



HMP CHANNINGS WOOD

ANNUAL REPORT

1st September 2009 – 31st August 2010

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Section 1 Statutory role of the IMB

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison 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 ie the Ogwell and Newton Abbot area of Devon in the case of this report.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- (1) Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programs 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 it has.
- (3) 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 its 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.

Section 2 Description of the prison

HMP Channings Wood is a medium sized Category 'C' training prison situated in a rural area of Devon near Newton Abbot. It has limited access by public transport, with no public transport access on Sundays. There are five two-storey living blocks with 112 cells per block, one block with 34 cells. There is also one modular temporary unit (MTU) with 40 cells and one temporary custodial module (TCM) with 32 double cells. Some other cells can be doubled up.

Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) is 698 and the Operational Capacity is 731.

Accommodation on site is split into three separated areas: the main wings, the vulnerable prisoner unit (VPU), and the drug therapeutic community (TC). Within the main area two of the living blocks accommodate enhanced status prisoners. The MTU within the VPU and a part of LB5 also house enhanced status VPU prisoners. Contained within the perimeter fence are a sports field and an area which in the past has been used for horticulture. Education, vocational courses and offending behaviour programmes are provided. All vocational courses are provided by Strode College. A4e are responsible for delivering all Social and Life Skills provision. Tribal Group are responsible for delivering all the IAG provision including induction work, assessing need, establishing work experiences, qualifications and setting goals. They also handle much of the departmental administration. Healthcare is provided by the Devon Partnership Trust.

Section 3 Executive summary

3.1 Executive summary

The Board considers the prison to be a well run establishment where prisoners live in a generally safe and respectful environment. In February the prison was successful in its bid to run the "Belief in Change" programme. This shows high regard for the ability of the prison to implement and run successful and innovative programmes. Staff deserve all praise for this achievement. The impact of budgetary cutbacks which started with the previous government continues to be handled well by a strong and decisive management team. Staff have coped with the resulting changes and increased workload with flexibility and good humour. There are concerns about just how many further cuts can be forced without jeopardising the objectives of the establishment. Other concerns include the increasing numbers of prisoners detained over minimum tariff under the IPP sentence and the ongoing battle against gang behaviour arising from illicit trade within the prison in drugs and mobile phones. Mooted changes in sentencing policy regarding offenders with mental health problems are overdue, as is a rethink about the usefulness of prison for short sentences and people made ill by alcohol or other drugs. It is a credit to the establishment that members of the Board continue to be made to feel welcome absolutely everywhere within the prison.

3.2 Questions for the Minister

3.21 Budget cuts

The Board urges the Minister to resist any further erosion of purposeful activity and time out of cell. Recent Ministerial comments also appear to question the future of Learning and Skills within prisons, favouring paid work in prison workshops over rehabilitation. The Board requests that the Minister ensures changes are only made following careful research into the efficacy and practicality of the one versus the other. 4.22, 5.01, 5.06, 5.12.

3.22 Bullying and gang behaviour

Last year the Board drew the Minister's attention to our concerns about disruption to prison life caused by the gang behaviour that illegal trade within the prison of drugs and mobile phones encourages. The problem is of course not specific to this prison. The Minister's reply suggests that our concerns are misplaced and points to various performance targets that have been met. It remains the view of the Board that despite the serious efforts made by staff to combat this illegal trade including some spectacular interceptions in the year, success is proving to be an uphill battle. The Board repeats its assertion that an unacceptable level of bullying and fear are prevalent in the prison primarily as a result of this trade. Incidents during the year have caused the prison to recognise that bullying is a bigger problem than hitherto thought and a new strategy is to be introduced to improve the regime. The Board encourages this initiative and suggests that the Minister ask NOMS to investigate whether current anti-bullying procedures within the prison service generally are user-friendly enough to draw in potential victims of bullying before they are in danger of serious harm. 4.41, 4.42, 4.44, 4.45, 4.52.

3.23 Contract management

Last year the Board raised four issues with NOMS questioning the competence of some contract management. This year the Board would like to draw the Minister's attention to the apparent deficiencies in the Strode College contract for education provision and the transport contract for prisoner transfers. 4.21, 5.04, 5.13.

