

Independent Monitoring Board  
HMP Blundeston,  
Blundeston, Suffolk



**Annual Report**  
**July 2009 to June 2010**  
**for the Secretary of State**  
**at the Ministry of Justice**

## Contents

1. The Prison	page 4
2. Report summary and Overview and Issues Raised	page 6
3. Mandatory Areas for reporting	page 10
a) Diversity	page 10
b) Segregation	page 11
c) Healthcare and Mental Health	page 12
d) Learning and Skills	page 14
e) Safer Custody	page 16
4. "Other areas of concern"	page 17
a) Prisoners' Monies	page 17
b) Prisoners Property the Facilities List	page 18
c) D Category and OASys	page 19
d) Life Sentence and "IPP" Prisoners	page 20
e) "Recalls"	page 22
f) Targets and Audits	page 21
g) Drug Strategy	page 22
h) Offending Behaviour Courses	page 23
i) Transport	page 23
j) Request and Complaints	page 23
k) Serious Incidents	page 24
l) Contracts	page 24
5. The Board	page 24
6. The Board Statistics	page 25

## Statutory Role of the Independent Monitoring Board

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Home Secretary from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

1. Satisfy itself as to humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
2. Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern which is has
- 3. To report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in custody.**

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

## The Prison.

HMP Blundeston is a category C prison situated in North East Suffolk about 4 miles north of Lowestoft. The prison was opened in 1963 with four wings of single cell accommodation intended for 288 prisoners. The cells in the original 4 wings are of minimal size, with two further wings of multiple cells being added to the main prison block in the 1970s. Two further wings, prefabricated in structure, have been added to the prison accommodation, the latter being opened in 2008. Both of these wings provide a good standard of accommodation with integral sanitation and showers.

The CNA has increased to 528 as a result of the increase in accommodation and although a new kitchen was built in the 1990's, other areas of the prison such as the gymnasium, workshops and office block still have the same capacity as when the prison opened in the "60's". An artificial surface football pitch was provided a few years ago and also a fitness room which is available to prisoners. There is a volley ball court which was also built a few years ago, but regrettably without proper foundations. As a result the court is unusable and needs a lot of work to get it into operation again.

The original four wings do not have integral sanitation, access to toilet facilities being available, on application, to a duty officer, by remote unlocking of the cell, during times, of course, when prisoners are locked up. Time limits are set for prisoners having access to the toilet facilities. This system is very unsatisfactory and is rapidly reaching the point when it will cease to function. This "Nightsan" as it is known, continues to give operational difficulties and perhaps together with the prison's location provides the most serious threat to the longer term future of the prison. **It has been recently suggested that although the cells are small, integral sanitation may be possible within the confines of each cell. Such improvements would provide the prison with a long term future and would be a good investment in such a good performing prison.** If the system collapses then the prison will become unusable, with the loss of over 400 spaces which HMPS can ill afford. The multiple occupancy cells, on F and G wings, also provide poor accommodation, but some prisoners like them as they appreciate the opportunity to share a cell with other prisoners. F and G wing cells do at least have integral sanitation, even though it is shared by the prisoners on each cell.

A number of "portakabin" type buildings have been added in the past year to provide a computer laboratory and classroom the latter being used by the "Therapeutic Community".

A huge amount of work has been carried out in the past 12 months to upgrade the laundry so that it is now able to deal with much more washing from other prisons and provide up to 40 jobs for prisoners with resulting qualifications.

Good reviews are made of the workshop facilities with an excellent range of work and training facilities being available for prisoners. These include Textiles, Carpentry, Welding, Printing, a Fork lift driving course, Painting and Decorating and Industrial cleaning. The prison also boasts an excellent, award winning, Recycling Unit. Prisoners are able to work toward qualifications including NVQ's and the Preparation for Employment Qualification, the latter looking at Health and Safety in the "Work environment". The gymnasium provides not only exercise for prisoners but also runs courses leading to sporting qualifications.

Initially, education was provided by "A4e", the Foundation Training Company. They provided a course exceedingly helpful to prisoners on release. However, FTC has now lost the contract and it has been taken over by "NACRO" which the IMB understands means a reduction in the number of trainers. How this will work out is not yet known, but in the running down of one contract and the opening of another, the help, for prisoners, in setting up banking facilities, ready for when they return to life in the community, seems to have ceased to function. This is not helpful to prisoners due for release as it hinders their chances of successful integration back into society. The new "NACRO" operation the Board are told will provide the "Banking set up facility" but we will monitor the situation to ensure this does actually take place.

"Learn Direct" are also contracted to the prison through Aquilla Training and Education. There has been a failure to provide certificates for prisoners completing courses in the prison. These are essential items which are needed to secure employment on the "outside". This has been going on for over 6 months and is related to inter-contractual difficulties. This situation is totally unsatisfactory, but like many issues relating to contractors is so difficult for the Governor and her staff to resolve. The Governor, however, is working hard to resolve the issue and ensure the provision of certificates.

"TRIBAL" has a new member of staff who works with prisoners on arrival and looks to help with work/course strategies in the prison, looking to rehabilitation for release, this has improved the standard of "TRIBAL" work

NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Healthcare are responsible for medical and Dental care in the prison. (See section on Healthcare) Suffolk Probation Service has a contract to provide services. "Job Centre plus" visit the prison regularly.

NACRO have a representative who works with the Resettlement Team, helping mainly with finding prisoners accommodation on release, but also assists, invaluable, with many other prisoner issues. The "Ormiston Trust" run the Visitors Centre. Citizens Advice and Ipswich Housing Trust also come to the Resettlement Centre. The Samaritans provide outstanding support to the prison and training for the "listener".

## Report Summary and Overview

Last year's report mentioned the success of the prison over the preceding year, in that it had been top of the former "Weighted score card" for three out of the four quarters in the year. The scorecard has now gone but the performance of the prison has remained extremely high in spite of an usually high staff sickness level in the last few months. The prison did receive "High Performing Prison" status for a few months. That status been lost, more on technicalities, as one or two of the targets, staff sickness and energy efficiency, have not been met. Nevertheless all targets related to prisoners' care, training, work resettlement, assaults, escapes, drug testing levels etc. have been achieved proving that the prison continues to provide a good caring, supportive and constructive regime for prisoners this all in spite of the poor geography and structure of the establishment and the cuts in last year's budget. This achievement is of great credit to the Governor and ALL her staff who show a great deal of commitment, expertise and professionalism in all they do in circumstances which become more and more challenging as the years go by.

