**Update on COVID-19 Support**

**Notice to prisoners**

When we first put in place restrictions in April 2020 to prevent the spread of infection in the prison, we also introduced some things to try and help you manage those restrictions. These measures were withdrawn at the end of September 2021 in most establishments as we started to see greater levels of regime delivery across the estate. However, in response to the impact of Omicron on the estate and greater levels of outbreak we temporarily reintroduced their use in December 2021.

The measures included secure video calling and additional phone money so you could keep in contact with your family while physical visits were not happening.

We also made sure that you all received some form of money when it was harder to work or take part in your programmes or activities as well as reducing the cost of other things like additional food, the cost of phone calls or TV rentals.

As we start to ease restrictions and open up our regimes, we will be reducing some of these measures as they are no longer necessary with greater levels of regime being delivered and social visits operating.

However, there has been plenty that we have introduced that we want to keep in place because of the clear benefits you said they have given you. As we have said before, we want to learn from COVID and use this experience to improve our prison.

We will be keeping:

* Reduced cost of phone calls
* Secure video calling as well as physical visits
* Use of computer tablet devices where appropriate for compassionate visits, assessments or education.

Alongside this notice we have provided an FAQ document with further detail. The staff in the prison also have this so they can answer any questions you may have.

Some of you may not have been in prison without COVID measures and so this will be different for you. Please speak to a peer support worker or member of staff so they can help you understand what is changing and why.

This feels like another signal that we are easing our restrictions and able to look to our future with more confidence.