3.24 Drug and alcohol sentencing

The Board deplores the high number of young men sent to prison for drug or alcohol related problems and fully supports radical new thinking about sentencing policy in this area. 4.32, 5.09.

3.25 Drug therapeutic unit

As reported last year, this award winning unit continues to operate with uncertainty about its future, and struggles to fill places due to trivial excuses like transport blocks and competing lesser courses. The Board requests that until evidence is presented to show that other, more cost effective courses are available, prisoners with the most serious drug dependency issues are not obstructed from joining this course regardless of where in the country they come from. 5.04, 5.13.

3.26 IMB budget

The Board notes that the budget cut imposed on the Board will have the effect of reducing the level of monitoring carried out and questions if this is a wise decision in a "BIG SOCIETY" where voluntary work by members of the public is to be encouraged. 7.1.

3.27 IPP sentences

The prison now has 97 IPP sentenced prisoners, up from 57 last year and 35 the year before. Many prisoners are now over minimum tariff with opaque obstacles preventing their release. In common with IMBs throughout the country, the Board has the deepest concern over the justice of this new type of sentence. The Board requests that the Minister raise our concerns at the highest possible level. 5.05, 5.07.

3.28 Mental health

The Board urges the Minister to implement the findings of the Bradley report which recommends that offenders with mental health problems or learning disabilities could, in appropriate cases, be usefully diverted from prison to other services. 4.33.

3.3 Questions for NOMS

3.31 Distance from home

Last year's, and the previous year's observation is repeated: the location of the prison means that most prisoners are too far from home. The Board appreciates NOMS full reply to this point last year, but obviously the basic problem remains. 5.03.

3.32 Faith

Efforts to find a Moslem chaplain have been unsuccessful for another year. What is the current plan? 4.11.

3.33 Mobile phone signal blocking or control

As members of the public we continue to face ridicule when trying to explain to the community why illegal mobile phones are so widespread in the prison, or why signals are not blocked or controlled. Security reports routinely point to illicit phones as having been used in both the organisation and timing of illicit drug receipts into the prison. The levels of intimidation, bullying and fear resulting from the trade in illicit phones within the prison are significant. NOMS excuses are quite unacceptable to us and our IMB colleagues in other prisons. The Board strongly urges NOMS to attach greater importance to this issue. 4.42.

3.34 Property

Applications to the Board relating to "lost" property, up 37% to 67 this year, continue to cause prisoners much anxiety and the IMB much frustration. Everybody in the country sees examples of carriers who "get deliveries right" day after day. Why does this not happen with prisoner property? 5.10, 7.2.

3.35 Transfers

This is another old problem for the prison, situated near the end of the line in the South West. Some improvements are detectable, but problems do remain as detailed in the report. The selection of a transport contractor with a more sophisticated and flexible transport computer program, covering groups to a single prison, singletons to the prison for offending behaviour work and even singletons out of the area to be closer to home, would be much appreciated by all concerned. 5.03, 5.04, 5.13.

Section 4 Mandatory reports

4.1 Diversity and Race Equality

4.11 Faith

As reported last year, the Board regards the failure of the prison service to recruit a Moslem chaplain as a significant shortfall in providing fair and respectful facilities for the prison population. Whilst there is no doubt that the location of the prison and the lack of cultural diversity in the surrounding population makes it challenging, it is felt that Her Majesties Prison Service should not have allowed this situation to continue for so long.

4.12 Older prisoners

The Board is pleased to note an increased awareness of and responsiveness to the needs of older prisoners as a result of an initiative from Age Concern. Sharing facilities with men who are sometimes fifty years their junior can create problems and improved arrangements are in place which will ensure greater dignity and privacy for older and / or disabled prisoners, especially in respect of personal hygiene. The prison is also exploring ways of providing meaningful activity for prisoners when they are no longer eligible through age for employment within the prison. There is also some concern about the very low allowances paid to older and / or disabled prisoners who are unable to work.