The proposed budget cuts for this year are £748,000, taking other matters into consideration the prison will need to save £807,000 with a budget on 2010-11 of £12,131,300. The reduction is therefore approximately 6.2% of the overall budget and with 72% of expenditure being staff costs, regrettably there will have to be a reduction on staffing levels. The prison for some time has in fact been running on a deficit of about 11 uniformed staff short of full complement. The cuts the IMB are told, will mean the loss of 15 uniformed officers and 2 Senior Officer posts although some administrative posts will be allocated to non uniformed staff. No redundancies are proposed in the new profile. The new proposed profile was presented to the IMB, at one of our training sessions, so that we would be aware of all that was involved. The removal of 750K from the budget, we are told, is not open to negotiation but has already been taken from the funds for this current year. Wing staff strength it is proposed will be reduced from 4 to 3 officers and many of the duties of "Residential Officers" being taken over by the "Operations Group". This, we were told, would mean that the "Wing staff" would stay on the wings and be called away less often. It is clear, however, that less staff means less time with prisoners and some of the more constructive work undertaken on a day by day basis in the interaction between staff and prisoners will be lost. Everyone of course is aware of this inevitable result of the cuts, with the prison becoming more about mere containment than providing a constructive rehabilitative regime.

The P.O.A. has to date, not accepted the new profile of the budget cuts proposed and negotiations at a local level have been unsuccessful. A National dispute protocol has been started with the whole issued to be looked into at a higher level within the HMPS management structure. The whole re-profiling is therefore on hold at this time, and the IMB is told that the delay costs an extra £20-35,000 month, which will have to be found later

in the year out of the already reduced budget once the issue is resolved. This may mean even deeper cuts later in the year.

The IMB had hoped to have been able to provide at least a short term view of how the new profile was working in this report, but that is not now possible. Concerns were raised when the profile was presented to the IMB about overall security for prisoners and staff, response times when an alarm bell “goes off” and the reduction in prisoner visiting times and out of cell time. The proposed re-arrangement of “Visits” seemed very “Tight” to the IMB and we had concerns that what was proposed simply would not work. The Governor and her staff have, however, done a very thorough job with the new profile and have worked very hard to make the most of the resources available. Whether it will work time will tell.

We all now have to wait for the outcome of the “National Disputes” system and hope very much that matters are resolved quickly. To the staff’s credit the whole issue, although of genuine concern to all, does not seem to have affected morale or the day-to-day running of the prison and the interaction between prisoners and staff. Everyone is just getting on with their work in a highly professional manner.

The IMB are told that the three most important factors for prisoners are visits, food and the mail. The mail is often slow reaching the prisoners, the food struggles to maintain its high standards and visiting times are going to be reduced by the new profile. It is suggested that these issues may lead to increased prisoner unrest within the establishment and it will need all the undoubted professionalism of staff in staff/prisoner relations to “hold the ship steady” at this time. The last month of the reporting period has seen 3 nasty “prisoner on prisoner” assaults. It would be a great pity if all that HMP Blundeston has achieved in recent years were spoiled by the budget cuts and the industrial relationship difficulties.

The new computer system was rolled out in Blundeston some months ago. The IMB understands P-Nomis has now been rolled out across the whole prison estate and it is reported that “the server” is now deemed insufficient to support all its functions and needs to be upgraded. The rolling out at Blundeston went really well, in no small measure to the excellent training officer and his assistants. Most of the IMB have received training but as yet despite the benefits, the overall response to P NOMIS is negative and that in many ways the system is “not fit for purpose”. The main problem encountered by Blundeston IMB involves prisoners’ private cash. **See the section on prisoners’ monies for full information.**

The prison has been required to introduce a computer programme for flexible rostering. The IMB are informed that this new system which was purchased for a huge sum of money from a commercial company and then modified, is less efficient than one produced by a member of staff at the prison for little or no cost at all. It seems, as so often has happened in the past with Government introduced computer systems, they are not fit for purpose, in spite of the huge sums of money spent to provide the IT. It seems over the past years more “IT” has

been considered the answer to problems within many national institutions and it was believed that the new computer system would solve many of the Prison Service's ills. HMP Blundeston's experience is that "IT" does not solve problems it creates them. Prison staff seem to have to spend more time interacting with computer screens than prisoners.

Prisoner Property continues to be the major reason for IMB applications from Prisoners. The same applies for Request and Complaints applications for the prison itself where property concerns were way and above any other category of complaints.

Recently the IMB discovered that even when the Ombudsman makes a finding against NOMS, not Blundeston prison in this case, there is a huge delay in responding to pay out compensations. For years IMB's have drawn HMPS's attention to its totally inadequate management of prisoners' property and yet things fail to improve.

### Concerns raised for the Minister.

The IMB is of course aware that the Minister is very new in post following many years of government by another administration and that many of the areas of concern relate to policy decisions and management that are not attributable to the present Government.

This time therefore is an opportunity to change many things within the prison system and we would urge that our concerns are noted when looking at what is right for the future realising that the IMB are "eyes and ears" of the public and of the Minister in the prisons and we are very much aware of what is really going on in the prison on a day to day basis.

**Our great concern** relates to the reduction in funding at the prison this year and almost certainly next year, when more cuts are already publically stated by the Government due to the severe economic crisis, the country finds itself in.

With the current budget reduction, what happens is that front line staffing is reduced. These are the officers who deal with the prisoners and maintain the security of the prison day in and day out. Part of the role of staff is to interact with the prisoners in their care and work towards their rehabilitation. This is above all the courses which prisoners can carry out to work address their offending behaviour and so on. This interaction is such a vital part in the role of the prison and there is no real substitute for such work, as it really one of the basic elements in the life of the prison. The loss of 17 staff will inevitably reduce that function for prison staff. Prisons will go back to being just places of containment and the degree of the good work will be reduced. Prisoners will leave the prison less able to stay away from their criminal ways and some of the benefit from their sentence will be lost. The IMB would therefore urge that with future funding there is no need for the further reduction in uniformed staff. Over the years the IMB has watched the ever increasing burden of targets, audits and statistics being placed on the prison. Most of it is for political ends and Government control. There must surely be a huge scope for cuts in these areas within HMPS

and not the continual reduction in front line staff. The new computer system seems to take longer for staff to complete all the input so more time seems to be spent by officers relating to computer screens than with prisoners.

