



HM Prison &  
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Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 20 August about the £100m investment in prison security measures. I am pleased that you welcome the measures. These present a significant opportunity to make improvements to prison security and support safer communities, including those in custody.

You asked for further clarification on the scale of the investment, how it will be used and how we propose to assess the efficacy of the measures. In terms of scale, the £100m is additional to the £70m previously announced. It is for the 2020-21 financial year, although we anticipate that some of this will be used in the current financial year, and that there will be some costs, such as staffing, which will continue into future years.

The investment will include enhanced gate security, phone blocking and detection equipment, as well as strengthening corruption and intelligence capabilities. These areas have been identified as priorities by assessing the level of risk and vulnerability across the prison estate.

The investment in the enhanced gate security element of the programme will include body scanners for prisoners, archway metal detectors, X-ray baggage scanners and trace detectors, as well as additional staff. We are now in the process of determining which establishments will be best placed to receive this additional investment. Decisions on where we invest in mobile phone blocking and detection will of course need to take account of other investment, such as in-cell telephony. The other initiatives in this programme will provide much needed additional capacity and capability to disrupt and prevent crime, including corruption and serious and organised crime. The 10 Prisons Project has shown the positive impact of improved security and we are very keen to build on this.

The investment will be delivered through a formal programme. We will establish success measures at the start, and will closely monitor impact throughout the life of the programme and into legacy arrangements. This is a rare chance for investment in prison security, giving us an excellent opportunity to make our prisons safer by tackling security threats and taking action to disrupt and prevent crime. I am focused on ensuring we deliver maximum value and an enduring impact.

The programme team, which is now being mobilised, and colleagues in the Security Order and Counter-terrorism Directorate will be able to update you as this programme develops.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jo Farrar