



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Bellamy KC
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Justice

Lord German
House of Lords,
London,
SW1A 0PW

MoJ Ref: TN115216

25 May 2024

Dear Lord German,

THE SITUATION AT HMP DARTMOOR

I am writing to you following my statement on 13 May on an Urgent Question on expansion of the End of Custody Licence Scheme (ECSL), specifically regarding your question on the situation at HMP Dartmoor.

As you noted in your question, HMP Dartmoor is currently operating at a reduced capacity due to the presence of radon gas detected in accommodation areas. The health and safety of staff and prisoners is a top priority for the Department, and we are closely monitoring radon levels on site and taking appropriate steps to ensure this first and foremost.

We are not able to confirm at this time when the prison will return to full operational capacity. At all times, the protection and wellbeing of staff and prisoners will be at the heart of our decision making and we are guided by experts in this area.

We will continue to keep operational capacity at HMP Dartmoor under review and will bring cells back into use once they can be safely occupied. We have already carried out some remedial works including replacement of grilles and cleaning ducts to increase airflow into cells. Work is continuing with radon mitigation experts to explore whether any further mitigations are required that will allow places at Dartmoor to reopen safely.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the House of Lords Library.

Yours sincerely
Christopher Bellamy

LORD BELLAMY KC