The IMB had hoped to have been able at least to give some report on the affects of the cuts but due to the Industrial Relations dispute we are not able to do so. However the reduction in staffing is about 14% and you can't do with 86% what you can do with 100%. The IMB would therefore urge a radical look at the uses of funding within HMPS and focus the funding of front line staff and courses which work to deal with offending behaviour and away from the ever burgeoning bureaucracy.

Less emphasis should be placed on "IT" as if "IT" is the answer to all ills and provide simpler bureaucracy so officers spend more time working with prisoners.

**Some of these concerns were raised in last year's report and yet there has been no improvement so we respectfully mention them again**

The IMB is informed that for Life Sentence prisoners the Parole Board is stipulating "one to one work with a psychologist". However such work is not available within the Category C prison estate and such a requirement makes the situation very difficult for the prison. There is, the IMB are informed, a small amount of funding for such work but nothing like enough to cope with the recent demands. The Minister is urged either to provide the required funding within the Category C estate for psychologists or impress upon the Parole Board that the insistence on such a requirement for Life Sentence prisoners in Cat C prisons should no longer be made. **See section on "Lifers" for more information.**

The Parole Board has a huge caseload particularly with the large number of recalled prisoners and there are the long delays which causes much frustration among prisoners when target times for decisions are not met. It seems to the IMB that sometime the reasons for recalling a prisoner are rather minor. Discretion has been taken out of the hands of supervising probation officers with strict rules, laid down by the Government for breaches and recalls. It would seem that if more discretion was given in some situations, Probation Officers are the professionals and in touch with the prisoner, then there may be fewer unnecessary recalls and the workload for the Parole Board would be reduced. The same applies for IPP prisoners and lifers leading to a reduction in prison numbers

Foreign national prisoners whose "immigration status has not been resolved by the UK Border Agency have to be retained in custody beyond their sentence expiry date. More efficient decision making is required from UKBA to prevent these unhappy occurrences.

### Concerns to the Prison Service

When managing budget cuts focus away from cutting front line staffing levels

Sort out P-Nomis. Regrettable it is too late to request that the system was not brought into operation before it was really working properly.

Alter the roll over time for prisoners' monies to make the system more efficient. **See section on prisoners' monies.**

Bring in a National Facilities List, to prevent the many anomalies about what prisoners are and are not allowed in each establishment. **See section on Facilities List**

Resolve the anomalies in the Request and Complaints Procedure. **See section on R&C's**

Understand the increasing difficulties in moving segregated prisoners who are "Lifers", IPP prisoners or prisoners on IDTS. **See section on Segregation**

Provide funding for integral sanitation on A,B,C,D, wings and so ensure a healthy future for the prison. Having spent so much money upgrading the laundry it would seem perverse to put the prison's functioning at risk through a breakdown in the "Nightsan" system. **See opening section on the Prison.**

## Diversity

There are a high percentage of prisoners of minority ethnic backgrounds at HMP Blundeston. the figure is usually between 40 and 50%, and yet in spite of the potential for racial and ethnic problems there is remarkably little trouble. This is of great credit to the staff who maintain a positive, unbiased and constructive approach to all prisoners and do not tolerate inappropriate behaviour between prisoners themselves.

The prison of course provides a vast array of statistics of monitoring which they share with the IMB. Those facts and figures provide evidence that there is no ethnic bias in the distribution of work, adjudication," D" category decisions and so on.

The IMB has a member on the REACT team who monitors the results of Racial Complaints. The view is that they are handled well and there are no concerns that the prison is not properly investigating racial complaints properly.

The diversity process, the IMB is informed, is to change and ensure diversity issues are investigated within the remit of RRLO and the REACT team. Issues such as gender and age discrimination will be monitored and "RIF" forms will become "DIF" forms.

The prison is involved in joint operations with the Norfolk NHS Diversity Lead Team to look at best practice and to support each other in the promotion of the diversity issues within their respective working environments. This is such an encouraging development showing how seriously the prison takes "Diversity" and will not rest "on its laurels" and is ever looking to ensure that standards are improved.

The RRLO has changed in recent weeks and the IMB are grateful to the previous RRLO in the support he has given to the IMB and the openness with which he has dealt with our concerns. We look forward to a similarly good relationship with the new RRLO.

There have been less racial discrimination complaints made to the IMB in the past 12 months. They would usually come as “Confidential Access” to the chair. Within the whole issues of Diversity, as was mentioned last year, great care must be taken to ensure that the prison does not allow the spread of religious extremism and that officers are not intimidated by the threat of racial discrimination investigations. The way investigations have been handled previously has been just and fair and therefore no one should fear investigation when they have done nothing wrong.

### Segregation

Previous IMB reports have highlighted the segregation unit as being one of the “Jewels in the Crown of HMP Blundeston. The Board has every confidence in the way prisoners are treated within the unit whether there for their own protection or the court order or discipline of the prison.

The staff in the unit are always open and responsive to IMB members and allow us full access to prisoners at all times. Many of the prisoners in the unit are the most difficult to deal with within the prison system and yet calm, careful and yet firm management helps those prisoners to settle down and to cope when they are segregated from the rest of the prison.

The IMB is grateful to the Governor for arranging that all segregation reviews would take place on Monday afternoons. This has ensured that Board members have been able to attend the majority of both 72 hour and 40 day reviews. The standard and care applied at the reviews by the Governor responsible has been very high. Many of the strategies for prisoners are inevitably for their move to another prison. However, at times prisoners are returned to normal location. All prisoners are given a full opportunity to express their views, which are very much listened to. As is mentioned later in the report, Healthcare staff are under a lot of pressure and therefore usually only attend reviews when the prisoner has medical issues. “Healthcare” are always available by phone if they views are deemed to be required. Sometimes the prison chaplain will attend also.

The Chaplain and a member of the Healthcare staff visit every prisoner every day.

IMB members, of course, regularly visit all the prisoners in the segregation unit, independent of the review times, and make sure all is well and that there are no issues which have arisen since the last review which need that dealing with the is a matter of urgency.

