then a stable group of packers could change round weekly with consistency and no mixing between these.

Social Distancing and Contact Tracing arrangements

Please note that members of a regime group must social distance at all times. Establishments should pay particular attention to the arrangements around “pressure points” such as gates during the arrival and departure of prisoners to ensure that Covid measures are being applied.

If one member of the regime group becomes symptomatic, only members of the immediate household(e.g. cellmates) should automatically isolate. HMPPS Contact Tracing Guidance should then be followed to determine any other close contacts who may need to isolate, within and beyond the regime