**Gold Brief on Stage 1 (03.09.21)**

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

Please find attached a Gold Brief on reaching Stage 1 and clarifying the progression expectations and regime requirements. As stated in the Brief, progression to Stage 1 is driven by the live COVID risk and prevalence. Whilst prisons remain high risk environments, we need to get prisons to Stage 1 wherever the COVID risk levels enable us to safely reduce controls. The Gold Brief clarifies expectations on the regime at **Stage 1 day 1** which is a ‘best effort regime’ model that the PGD is satisfied delivers safety and sufficiency of regime at the point it is safe to reduce COVID controls. The briefing also introduces workshops which we will host for Governors and Directors during w/c 13 September. These are an opportunity to discuss the national Stage 1 model and this Gold Brief guidance and for groups of Governors and Directors in each functional or specialist cohort of prisons to discuss common regime challenges and how they will approach them at Stage 1. The first prisons are also now reaching Stage 1 and a case study based on their Stage 1 progression will be issued in the near future.

If you have any queries or require any further information please contact Chris Gunderson (chris.gunderson1@justice.gov.uk)

Kind regards,

Ed,