It seems that over the past year it has become more difficult to move prisoners from the unit. This is partly due to the increase in the prison population, lack of spaces in other prisons and possibly, more significantly, the number of IPP prisoners who are segregated. These prisoners, and life sentence prisoners, have more complicated criteria for their moves which inevitably results in delay. The other group of prisoners for whom it is difficult to arrange moves to other prisons when they have been segregated are those on the IDTS drug scheme. Although prisons are not permitted to have a quota the number of IDTS prisoners they hold it seems, in practice, they do. This is attributed partly to the number of Healthcare staff available to distribute the medication. So on that basis it seems most prisons have their "full quota" of prisoners on the scheme and they have even levels of the medication available related to cost. A prisoner on a high maintenance dose is harder to move than one on a lower dose, due to the cost of the medication. Some prisoners at Blundeston are on "Subutex" and this medication is not available for IDTS prisoners in many prisons with the subsequent increased difficulties in moving the prisoner on "Subutex" maintenance to a suitable and willing prison. Nevertheless in general prisoners do not spend excessive times in the unit.

One prisoner has spent many months in the segregation unit. This has been made inevitable because of his particular needs. The prisoner is actually stable, mentally, in the unit much more so than on normal location. The delay in getting the right people to see this prisoner and make the relevant decisions is giving real concern to the IMB.

The paperwork in the unit is usually fairly accurate and gives the Board had no cause for concern.

The use of mechanical restraints and the special cell is minimal. The IMB duty team are always informed, by phone if a prisoner is retained in the Special Cell. No prisoner has been held for more than 24 hours, in special accommodation, in the past 12 months.

The new proposed PSO for segregation proposes that all prisoners may not necessarily be searched on entering the unit. The IMB struggles to see the wisdom of such a rule, even prisoners there for their own protection may conceal an item which may be used to "self harm" and those for "GOOD" may have weapons or drugs secreted on their person. Therefore for the safeguarding of both prisoners and staff searching should be the norm.

### Healthcare and Mental Health

The prison has a small Healthcare unit and their services are always much in demand. It has been mentioned previously, but pro rata the use of prescribed medication by prisoners is much higher than it would be for the same profile of men in the community.

The length of the "medication queue" each day is indicative of this high prescribed drug use as probably varying medication is required for some prisoners to help them through their

sentence. There is a perceived view that prisoners do not get the same level of medical care that that would receive in the community and that while in prison medical conditions will remain untreated or at least dealt with later than they should have been, with serious consequences for their lives. It is also true that prisoners will try and use their medical needs to gain advantages and exploit their position.

In the light of the above there are many challenges of Healthcare staff who in general do very well, and the IMB is grateful to the Unit manager for his openness and cooperation as we inevitably need to pursue applications related to the treatment provided.

The contract for the Unit is with Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT, which has a new Chief Executive who responded favourably to a letter from the Board about Healthcare and how we deal with our concerns. As Healthcare is contracted out the IMB has to deal with the contractor and not the Governor, who herself is in a similar position. A line of communication has now been opened. A new complaints procedure for prisoners is also being introduced and it is hope that these measures will bring in an improvement, not so much in the care, but in the perception that the care is adequate.

The doctors who visit the prison come from a local GP practice. The doctors share the duties so often prisoners will not regularly see the same doctor and this has continuity issues for some treatment needs. Because of the perception as above and the fears of prisoners and yet, as mentioned above, the desire for prisoners to manipulate the system means the job is challenging and often prisoners will complain when they don't get what they want and yet they have had what they need. Prescription medication is a valuable asset for prisoners among the wheeling and dealing which goes on in the establishment.

In and out patient hospital treatment is provided by the James Paget Hospital. Escorts and bedwatches are part of prison life and yet have to be maintained against the background of staffing reductions. What prisoners are told as to what treatment/medication they need when back in the prison does not sometimes agree with their discharge notice and again this causes concern for the IMB. It is a difficult area for the IMB as we cannot move onto confidential medical areas and of course have no access to the doctor who has discharged the prisoner/patient. Recall appointments, with dates and times, have, of course, to be kept from the prisoner, this because of the security implications of the prisoner, knowing the when and where of his next appointment. Again such a situation causes anxiety for the prisoner who feels he has no access to take himself back to the hospital for some follow-up. As ever with prisoners, little things become bigger things when they have time to think and worry and quite regularly their concerns are passed on to the IMB. These are difficult areas for us to resolve and these comments are only made so it can be understood the challenges which face of the Board in dealing with Healthcare issues.

The IDTS scheme is also mentioned here as it is to be dealt with “in house” in the future rather than through the PCT. Distribution of the medication is a real challenge to the nursing staff. Complaints were made of medication, more or less being given out a corridor. This seems to have changed in recent weeks but the IMB looks forward to the new profile be implemented, in that as part of the arrangements of the new profile medication will be distributed to each cell and the IDTS scheme operating from room, rather than the triage window.

The Governor has informed the IMB that the supply of medication for the prison is to be changed as the previous supply through Norwich prison pharmacy has been less than

The issue of dental treatment has again been raised by the IMB. A prisoner complained that he had been waiting many weeks for an examination. The Dental Surgery Assistant informed the Board that there were 114 prisoners on the waiting list and that they were likely to wait 19 to 20 weeks for an examination. Prisoners who had had an examination were likely to wait 21 weeks for treatment and that treatment lists had been made for 70 prisoners with another 55 who needed treatment and yet will not be on a list for that treatment to be carried out. This means that there are 125 prisoners awaiting treatment and the 114 prisoners awaiting examination. These statistics must raise cause for concern. The IMB is informed that often a majority of appointments for “that day” have to be cancelled to treat those prisoners with dental emergencies. Such management of course delays routine treatments. Recently a Dental Hygienist has started working in the prison and it is hoped that her input in dealing with basic oral hygiene treatment will free the dentist to carry out more complicated treatment and so reduce the large waiting list.

## Learning and Skills

Although the IMB is required to report on this area of the prison we would highlight the exceptional work carried out. Much could be written, to give lots of detail, but concentration will be focused on those exceptional areas. Education for all levels of need and interest are of course provided. Over 500 of the 520+ prisoners normally held at HMP Blundeston have some sort of purposeful activity during the day.

