



The Right Honourable  
**Lord Davies of Gower**  
House of Lords.  
Westminster  
SW1A 0PW

**MoJ ref:** TN78296

21 May 2020

Dear Byron,

### **BODY SCANNERS IN WELSH PRISONS**

Thank you for speaking in Baroness Humphrey's Oral Question on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020, and for your question which made reference to the May 2019 report 'Prison Provision in Wales - Fourth Report of Session 2017–19'. The report comments on the previous Minister for State's 10 Prisons Project, which, alongside several other initiatives, introduced airport-style security scanners into ten of the most challenging prisons in England and Wales. During the year-long programme there was an overall 16% reduction in assaults and a 50% reduction in positive drug tests across the ten prisons selected. During Baroness Humphrey's Oral Question, you asked whether X-ray body scanners had subsequently been rolled out across all Welsh prisons. I hope you find the below answer helpful.

The learning from the 10 Prisons Project has informed the Security Investment Programme. This is a £100m investment to tackle crime in prisons and was announced in Summer 2019. It includes installing X-ray body scanners in prison receptions on an unprecedented scale. This investment will help us to go further and move faster when it comes to improving prison security and cracking down on crime behind bars.

HMPPS has embarked on a rigorous selection process to install X-ray body scanners and other physical security measures at priority prisons in England and Wales. This selection process has considered security risk and site vulnerability and involved analysing all available data and information, including that on drug prevalence (as noted in your Lordship's question), violence and crime. Feasibility and affordability for deployment at priority prisons are being informed by site surveys. As the investment and scale of the Security Investment Programme is larger than that of the 10 Prisons Project, it also comes with an extended time scale, and we will look to complete the programme in March 2021.

In January we announced the 16 sites receiving this investment as part of the first wave of the Security Investment Programme, and we can confirm that HMP Cardiff has been selected as part of this wave. Wave One sites were scheduled to have their scanners installed in Spring and, although we were on track to meet these dates, installation has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, we do plan to have all X-ray body scanners installed in priority sites by the end of March 2021. As the next wave of site selection continues, we will inform your Lordship if other Welsh prisons have been successful in meeting the necessary criteria.

I hope this information is helpful to your Lordship and clarifies our commitment to maximise estate wide coverage of X-ray body scanners in England and Wales as part of the announced £100m security package.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken of Elie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

**RT HON LORD KEEN OF ELIE QC**