**Gold Briefing – Exiting the National Framework – Update of 28 April 2022**

**Purpose**

This Gold Briefing is to provide an update on our plans for exiting the National Framework and the decision made by Ministers on the timing. It is for information only at this stage.

**Exiting the National Framework**

As you will know, work has been underway for some time now to plan our approach and the likely timing for exiting the National Framework. We have now received agreement from Ministers that the conditions are right for us to formally exit the Framework, with 80 sites now at stage 1 and the number of outbreaks being managed beginning to fall.

We therefore are expecting to exit the Framework on Monday 9th May.

As we exit the Framework we will issue operational guidance that sets out what this means for establishments and how they should continue to manage the risk of Covid. There will be a 2-week transition period where sites will be able to plan and implement the necessary changes set out in operational guidance.

Please note that prisons who are planning to progress through stages of the framework before the 9th May should still continue to do so.

This operational guidance that we issue when we exit will include:

* The Covid control measures that can be removed and those that should remain in place, as well as guidance about the ongoing management of outbreaks and continuing to work closely with health partners.
* Information on the timing and arrangements for moving away from Command mode and the stand down of Covid Gold and details of what support will continue to be available to establishments after Covid Gold has stood down.
* A link to the remaining guidance on the exceptional delivery platform, both for day to day running and the remaining live guidance if an OCT/IMT recommends the reintroduction of a control or restriction (such as visits testing)
* Information on any remaining reporting requirements.
* Separate guidance will also be provided on the future testing strategy and any ongoing testing requirements.

Further details will be provided in due course but if you have any questions before Monday 9th May, please get in touch with COVID19.RegimesAndOpsGuidance1@justice.gov.uk

**Prisons COVID Gold**