The award winning Induction process for new prisoners provides an excellent start to life at HMP Blundeston. The resettlement/labour control area is a quite splendid facility and with the improvement in the work of “Tribal” is now even better. The “Tribal” representative can work with prisoners through their learning and skills plans and prisoners can return for progress reports and updates. The “Resettlement room also doubles as a drop-in centre and is available to prisoners on a daily basis where they can seek help on all sorts of issues, some related to accommodation and other matters concerning their release. The environment of the drop-in centre is excellent, it gives the feeling of not being in a prison and it really makes the prisoners feel that the prison is interested in them and their future.

The workshops offer a range of courses and work leading to recognised qualifications ranging from NVQ's in textiles, sport and catering, City and Guilds in Painting and Decorating, MIG and TIG in the welding shop and diplomas in Waste Management and Forklift truck driving. The award winning and quite brilliant Waste Management continues to provide useful and constructive employment and yet at the same time it helps the prison with its costs recycling so much waste material. There is also thriving small market garden with greenhouses producing all sorts of interesting plants and vegetables.

Regrettably, as mentioned earlier in the report, certificates for some prisoners for courses they have completed have not been forthcoming. The problem lies with the contractors and funding and yet that is no help to prisoners who need the certificates when they apply for jobs on release or find employment when they have left prison. The issue that has been going on for months just demonstrates the problems outside contracts provide for the Governor. Such contracts are fine when they work but when they don't it is so hard for a resolution to be found. With the tightening of budgets everywhere difficulties with funding of the course qualifications is likely to increase. When the prison is doing all it can to rehabilitate prisoners and they themselves have worked hard to complete the courses to further their lives the failure to supply certificates is "less than helpful" in promoting the prisons mission to help Prisoners lead law abiding lives both in prison and on release.

The IMB had a very interesting presentation from the acting head of the Gymnasium staff. It is really a centre of excellence providing 10,000 hours of purposeful activity per month, 4.5 days are taken up with NVQ qualification courses. 150 prisoners have reached level 1 NVQ in the last 12 months; all staff have teacher training qualifications. This is quite remarkable as the gymnasium has not been enlarged since the prison was opened and is really quite a poor facility for the size of the establishment. The PE staff still manage to achieve such amazing results, the best, so we believe, in the Eastern Region. As mentioned earlier the volleyball court, so we are told, was badly constructed and needs a complete re-build. To do so would improve the facilities available to prisoners and the IMB would hope that funding can be found.

Education is provided by A4e who have developed a 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum. Courses ranging from basic literacy and numeracy to the Open University are available to prisoners according to their specific needs..

An aviary built last year has 2 resident Barn Owls who have been injured at some time and therefore are highly suited to such an environment and hopefully they provide at interesting diversion for prisoners.

## Safer Custody

The prison has just re-written its violence reduction policy which will completely change the ways that violent and anti-social behaviour is reported and investigated. The aim is to reinforce a 'Zero-Tolerance' policy by taking a multi-agency approach to reporting and managing all instances of violence.

The new strategy will mean prisoners are placed on "Violence Measures" for violent or anti-social behaviour, towards staff or other prisoners. Prisoners identified as perpetrators will be subject to IEP downgrades, regular multi-agency reviews, referrals to "Offender Supervisors" and close and open monitoring by staff. A central database will be maintained as a reference point for staff when completing Investigations or for general information purposes.

Identified Violence Reduction Liaison Officers (VRLO's) will be trained in Motivational Interview techniques and will assist in the Investigations following instances of violence.

The prison complies with the requirement to open ACCT documents for prisoners who are at risk of self harm. The list of prisoners on "ACCT's" is always available to the IMB, but we only tend to see prisoners we are asked to see or those in the segregation unit. To visit those on the wings would draw attention to them and perhaps make them more vulnerable.

The prison provides good first night care, but being a training prison every reception has come from another prison so usually there are not the acute needs of prisoners spending their first night in prison. The induction process, as mentioned above, is very good and is designed to quickly settle a prisoner into the establishment and so minimise the risk of self harm.

A number of prisoners suspected of bullying are regularly placed in the segregation unit under GOOD as the prison strives to eliminate bullying from the establishment. This is good to see as too often the victim rather than the perpetrator would end up being segregated under pressure of the bullying or being in debt. At times though action against the bully can be slow meaning the victim ends up in the segregation unit with a subsequent move to another establishment. Such moves are frustrating for prisoners especially if they are on courses.

As mentioned, in the earlier part of the report, there have been 3 nasty "prisoner on prisoner" assaults. Targets on assault levels are very tight now for the prison which will have to work hard to ensure they are met.

As mentioned last year, HMP Blundeston has an excellent team of "Listeners" trained by the local "Samaritans". They provide an essential resource for troubled prisoners. The IMB regularly attend the awards ceremony for new "Listeners", which is one of the most

encouraging times in the prison. “Listeners” find their work really helpful as it allows them to put things back into society and often help someone “worse off than themselves”. The problem is that many of the “Listeners” quickly move on to D CAT establishments as they are the sort of prisoner likely to be deemed suitable for open conditions. This means that there is a continual need to train more. The “Listener” training is quite tough so any prisoner who completes the course has done really well. The prison is indebted to the local “Samaritans” for all the excellent work they do.

An IMB member sits on the “Safer Custody” committee which reviews ACCT documents and looks at Violence Reduction strategies.

## Other issues.

**Only issues of concern or excellence are mentioned in this section.**

### Prisoners Monies

As mentioned earlier the introduction of P-Nomis has caused real problems with prisoners’ monies. Astonishingly private cash only “rolls over” once a week, at midnight on a Saturday. Any monies which are to “roll over” have to be in the prisoner’s account at least 3 days ahead of the “roll over”. That may seem fine, and it could be once a prisoner is settled in. However for new prisoners with no money on arrival and yet being sent money by a relative “to bridge the gap”, it means that the money will not “roll over” on Saturday unless posted at least at week before being required. The post can be slow at the prison. No money is therefore available for canteen that week so the prisoner is unable to order anything. He has to wait for the following week to order, usually on a Friday and wait delivery the next week. Tobacco is the worst problem, many prisoners, whether it is approved of or not, are addicted to tobacco and tobacco is also a currency within the prison. A prisoner can be in the prison three weeks almost without tobacco. The prison will help out with smokers’ packs but then the prisoner will only get one. The choice is to borrow and then get in debt. The “interest” rates are high and so through no fault of his own a prisoner can be in debt and vulnerable. The IMB are sometimes involved asking a “Governor” to sanction extra smokers’ packs, all because P Nomis is so poor. It was better under the old system and it is amazing that with technology being so good and these days being able to transfer money from a Post Office to any part of the world in 10 minutes that such a system was ever deemed suitable.