4.13 Race

There is a robust REAT organization within the prison but the Board are concerned that there is a significant under representation of BME prison officers and other staff. This lack of BME staff means there are a shortage of role models for prisoners who increasingly come from areas where there is a high BME representation.

4.2 Learning and skills

4.21 Strode College

Last year the Board reported the development of new courses which lead to qualifications which had been received with enthusiasm by prisoners. It is unfortunate that this year it must be reported that several courses have been severely disrupted or even cancelled due to the inability of the service provider, Strode College, to consistently provide suitable tutors. This failure has undermined so much of the effort that has been put into making the prison an excellent provider of adult education over recent years. It is of concern to the Board that NOMs appears to have awarded this major education contract in a form which, judging from the effects in the classroom appears contractually unenforceable. The result for prisoners seeking education has, for some courses, been most disheartening.

4.22 Other learning and skills

Activities are offered at weekends with prisoners being offered courses in IT, literacy and music. Outreach tutors remain in place and continue to identify prisoners who need extra help with literacy and numeracy.

The Library service continues to be well used with a high demand for reading matter and CDs. Personal development courses are being facilitated by the YMCA and this is seen as great assistance in helping men cope with daily pressures and behaviour towards others.

The introduction of performing management operations certification to NVQ level 2 has been positive and 60 prisoners have qualified to NVQ level 2. The warehouse course has seen eight prisoners gain a NVQ Level 2 with a part of this course being the ability to become aware of employer's health and safety procedures.

A key part of reducing reoffending is the placement of men in accommodation on release. The St Giles Trust continues to manage this and they have enhanced their services with 6 prisoners as peer advisors with 5 of those in the 6 months training to NVQ level 3. 94% of prisoners leaving had housing to go to, a similar figure to the previous reporting year.

Most prisoners feel positive about the NVQ qualifications awarded and feel that they will assist them on release. This was particularly commented on in industrial cleaning.

The Board feels that the Learning and Skills department provides an appropriate level of provision to prisoners. Discussions with prisoners show an extremely positive attitude towards the courses and about their experiences of learning at the prison.

At the time of writing there is uncertainty about funding for Learning and Skills in prison in the future. The Board does have concerns that the excellent range of courses and qualifications on offer in the prison should not be eroded in favour of headline grabbing "make work" schemes in workshops.

4.3 Healthcare and mental health

4.31 Healthcare generally

During the course of the year the Board has been observing the process which will mean significant changes in the delivery of healthcare for the three Devon Prisons -Dartmoor, Exeter and Channings Wood. The Devon Prisons Health Partnership has been created in order to deliver a more integrated and up to date health care service for prisoners in the three prisons. This is actually a joint venture between Devon Partnership NHS Trust and Devon Health. Devon Partnership Trust is the lead agency and provides mental health services while Devon Health provides the primary care health services. The Devon Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) works within the Public Health Directorate and already commissions work within the prisons. By enhancing the DAAT's commissioning role it is hoped the standards and services of Prison Health Care will be improved. It is hoped that the result will be a more joined – up approach to meeting

prisoners' health care needs, offering consistently high standards of care while people are in prison and providing support to those who need it in the community, on release. The DAAT contract is for 12 months and the contract with the Partnership Trust is initially for 3 years starting in August 2010.

It should be noted that since the new healthcare arrangements have been put in place there has frequently been a lack of a GP for scheduled surgeries. Locum GPs are often used but this can lead to inconsistency in treatment. Other healthcare staff find themselves being diverted from important tasks as a result of this organisational problem. At the time of writing it is noted that a regular GP has been appointed which should eliminate this problem.

Healthcare staff are generally confident with the new management structures and the transition to date has been smooth. The Devon Prisons Health Partnership Trust is committed to ensuring that prisoners are able to access the same quality of service as members of the public do from the National Health Service and the Board very much supports this.

4.32 Alcohol and drug issues

As in other prisons, users of the healthcare services suffer from a range of problems. An extremely high proportion of prisoners suffer from addiction problems. Healthcare staff estimate that five out of six new admissions suffer from alcohol related problems. Drug dependency is another problem, which can be time consuming on arrival because frequently prisoners who have been receiving methadone arrive without the appropriate script.

