



# Statement following a review of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) inspection to Bedfordshire custody suites in 2019

## Introduction

This review has been undertaken in preparation for the forthcoming HMICFRS PEEL inspection of Bedfordshire Police, scheduled for May 2026. The objective of this review is to evaluate progress by comparing previous findings with the current position. It aims to work collaboratively with Bedfordshire Police to ensure that all identified areas for improvement, recommendations, and causes of concern have been effectively addressed.

Prior to 2019, HMIP last inspected custody facilities in Bedfordshire Police in 2014. This inspection found that of the 33 recommendations made during that previous inspection, 13 had been achieved, 11 had been partially achieved and nine had not been achieved. In 2019, four recommendations were made to Bedfordshire Police (and the Police and Crime Commissioner) addressing key causes of concern and also highlighted an additional 19 areas for improvement.

The inspection highlighted positive practices but also identified areas requiring significant improvement.

The report provides an opportunity to reinforce the importance of robust oversight and effective collaboration with Bedfordshire Police and partner agencies to ensure custody services are both compliant and continuously improving.

For full details on this the report can be accessed here - [Report on an unannounced inspection of Bedfordshire police custody suites by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons 7-17 October 2019](#)

## Actions following review of recommendations and AFI's

Following a comprehensive review of the recommendations and Areas for Improvement (AFIs), specific actions have been allocated to each relevant panel, including the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) and the Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel. These actions are designed to ensure that identified areas are actively monitored and that measurable progress is achieved in advance of the forthcoming HMICFRS inspection.



**END**