It is even worse when the prisoner has come from another prison and has to wait when money rolls over at the other prison and then be transferred to Blundeston and then roll over here. Dates of when the money was sent into the other prison then come into consideration and the sending prison may not send them money to Blundeston and so it has to go back to the relative and be resent. Sometimes there are doubts about the relative so the prison is reluctant to send it back and IMB’s can spend lots of time sorting it all out.

HMP Blundeston, both staff and IMB have been trying to get £600 transferred from another Eastern region prison since February either to the prisoner or back to the relative. Trying to get responses from other prisons is really hard work. The new cjsm.net system for IMB chairs has helped immensely with inter IMB communication and is helping to improve the resolution of these issues since the introduction of P-Nomis prisoners' monies issues have got worse. The system is not fit for purpose and needs to be completely re-thought. The degree of inertia is immense; above all the once a week "roll over" needs to be abandoned and money "rolled over" each day.

Registered mail has been a problem with allegations of money going missing at the prison. New protocols are being used to eradicate the problem. It is essential for the peace of mind of everyone concerned that every Registered Letter is opened in the presence of the prison and signed for. The IMB is aware that an investigation 6 months into the reporting period failed to find evidence either way as to where the money had gone. The prison, to its credit, has ensured that no prisoner "is out of pocket" as a result of money which "has gone missing".

Delays with monies also relates to the ordering from catalogues. Prisoners are only allowed certain items, trainers to stereos as part of the IEP scheme. Orders are placed with either of the 2 available catalogues once a month. If monies have not rolled over the prisoner will have to wait for another month. Orders take a long time to come and when they are "wrong" there are huge logistical problems in getting goods exchanged. Sorting out the money in and out of prisoners accounts can be fraught with difficulties and officers spend time trying to sort these things out for the inmates on their wing. The IMB asked the Governor if things could be speeded up but was honest enough to tell us that with the limited staff available she could not provide any quicker service.

The IMB are told that with the New Computer system it is possible for a prisoner's account to remain open even after he has moved from the prison. This makes it possible for money arriving after the prisoner has left to be entered into that account. Unless the prisoner or a relative makes enquiries it is possible for the money to fail to be identified as to ownership and remain at the sending prison. There are complications even when every effort is made honestly to sort the money and the resolution of such issues is very challenging. New rules to be imposed by HMPS following the loss of a High Court case with regard to money and property confiscation, if properly applied, it is hoped will sort out money transfer issues which at this time are a nightmare to resolve.

### **Prisoners' Property and the "Facilities List"**

This is another area of huge concern for IMB's. Every year we request HMPS to sort it out and nothing ever happens. Lost property is the biggest issue for prisoners and trying to find missing items for IMB's is really difficult and often impossible, especially when the property was lost at another prison. As above the cjsm.net system is helping. HMP Blundeston is

really quite good itself with property the problem usually lies elsewhere. Possibly the best way to explain the issue is “That if HMPS cannot show respect for prisoners’ property how can it expect prisoners to show respect for the property of others?” The man hours with cost implications for the time looking for lost property must be large and then the compensation claims. The IMB has found that even when the Prison Ombudsman finds against a prison, not Blundeston, then NOMS, we are told in conversation with Ombudsman staff, is very slow to actually pay the compensation.

Each prison has its own “facilities list”. This is the list of property which each prisoner is allowed to have in his possession. With the differences it means that prisoners allowed items in one prison may not be allowed to have them in possession at HMP Blundeston. The IMB are then involved and Security at the prison to try and sort out the issues. The Board strongly support the excellent work in keeping drugs and things like mobile phones very much out of the prison however it would like appreciate some understanding in these areas. When prisoners have spent their money on the item under the IEP scheme at a previous prison it seems rather unjust to not allow that item(s) to be “in possession”. What is really required is a standardised facilities list nationally and then there would be no doubt and it would make prisoners lives more straightforward. There was a suggestion that at least standardisation would be brought in the Eastern Area but even that has not happened yet. Sometimes the IMB can wait weeks for decision to be made about a property item.

### “D Category” and OASys

The great prize for prisoners seems to be the re-categorisation to “D Cat” and then being suitable for open conditions. The IMB get lots of applications about delays and decisions which the prisoners believe are wrong. The vast majority of the decisions the Board would accept as perfectly correct but sometimes we find that there have been delays and do our best to get the paperwork sorted out when it has gone missing. Paperwork is now issued 2 months before the due date but even then the work is not always completed on time.

Prisoners are transferred to the prison when their “D cat” process has been more or less completed at the sending prison. Sometimes the prisoner will have been told that their “D cat” has been agreed and then they are moved to Blundeston. The prison here will not take the “results” from the sending prison and starts the process all over again. HMP Blundeston cannot take the risk of being responsible for a mistake and therefore the re-processing. Delays inevitably occur and even a different “result” may be given with huge frustrations for the prisoner who believed he was on his way to open conditions.

Issues arise over the balance between prisoners doing “their courses” and the risks imposed by their offence and the public protection factors involved. High risk prisoners on their OASys reports often do not appreciate the effects of their offending and why sometimes they are not deemed suitable for “open conditions”. They do not always appreciate the complications involved in making “D Cat” decisions and when with high risk prisoners a good

deal of information from the outside Probation Service is required especially related to the victims of the crime. The prison almost always takes the cautious approach and that is the wise way to work and information from “outside” can take a while to gather.

The prison is “up to date” with its sentence planning, the problems arise when a prisoner arrives at the prison without current OASys assessment and this can delay some assessments. The prison will endeavour to provide a sentence plan within 16 weeks but sometimes prisoners think that is too long and talk to the IMB about it. The prison only has limited resources and will do what it can. There is a real anxiety among prisoners with the delays that take place, worried that somehow they will miss out on their progress through “the system”. Such anxieties are difficult to address however many reassurances the IMB provides.