4.33 Mental health issues

In the prison there are many prisoners who suffer from mental health problems and a valuable service is being provided by Plymouth Mind which enables a relatively small number of prisoners to get help for conditions such as anxiety, depression and inability to cope with a long or indeterminate sentence. The MIND worker attends for three days a week; referral to the service is straightforward although there is a waiting list. It is clear that this is an important service and the Board was delighted to read in NOMS reply to our report last year that funding for a further three years had been secured.

Concerns have been expressed by some prisoners about the quality of mental health services since the Inreach team was disbanded. Registered mental health nurses are now providing this service, but prisoners claim that staff often have other demands on their time such as emergencies which can leave them feeling undervalued.

The Board concurs with the findings of the Bradley report which recommends that offenders with mental health problems or learning disabilities could, in appropriate cases, be usefully diverted from prison to other services. The Board is united in the view that too many of the prisoners we meet in prison are "in the wrong place".

4.4 Safer prisons

4.41 General

There has been no self inflicted death at the prison this year despite regular self injury by some prolific and determined self harmers. The creditable score of 95% awarded by an external audit and the positive judgment of the prison inspectorate on management of self harm in the summer of 2010 reflects this. The Board did however have particular concerns about one unfortunate near death incident (see 4.44).

4.42 Drugs, mobile phones and dogs

The Board commented last year on the vicious circle of illicit drugs, mobile phones, debt, and gangs putting prisoners at risk. Security committee meetings offer good evidence that the prison is working in a strategic manner to confront this evil and there have been large drug interceptions this year. However the Board has no reason to alter the view expressed last year about the risks to safety generated by this trade. The decision taken for economic reasons to reduce the number of hours allocated to drug detection through the use of trained sniffer dogs seems at odds with the objective of reducing illegal drugs entering and circulating within the prison.

4.43 Rooftop protests

The reduction in rooftop protests noted last year has been sustained, but the Board remains vigilant in observing any serious incident and seeking information regarding possible underlying problems.

4.44 Near death incidents

During the year two prisoners made exceedingly dangerous attempts at self destruction which came within a hairsbreadth of success and the excellent response of uniformed and health care staff without doubt saved the men's lives. Unfortunately in one case the Board had reason to raise concerns subsequently. Reports of suspected bullying on the wing only came to light during the investigation (see 4.45). The quality of communication between different interested parties both within the prison and from records from a previous prison was lacking. The assessment of the prisoner's mental state prior to the incident appears to have been inadequate. The Board's concerns were taken seriously and indeed, were in line with the prison's own findings. Appropriate action to rectify the situation for the future appears to have been taken by prison staff.

4.45 Bullying

This year the Board has been concerned that the procedures for discovering and confronting bullying have not overall been as effective as had been hoped. Published figures do not seem to be reflecting reality. Prisoners are reluctant to use the system and report to staff when they are being abused. More stringent anti bullying procedures have been put in place and it is hoped that staff will be more vigilant and proactive where bullying is suspected. It is hoped that better reporting and recording between wing staff, health care and OMU will have a positive impact. The Board strongly welcomes the sustained efforts senior management is currently making to invigorate these procedures so that bullying is dealt with more realistically and effectively.

4.5 Segregation unit

4.51 General

The Segregation Unit is well-run by a dedicated staff team. When Board members visit paperwork is usually complete and available and every assistance is given. A good open rapport with staff greatly aids the Board's work. Reviews continue to be difficult for Board Members to attend despite dialogue with Governors. Set days and times would be beneficial but this appears to cause problems for healthcare attendance due to clinics being held at popular times. Prison notification of new arrivals in the Seg has improved since last year. Segregation reviews are conducted professionally and prisoners are always given the opportunity to express opinions or concerns. There are a still occasions when prisoners spend too long in Segregation but staff are sensitive to this and do their best to arrange alternatives.

