**Initial comms for governors on Regime Mitigations**

* As some of you may already know, work has been underway looking at winding down the regime mitigations that were introduced at the start of the pandemic.
* We have since held several engagement sessions with governors and policy officials and requested feedback on our proposed approach for winding them down
* The Prison Recovery Board (PRB) and Prisons Operational Management Committee (POMC) have agreed that we plan for a tentative deadline of winding down mitigations by the end of September.
* Given the position of the current third wave, we will review this position in mid-August, by which point we hope to have a better idea of the position in the community and across HMPPS.
* The approach remains that Governors should start planning to wind down all regime mitigations (except the use of iPads and free social video calls) by the end of September.
* Within that timeframe, Governors have discretion to tailor their approach to winding them down based on their local circumstances. Governors can choose to turn off mitigations before this deadline or consider a gradual phased reduction of some mitigations (where feasible / See Annex A). Further comms will be issued on the details of this after the late August review point
* The Board has approved the continuation of the use of iPads and free social video call visits based on feedback and our learnings and work is in motion to make these long-term products. A future charging model for social video visits may apply.
* We note that there are specific considerations for the YCS and the women’s estate, which will inform the approach taken in those parts of the estate.
* Despite the end of September deadline, there is an expectation for those sites progressing their regimes to Stage 2 and (in time) Stage 1, to phase out mitigations in line with their regime progression.
* There will, however, be opportunity to extend mitigations beyond the deadline in certain circumstances, including future regime restrictions. These requests will go through the Operational Resourcing & Stability Panel (ORSP) for financial and governance oversight. We will issue more details on this in August.
* Subject to formal review in August, if we agree to stick to current timescales, we will begin to issue formal comms to prisoners late August – early September. For the time being, please refrain from communicating any of these changes to prisoners until the formal deadline is agreed and we have shared our communications plan with you.