### **Life sentence prisoners and IPP prisoners.**

There are 52 “Lifers” at HMP Blundeston that is 2 more than the normal complement as 2 are at the prison just to do courses and then they will be returned to their usual prison. 70% of “Lifers” at HMP Blundeston are “over tariff. Some will be “recalls”, having been released on license and then recalled, some who have failed in open conditions and then those who have never been out of a closed prison and some, sadly, who are likely never to be released. 20% of the total prison population at HMP Blundeston are Life sentence and IPP prisoners. The division is roughly half and half. The Lifers are there because either they had a mandatory or discretionary life sentence. The tariff will be set by the trial judge. The “IPP” prisoners are indeterminate public protection prisoners. “IPP” sentences can be given for any offender committing an offence with over a 10 year maximum sentence which is of a violent or sexual nature. Such sentences are becoming more and more popular, so it seems, with judges. These prisoners will have shorter tariffs but are very likely to go over tariff once their risks are assessed and they have failed to find space on the courses required to address their offending behaviour within their tariff period. A Board member recently found an IPP prisoner with a 3 year tariff who had served 3 years and yet not been at a prison where he could do his required courses. These prisoners are causing a blockage in the system and there are approximately 500 Lifers in B cat prisons waiting to move to C cat prisons. Moves often have to be arranged a one to one basis. There are at least 12 Lifers waiting to come to Blundeston but there are no spaces. There are between 12 and 13,000 IPP or “Life Sentence” prisoners in the whole Prison service about 14% of all prisoners.

The Parole Board requires Lifers to complete courses, this makes Blundeston popular as it runs TSP, CALM, PASRO, HRP courses and also has the accredited and excellent Therapeutic Community. All these courses provide good offending behaviour work for such prisoners but of course are oversubscribed. There is a three year waiting list for the HRP course. Both IPP’s and Lifers require these courses and IPP’s are particularly required to do the “Victim Awareness” course which is operated by the Probation Service but at best will only deal with

one prisoner a week as the course has to be on a one to one basis and therefore is expensive. Because of the short tariff and the need to do the "Victim Awareness" course the IPP prisoner may often "jump the queue" and prisoners waiting who are mandatory life sentence prisoners with a higher tariff or prisoners with a determinate sentences and yet looking to do the course for parole assessments or "D cat" requirements actually find themselves going down the list. That does not help them at all and leads to frustration as applications to the IMB demonstrate.

The parole process starts 3 years before tariff and papers are prepared from then until the dates come round. Most prisoners will not be released from C cat prisons but need to have been in open conditions before release on license is considered. If the paperwork looks hopeful the prisoner may be offered an oral hearing. If not another 3 years will elapse before the case is reviewed again.

Judges are required to sit on "Lifer Parole Boards" but not on IPP Boards but nevertheless the each IPP prisoner has to be assessed by the Parole Board before they can be released. The whole parole system is really clogged and therefore slow as the result of the number of IPP prisoners sentenced in the last few years. The caseload for the Parole Board has almost doubled as a result. There is one prisoner at HMP Blundeston whose hearing is 15 months behind schedule with most 6-9 months behind time. An IMB member sits in on "Lifer Team" meetings.

The Parole Board frequently requires psychological assessments for Life sentence prisoners, in spite of the fact that such "one to one" assessments are not resourced and often very difficult to access in Cat C prisons. There is a limited amount of funding available for such work but the IMB are told that 3 assessments cost £10,000 and there is just not the funding available to meet the current demand especially against the background of funding cuts. The IMB would respectfully recommend that the Parole Board is requested not to make such assessment requests for Cat C lifers or if they continue to do so, funding is provided above and beyond the prison's current budget, specifically for the task.

Statistics show that of the Lifers in the whole Prison Service reaching tariff dates in 2009-10 only 11.4 % were released and only 4.7% of IPP prisoners. Perhaps this together with the fact that 172 Lifers were released on License and 120 Lifers were recalled demonstrates the burden such prisoners place on the Prison Service, HMP Blundeston as part of the prisons that deal with Life Sentence prisoners and also the Parole Board. Changes in PSO's, related to quotas for each prison for life sentence prisons, could mean that HMP Blundeston is overwhelmed with "Lifers" without the resources to produce the reports required and therefore adequately manage these prisoners.

## “Recalls”

This section of the report follows on naturally from the previous sections as it involves the administration of recalled prisoners and their often lengthy retention after recall. It appears to the IMB when we look at the reasons why some prisoners are recalled, that sometimes they are very minor. Once recalled a prisoner should receive a “recall pack” at the prison where he is taken to. This sometimes does not happen and the prisoner has to wait for the pack to come. This can delay the procedure and put it outside the required dates and means the prisoner will spend more time in prison than necessary. The review procedure is over subscribed and cannot cope with the demand, so again the prisoner’s re-release is delayed, which works towards the ever increasing prison population. The Board would urge more flexibility to be allowed for the Probation Officers in ordering recalls and also an understanding that prisoners who have spent a number of years in prison find life on the outside difficult with all the changes in society and may struggle to cope with the results of those “outside” changes. The IMB found one prisoner for whom one reason for his recall was not paying a bus fare. In the 6 years he was “inside” he had not realised in his home area you had to pay for the bus before you get on. He got off at the next stop when he realised and yet nevertheless this “mistake” was put in his dossier.

## Targets and Audits

Everywhere there are targets. HMP Blundeston is and has been good at meeting their KPT’s in recent years. They do to some extent improve standards but they can affect judgements in many ways especially to ensure targets are met.

All the offending behaviour courses have targets for those who need to finish the course. Those targets are high and mean that staff are very reluctant to remove a prisoner from a course and work very hard to ensure no one leaves. The courses are really good and there is a huge commitment and devotion to duty of those who run offending behaviour work. The whole job is very demanding and yet all the time the targets hang over the work. Targets have never rehabilitated a prisoner but the courses have done so. The courses naturally set targets for prisoners but perhaps it is time for a re-think about targets and whether all the cost in calculating and auditing them is really worthwhile and cost effective.

The same applies to the money spent on audits. There seems an obsession with statistics. Even this report has some. Prison Governors and staff are professional in their work. Why not apply a little more trust and let them get on with their jobs without the constant auditing and reduce the level of unnecessary central Government control through the pursuit of targets and audits?

## Drug Strategy.

Mandatory Drug Test results at Blundeston over the year have shown how successful efforts to eliminate drugs have been. A level of 3.31 % against a target of 7% is proof that the hard

work and teamwork of the staff allied to good systems have helped make Blundeston a safe prison. At an audit in February the MDT systems at Blundeston were accorded the highest 'Green' rating. Nobody would be so naïve as to suggest that drugs do not get into the prison, but intelligence is good and the staff all pull in the same direction.

