**Video Calling – 20/01/21**

Dear Prison Group Directors,

Please could you disseminate the below information related to the facilitation of social video calls via purple visits to your establishments.

In light of the current reversion to Stage 4 Regimes in all adult establishments, and the limits on social visits in YCS establishments, there is a need to continue to maximise the capacity of purple visits (Video Calling) across the estate. During this period of restrictions, all establishments should aim to offer each prisoner at least one video call per month, with local discretion to offer more.  All calls will remain free at the current time.

This will continue to be managed locally and delivery of calls will continue to operate on the fundamental principle of fair and equitable access for all. In addition to this, additional video calls must be based on need and establishments are able to continue to use discretion when allocating additional calls. Equally there is still a requirement to manage prisoner expectations in that there is no entitlement to video calls and the provision of additional video calls is likely to be scaled back as restrictions ease as part of the Prisons Recovery

Please direct any queries on this matter to COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk.

Kind Regards,

COVID-19 Regime Management Team