



HM Prison &
Probation Service



HM Courts &
Tribunals Service

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Date: December 2020

From: Damian McCleave, HMCTS Head of Crime, London and Dave Bamford, HMP Thameside, Director

Subject: Video Conferencing Centre at HMP Thameside

Dear Colleagues,

This letter is to provide you with an update on the work currently taking place at HMP Thameside to build a new Video Conferencing Centre (VCC). The new VCC technology and systems will upgrade the existing Prison to Court Video Link (PCVL) provision, increasing video link capacity and an enhanced service to the courts and legal community.

VCCs differ from current PCVLs in several ways, with the new equipment introduced providing the latest in quality, high-definition video and improved overall sound quality and insulation. VCC's will provide additional capacity for HMCTS, NPS, Defence community allowing additional hearing and conferences to run concurrently.

Prison staff will receive dedicated training that will embed an enhanced understanding and confidence in the new facilities and an expectation of increased utilisation.

The usual engagement approach in launching a new VCC would be to run a series of face to face events. Current COVID19 restrictions mean that our VCC engagement events will be held virtually (dates of engagement events will be cascaded to all partners and stakeholders via appropriate channels).

We will keep you informed of our progress including the confirmed 'go live' date, which we expect to be on or around the 18th of January 2020.

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