CARATS is prominent in Blundeston, and at audit the excellent score of 88% was achieved. Helped to some degree by a change in targets all Key Performance Targets are comfortably exceeded.

At the end of the year there were 28 prisoners on IDTS (the majority methadone), and although there are clinical staff available the time constraints on dispensing the medication means it would be difficult to deal with increased numbers.

PASRO courses continue, but for a variety of reasons it is not always easy to fill the places. There are many other courses in the prison all with targets, and more and more we are finding prisoners arriving at Blundeston having already completed the PASRO courses.

The Gym, and Healthcare are both well involved in combating drugs within the prison.

Finally a member of the Board sits as an observer on the Drug Strategy Group.

### **Offending Behaviour Courses**

The Offending Behaviour courses at the prison which include CALM, TSP, HRP together with PASRO depend on the psychologists that are part of the trainers team. 3 out of the 5 employed at the prison have left in recent weeks and one is expecting a baby. The psychologists are also involved with Lifers and the Therapeutic Community. One course has already had to be cancelled. There is a freeze on recruitment which hinders filling the vacancies. The Governor has applied for this freeze to be lifted with regard to the psychologists which must happen as it is essential that more psychologists are working within the prison as soon as possible.

### **Transport**

There are considerable difficulties transferring some prisoners to other prisons in different parts of the county. The IMB is aware that one prisoner has been waiting 8 months for an agreed move, nearer his home and family. It seems that in the Eastern Area things are not too bad, moving prisoners within the cluster of prisons, but to get to the South West for example means a transfer through London where all the prisons are so full. Some provision for such moves needs to be made in the Transport contract. The prison has its own multi-cellular vehicle, a splendid resource but to take one prisoner on a 400 mile round trip is neither practical nor economical.

### **Request and Complaints**

Request and Complaints are handled fairly well in the prison although not always within time limits. The IMB has been informed that when an R&C form is issued it will always have

to dealt with by the lowest member of staff relevant to the application. R&C's are often then dealt with by Senior Officer in charge of the wing where the prisoner is accommodated. The S.O. may well have been the person who made the original decision on the R&C, for example IEP status change, and yet the complaint has to go to the very person complained about. Only once the original reply has been received and answered (COMP 1) can the next stage (COMP 1a) be issued as an appeal against the first decision. Only then will the complaint be dealt with by a more senior member of staff to properly review the original decision. The IMB is told all this must happen according to prison rules.

Changes should be made in the rules which must require anyone receiving an R&C about a decision they themselves have made must automatically decline "jurisdiction" and pass the R&C to a more senior member of staff the deal with.

### **Serious Incidents**

There have been no major incidents in the prison during the past year but the IMB was involved in monitoring and reporting on a Serious Incident Exercise. It was well run, with interesting scenarios and well resolved by those staff involved from Control room to Negotiator and C&R response team.

### **Contracts**

As has been demonstrated already in this report the changes in the prisons in recent years with more and more contractors being used to supply services. These range from the PCT for Healthcare to A4e for Education from Aquilla for training to the Probation Service. It makes it so difficult for Governors to control their input, much more so than when everything was provided by HMPS. Negotiations have to take place through contractors and their managers rather than being actually able to resolve things quickly with staff employed by the HMPS. Is this contracting out really the best way for HMPS to run things?

### **The Board**

This year has seen some changes on the Board. Three members have resigned all through pressure of other commitments and we are grateful to them for their years of service. Two new members have been appointed and they are very welcome and have settled in well. We believe we are a team and work well together. Monthly Board meetings are always preceded by a half hour training session which this year has ranged from the Gymnasium to the new profile and the Probation service the Life Sentence Prisoners. We are grateful for all those who have taken the sessions for their input and the way they have all made the sessions interesting and informative as the IMB seeks to maintain and improve its understanding of the prison.

We are very indebted to our “brilliant IMB clerk” who not only supports us well but is a mine of information for all members in assisting us to make the right decisions to solve prisoner issues.

We are also grateful to the Governor for the level of information provided to the IMB especially during Board meetings keeping, us up to date with all the things going on in the prison

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended Compliment of Board members	13 Increased in this year from 12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	12
Number of Members at the end of the reporting period	11
Number of new members joining in reporting period	2
Number of members leaving in reporting period	3
Number of Board meetings in reporting period	12
Average attendance (Calculated on all members who were members for the whole year).	9.5
Attendance at other meetings apart from Board meetings	32
Total Number visits including all meetings	388
Total Number of applications received	265
Total Number of Segregation Reviews held <i>(These figures are very different and from those given last year, as the Board has found a better way of assessing the data)</i>	150 :72 hour 124 :14 day Total: 274
Total Number of Segregation reviews attended.  All 14 day reviews are held on Monday afternoons when the duty IMB member will usually attend. 72 hour reviews by their very nature are held when needed and may not be attended by the IMB but if they are carried out on Mondays with the 14 day reviews then the IMB are in attendance.	19: 72 hours  84: 14 day

## Applications

Code	Subject	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
A	Accommodation	0	0	4	3
B	Adjudications	0	0	2	7
C	Diversity Related	1	2	6	7
D	Education/Employment/Training	5	3	7	18
E	Family/Visits	20	15	10	11
F	Food/Kitchen/Canteen	1	3	0	7
G	Health/Healthcare/Medication	18	28	15	16
H	Property, including money, Clothing and property loss	38	56	78	63
I	Sentence Related, including I.E.P, D Cat, Remission days, Parole, Probation and Re-categorisation	52	34	53	56
J	Staff/Prisoners	0	0	19	10
K	Transfers/Repatriation/Immigration	44	42	19	29
L	Miscellaneous, Phone calls, R&C's Human Rights and Private Matters/Post	26	28	41	40
Bullying Intimidation	Extra section to highlight the 4 Applications this year.	0	0	0	4
	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>265</b>

Comments on Applications. This year's figures reflect the same concerns of previous years. The loss of property mainly at other prisons and difficulties with money and private cash are the major problems together with sentence issues mainly around re-categorisation concerns. The prison accommodates a good number of prisoners with immigration issues due to their status, this is reflected in a good number of applications related to the immigration issues.