



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

Action Plan: Response to the thematic report: Restricted Status children and prisoners held in women's establishments.

Action Plan Submitted: 21 June 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Probation for England and Wales are independent inspectorates which provide scrutiny of the conditions for, and treatment of prisoners and offenders. They report their findings for prisons, Young Offender Institutions, and effectiveness of the work of probation, and youth offending services across England and Wales to Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). In response to the report HMPPS / MoJ are required to draft a robust and timely action plan to address the priority and key concerns. Action plans provide specific steps and actions to address the priority and key concerns, that are clear, outcome focussed, measurable, achievable, and relevant with the owner and timescale of each step clearly identified. Action plans are sent to HMIP and published on the GOV.UK website. Progress against the implementation and delivery of the action plans will also be monitored and reported on.



ACTION PLAN: HMIP thematic report of 'Restricted status children and prisoners held in women's establishments.

1. Rec No	2. Priority Concerns	3. Response Action Taken/Planned	4. Responsible Owner	5. Target Date
	<b>Priority concerns</b>			
1	<p><b>The current policy did not take account of the different risks posed by women and children or the particular establishments they were held in, including staffing levels and the physical security of these prisons.</b></p> <p>This had led to some leaders making decisions outside the policy. A new framework that has the confidence of leaders in both sectors and reflects both the risks posed by women and children and the security of the establishments in which they are held was required.</p>	<p>HMPPS Directorates of Security (DoS), Women and YCS will review the following policies that relate to the identification, management and review of women and children subject to Restricted Status (RS) measures, to ensure they reflect the risks posed, the security of the establishments they are held within, and provide confidence that they are managed appropriately within the parameters of the policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSI 09/2015 The Identification, Initial Categorisation and Management of Potential and Provisional Category A/Restricted Status Prisoners.</li> <li>• PSI 43/2014 Management and security of category A prisoners - internal</li> <li>• PSI 08/2013 Reviewing the Categorisation of High Security Prisoners.</li> </ul> <p>Policy holders will facilitate two working groups to review the current policies, and draft new revised policies, if required, prior to presenting them to Operational Policy Secretariat (OPS) for consideration/approval. One working group will consist of policy leads from within the Directorates of Security, Women and Youth Custody Service (YCS) to review PSI 08/2013 and PSI 09/2015, and the other will consist of Security Managers, Intelligence and Operations Managers from the Directorates of Security, Women and YCS to review PSI 43/2014.</p>	<p>Director of Womens Team</p> <p>Deputy Director YCS Operations</p> <p>Operational Manager/Policy Lead Category A Team, Security Manager, Long Term &amp; High Security Estate, DoS</p>	December 2023



		<p>The Women's and YCS Directorates will assist the policy holders in developing the necessary review documents, providing specialist advice and support with a view to developing an individualised, gender and child specific approach to assessing and managing risk in a proportionate way for RS individuals across both estates, and consider a process for widening the opportunities for RS individuals to be located in different prisons, where/if possible, to meet their needs.</p> <p>Clear guidance will be included/accompany the publication of each PSI if revised, or support policy adherence to the current policy. This will inform staff that <u>all decision making must adhere to the instructions contained within the PSI.</u></p> <p>The Women's Directorate will continue to support the local management of the RS women through Women's Estate Case Advice and Support Panel (WECASP). The WECASP is a central support oversight mechanism that is in place to provide advice and direction for the care and management of women with complex needs and RS, and to ensure those categorised as RS have access to the most appropriate regimes and interventions in line with their security status.</p>		Complete
2	<p><b>Children and prisoners in women's establishments were often unable to demonstrate progression as many could not access rehabilitative interventions, education, and other constructive activities due to their restricted status.</b></p>	<p>The Womens and YCS Directorates will undertake an assessment of the current services and interventions provided, to determine gaps in provision, and issues preventing access to appropriate interventions/support.</p> <p>The assessment will consider security implications, prison and cell location, sequencing and location of current interventions, access issues, and whether additional services need to be commissioned to support RS women and children.</p>	<p>Director of Womens Team/ Lead Psychologist, Women's Directorate</p> <p>Deputy Director YCS Operations /Lead Psychologist YCS</p>	August 2023



		<p>Findings from the assessment will be fed back to the accompanying policy reviews/leads to consider any changes in policy, to ensure that reasonable access to rehabilitative interventions can safely be achieved for RS prisoners to address their risk and needs, to achieve progress in their sentences for RS women and children.</p> <p>The Womens and YCS Directorates will use the findings from the assessments to consider the implementation of a progression strategy for RS individuals within both estates.</p> <p>The WECASP will continue to provide an overarching forum to review the individualised needs of those women categorised as RS, and when required, will support the assessment of regimes and protocols to ensure these compliment security requirements, control measures and offending behaviour needs of those who are RS.</p>		<p>December 2023</p> <p>Complete</p>
3	<p><b>Membership of the category A panel responsible for decisions on applying or removing restricted status did not include leaders from the women's estate or youth custody service as specialists in these areas.</b></p>	<p>Representatives from YCS are now invited to all National CAT A panels/reviews where RS children are discussed. The Womens Directorate will continue to attend all panels/reviews and extend their current membership from the Womens Estate Psychology Services (WEPS) Lead Psychologist to additionally include the Head of Policy and Strategy and/or WECASP Policy Lead.</p> <p>As part of the policy reviews in priority concern 1, the working groups and OPS will review the membership of the panels and the person responsible for making final decisions for RS women and children.</p>	<p>Director of Womens Team</p> <p>Deputy Director YCS Operations</p> <p>Operational Manager/Policy Lead CAT A Team, DoS</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>December 2023</p>
4	<p><b>Transfers of Restricted Status children to the adult prison estate were poorly managed and their risks in secure children's homes or training</b></p>	<p>The Transitions of Young People from the Children and Young People Secure Estate to Adult Custody Policy Framework was launched in 2022 to improve the transition of children to the adult estate.</p>	<p>Deputy Director YCS Operations</p>	<p>Complete</p>



	<p><b>centres were not assessed or responded to.</b></p>	<p>The framework and learning from the good practice identified at HMYOI Wetherby referenced in the thematic report will be reviewed to inform whether there can be further improvements when transitioning to the adult estate, including movement of any RS girl into an adult women's establishment.</p> <p>The YCS will lead a working group to review the placement policy and management of children into Secure Training Centres, Secure Children's Homes, and the new Secure School.</p> <p>The working group will review current processes to ensure that the following risks are identified and considered prior to case work teams allocating a child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions are evidence informed.</li> <li>• There is early engagement with CAT A Section, including the likelihood of whether the child will be made RS (where possible).</li> <li>• Security considerations to manage any risk appropriately.</li> <li>• The placement in proximity to their home address.</li> </ul> <p>Policy holders will draft amended policy following the review and present it to the OPS panel for consideration/approval and update the Placement guidance.</p> <p>WECASP oversees all female YCS transitions from Secure Children's Home's to the Female Adult Estate, including RS children. All young people who are transitioning into the adult women's estate will be automatically placed onto the WECASP caseload ahead of their 18th birthday to ensure the transfer handling arrangements are agreed by the Board and women's estate prior to their arrival. The WECASP offers support in the preparation for transition, including specifying what the nature and</p>		<p>March 2024</p> <p>August 2023</p> <p>December 2023</p> <p>Complete</p>
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		individual level of involvement from the WEPs team for each young person upon their arrival in the women's estate.		
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