**Addendum to GOLD BRIEFING 27/11/20**

**The purpose of this briefing is to provide further explanation and expansion on elements of the Gold Briefing issued on 27 November that have subsequently been queried. The detail below is additional to the text in the Gold Briefing and should be read in conjunction with the original document.**

**Workshops**

The Industries EDM includes a list of Essential Workshops identified by PSPI. It is expected that establishments will operate those workshops already covered by an existing LOP and within this list in the post-restriction period. Establishments wanting to open a workshop from this list that is not covered by an existing LOP need to conduct a risk assessment, consult Trade Unions locally (recorded via an engagement log) and obtain PGD approval. This will then be considered by Gold.  If sites identify an urgent operational need to open a workshop not covered by the EDM list/current LOP they also need to contact GOLD for approval. Gold is currently approving a small number of essential workshops to meet critical needs to support food provision in prisons.

**Social Visits during Christmas**

The position for Christmas is an extension to the pre-existing and agreed model. Tier 1 and 2 sites should be operating social visits from 2 December unless an OCT has recommended suspension, which must be approved by Gold or local risk/resource prevents delivery. Tier 3 sites can only permit visits under compassionate grounds. In the post-restriction period, under the national tiers, we don’t expect establishments in tier 3 to permit visits, however over the festive period (from 19 December for two weeks but including the three weekend periods) establishments in tier 3 are encouraged to consider allowing social visits to enable “family contact”. This is in accordance with increased contact in the community over this period but also reflective of the additional risks over the festive period in prison which requires us to consider visits on compassionate grounds. This must be covered by an approved LOP and associated risk assessments and is subject to local Trade Union and OCT consultation.

**Use of force refresher training**

Since publication of the briefing on 27 November Gold has been made aware that the lines on C&R/MMPR refresher training has not been circulated to Trades Unions in advance of publication and consultation is required for which we apologise. Therefore, further engagement is taking place between C&R/MMPR policy leads and Trades Unions in order to issue agreed guidance at the earliest opportunity. In the interim Governors must make the “best effort” to sustain C&R/MMPR basic training in accordance with published SOP where this can be delivered in a COVID secure manner.  Where this cannot be sustained due to risk or resourcing the Governor must notify their PGD. We will publish further details shortly once there has been further engagement on this matter.

**Face to face Education**

As part of the model to revert establishments to their pre-existing regime stage from 2 December, establishments with a pre-approved LOP to deliver face to face education can reinstate this activity subject to it remaining deliverable with existing resources and OCT consultation where applicable. Delivery is subject to a number of factors, such as the contractor’s ability to consistently fulfil the requirement and is dependent on the staffing levels and outbreak status of the establishment at the current time. If a LOP is already approved allowing an establishment to deliver face to face education, this legitimately represents the model they will revert to subject to the caveats above.

**Regime Progression/Regression**

As stated in the 27 November briefing, establishments will revert to their pre-November regime position as a start point, however we recognise that prisons will not automatically be in a position to deliver the full suite of LOPs they had in place before the period of national restrictions. As such Governors will need to determine the extent of the original model that they can safely deliver in light of their current risk profile and resources, and should engage with OCTs and Trade Unions locally in order to make this judgement.

We understand that the vast majority of establishments will not be able to move to Stage 2 in the near future. We are not closing the gateway to Stage 2 but can see very limited reasons before Christmas for any requests to progress and guide colleagues to plan instead for January onwards. We recognised the requests from Governors to have early sight of the refreshed EDMs in order to proactively plan at the earliest opportunity. The submission of readiness assessments for progression from stage 3 to 2, continue to require evidence of Trade Union engagement and PGD endorsement in order to do so. All applications will then be considered by Gold. Gold will check for evidence of local TUs committee engagement and support.  If there was opposition from a TUs branch committee, Gold will not approve progression without further exploring this.

**Staff shielding**

When reviewing the risk assessment of clinically extremely vulnerable staff, line managers are asked to use the existing document found on this page : <https://intranet.noms.gsi.gov.uk/news-and-updates/news/support-and-guidance-for-colleagues-as-shielding-ends>