



UK National Preventive Mechanism
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Dear Joao Nataf,

Publication the UK National Preventive Mechanism's Eleventh Annual Report

I am pleased to share with you *Monitoring places of detention: Eleventh annual report of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020*.

The NPM's latest annual report provides a comprehensive overview of political, policy and legislative developments that relate to the treatment of people in detention and otherwise deprived of their liberty.

Our annual report welcomes significant policy developments that took place in the year, such as the announcement of an independent public inquiry into the allegations of abuse at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre and the Scottish Government's commitment to conduct an inquiry into the death of Sheku Bayoh, who died in police custody in Scotland in May 2015. I sincerely hope these important investigations provide lessons to prevent the same cases happening again.

The 21 members who make up the NPM conducted thousands of monitoring visits and inspections to places of detention in the reporting year. Our annual report collates their key findings and presents an overview of the situation in UK detention settings. Members identified issues around safety, overcrowding, drugs and self-harm in many prisons in the UK. The treatment of people with a mental health problem, learning disability and/or autism was, yet again, raised as a concern – some NPM members found many services simply unable to meet the needs of patients in these settings.

We report on the first ever visit to the UK from the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) – a historic moment for the UK NPM. A delegation from the SPT conducted the visit to the UK in September 2019. I was delighted when the SPT announced this visit, and it was a privilege to have them work with the UK NPM. During the visit, we were able to discuss some of our pressing concerns with the SPT, related to both the treatment of people in detention and the lack of legislation for the NPM. It may also interest you to read the [report to the UK NPM](#) from the SPT, and [our response](#), published 10 December 2020 (Human Rights Day).

Unfortunately, the end of the reporting year was dominated by the outbreak of COVID-19. The pandemic continues to have extreme and severe implications for people in detention. As part of their core preventive role, NPM members have adapted their monitoring approaches to safely continue fulfilling their duty to visit places of detention and report on the treatment of and conditions for those detained. Our next annual report will report on the NPM's work during the pandemic.

I hope you find this report useful. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss its content further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wadham', written in a cursive style.

John Wadham, NPM Chair