**Gold Brief 16 December 2021 - Update on Regime Mitigations**

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing is to update you on the process for reintroducing regime mitigations. In light of current circumstances, we have reviewed our approach. Although regime mitigations will not by default be made available across the estate, **we will to continue to allow individual sites to request the reintroduction of regime mitigations where local circumstances require it**, simplifying the application process based on your feedback.

A national reintroduction of regime mitigations would only be pursued in the event of a national reversion of establishments to Stage 3 or Stage 4 of the Framework, in line with the original intent and purpose of these mitigations.

Process for Individual Sites to Request Reintroduction of Mitigations

These regime mitigations (see details of each in **Annex A**) were introduced as a temporary measure to combat the impact of restrictions on prisoners and the consequent negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is important that where sites are operating a more restricted regime (e.g. Stage 3) or where increased restrictions are required due to local circumstances, that Governors consider temporarily introducing these mitigations. This is especially the case for sites operating at Stage 3 or sites with social visits suspended, where it is expected that some level of regime mitigations is reintroduced.

Previously we introduced a process whereby a reintroduction of mitigations could be requested through the application of a business case through Operational Resourcing and Stability Panel (ORSP). However, given the value placed on these mitigations and importance of their swift introduction**, we will be simplifying the process to allow Governors to request the reintroduction with their PGD.** Once approved, PGD’s will then need to inform ORSP of the mitigations that will be introduced to ensure central funding and support is provided, where required.

Recording the Use of Mitigations

The reintroduction of any temporary mitigations will be supported by funding from the centre therefore it is important that sites keep record of any mitigations reintroduced by either including this on their COVID Spend Log or informing their Finance Business Partner to ensure this is captured.

Impact on Canteen

Governors should be conscious of any knock-on impacts of any regime mitigations or the introduction of the wellbeing fund, resulting in increased pressures on canteen. Governors should consider ways of using the wellbeing fund aside from internally manufactured items or prisoner spend accounts.

Wellbeing Fund
In addition to these regime mitigations, we will once again be reintroducing the £10 wellbeing fund per prisoner for governors to put towards resources / materials for prisoners’ mental health and wellbeing. Further communications on this will follow in due course.

YCS and Women’s Estate
Note there may be some differing approaches to the YCS and Women’s Estate. Dedicated messaging will be sent out to clarify the details of these.

These changes will be in effect from 17 December.

Should you have any queries or concerns about this approach please contact COVID19.RegimesOpsGuidance1@justice.gov.uk

**Annex A Regime Mitigations Information Table**

* Any regime mitigations that have financial mitigations must be recorded within the COVID Spend Log or notified to your Financial Business Partner.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mitigations** | **Process for switching on** | **Considerations** | **Contact**  |
| Secure Video Calls  | Prisons can reintroduce locally by allocating additional calls – this is then reimbursed by the center | Need to consider any impacts on resourcing requirements for facilitating additional callsEnsure calls are equally distributed, ensuring additional calls only granted once everyone has had access or chance to use first one. | videocalls@digital.justice.gov.uk |
| Limiting Use of Basic | Can be reintroduced locally should circumstances require it | When no longer required establishments should plan to move back to PSO and Policy Framework Incentives Policy Framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) | Operational\_policy1@justice.gov.uk |
| Prisoner Pay (removal of payment)  | Can be reintroduced locally where circumstances require it via NOMIS. | When no longer required establishments should plan to move back to PSO and Policy Framework Incentives Policy Framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)Need to consider the impact on essential workplaces that remain open – ensuring attendance is incentivised where possible. | Operational\_policy1@justice.gov.uk |
| In cell TVs (removal of rental charge) | Mitigation (removal of charge) can be reintroduced locally where circumstances require it via NOMIS. | If reintroduced needs to be logged in COVID Spend Log | Operational\_policy1@justice.gov.uk[Incentives Policy Framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incentives-policy-framework) |
| Pin Credit | Establishment notifies central team of requirement – this is switched on centrally.Can be applied locally from local budget via ‘credit all’ option in extreme circumstances.**NB: YCS and Women’s Estate have already extended their use of additional pin credit and video calls.** | Will be retaining the cap that was previously introduced to prevent credit accruing.Governors to submit their request by midday Wednesday to ORSP to allow central team to switch on for the same week. Where this deadline is missed it can be funded locally until reintroduced centrally. | PGD to contact ORSPPrison’s Finance Business Partner |
| Temporary Mobile Pin Phones for prisoners without in-cell telephony | Request submitted to security team which will assess suitability and send out mobile phones to establishments (minimum 5 working days).  | Resourcing implications and logistics for reintroducing therefore consultation with security team is required before approval can be granted. . | mobilepinmonitoring@justice.gov.uk |
| Supplementary food packs | This was switched off by the end of September and **will not** be reintroduced. | N/A |
| iPads | Already in use | Any queries in the meantime can be directed to COVID19.RegimesOpsGuidance1@justice.gov.uk |