**22.02.21- PM Announcement**

Dear Executive Directors, Prison Group Directors and Governors/Directors,

You will be aware that the Prime Minister has today set out for parliament the Government’s plans to lift the national lockdown in England over the coming weeks and months, and has made a public announcement this evening. On Friday the First Minister in Wales made a similar announcement.

We are actively considering the impact of these announcements for the prison estate. Until further notice, all establishments must continue to operate their current regime level (as set out in Gold Briefing of 05/01/21 and addendum of 15/01/21). We will communicate any further updates via Gold Command later this week.  We recognise that the identification of indicative roadmap dates can increase expectations around the pace of progress but as the PM sets out we must follow the data.  We will of course continue to take a measured approach balancing the unique risks in our environment with the improving national picture.  Many will be making plans locally and we want to ensure that we support this nationally.  There will also be wider communications in the coming days to provide support in managing these expectations and how we ensure that our recovery is both safe and effective.

The detail of today’s announcement can be found in the Government’s “Covid-19 Response – Spring 2021” document which can be accessed via the link [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963491/COVID-19_Response_-_Spring_2021.pdf).

Kind Regards,

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