4.52 Own protection

Use of the segregation unit for "Own Protection" from retribution as a result of debts incurred within the prison, primarily drug trade related, continues to cause concern. During a recent twelve month period an average of four of the seven cells in the segregation unit have been occupied by prisoners detained in this unit under own protection. Prison officers admit privately that the prisoner grapevine has been replaced by illicit mobile phones and as a result safe alternative destinations appear hard to find. It has been suggested that drug gang organization and money have added sophistication to this network of violent debt collection and fear. The reassurance given by Prison Senior Management to Board questions about the future safety of the prisoners being transferred as a result of own protection has not been entirely convincing.

Section 5 Other areas of the prison on which the Board has issues to report

5.01 Budget cuts impact on regime and purposeful activity

The Board acknowledges that there has been no further closing down in the past year, but must express concern that any further erosion of time out of cell and purposeful activity would be a retrograde step.

5.02 Cell thefts

The Board frequently receives allegations from prisoners of theft of personal belongings from their cells. Prison policy on this issue is clear, namely items in personal possession are the prisoner's responsibility. A small lockable cupboard is provided in each cell for prisoner use. However this cupboard is far too small to contain personal property items such as cd players, which are therefore vulnerable to theft as doors are unlocked every day prior to the return of prisoners to their cells, but when other prisoners have access to the corridor. Privacy locks on each cell would solve this problem and remove not only anxiety and distress caused by theft, but save time spent by officers in investigating theft allegations.

5.03 Distance from home

The Board must yet again report that distance from home remains a problem for the 50% of prisoners who are more than 100 miles from home. Transfers continue to be the main source of discontent by prisoners. NOMS comments on our last year's report are encouraging, with more suitably located prisons coming on line shortly but we strongly urge NOMS to continue to make efforts to locate prisoners within their own region. The prison does offer high quality specialist offending behaviour courses which are attractive to prisoners from out of the region, and it is hoped that these courses will not be closed due to relatively trivial costs like the transport to get the prisoner here.

5.04 Drug therapeutic community

This 64 bed specialist wing which has won numerous awards for its work on treatment of the most serious and prolific drug offenders is under threat of closure. The Board understands that a national review of policy on treatment of drug offenders is being undertaken but in the meantime the reason for possible closure appears to be that other prisons within the region choose not to send eminently suitable prisoners because there is commercial pressure to use lesser in-house courses (refer 2008/9 report), and prisons outside the region who want to use the facilities cannot secure funding for transport! This failure to transport suitable prisoners to undertake the course has resulted in unsuitable prisoners being housed in the empty cells. Unsurprisingly these temporary occupants while-away their time waiting to move to the main prison by mocking those on the course. This can have the effect of completely undermining the fragile confidence of those attempting to complete DTC course, which represents the best chance in years they have had of kicking their addiction. It is not the role of the Board to comment on which drug treatment course offers best value, but it does have concerns that decisions may be driven more by short term financial imperatives than by a more considered long term policy based on what actually works best. The possible closure of the unit with its specialist, dedicated and capable staff would be a devastating blow.

5.05 IPP prisoners

The consequences of the ill-considered IPP sentence are continuing to accumulate in the system, with 97 IPP sentenced prisoners now incarcerated in the prison. This means that life or IPP sentenced prisoners held in the prison have almost doubled in three years. Details are as follows:

	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Lifers	44	45	50
IPP	35	57	97
Total lifer & IPP	79	102	147

Of these 97 IPP prisoners, 67 have now exceeded their minimum tariff. Many are now awaiting their third Parole Board review. Parole Board hearing delays, whilst marginally improved on last year, add to the problem. The Board is aware that a minimum tariff is just that ie not a fixed term tariff. The distress and confusion caused to prisoners and their families by this extraordinary sentence is just getting worse. There is a sense of hopelessness amongst over-minimum-tariff IPP prisoners that they will ever get released. The barriers to achievement of sentence plans are manifest, as has been documented in previous years. The Board has regular contact with Offender Supervisors and Offender Managers who have differing levels of competence and labour under a massive workload which frequently leads to backlogs and the briefest of contact with the prisoners for whom they are preparing the crucial reports. It is of the deepest concern that a greater part of the “burden of risk” of release is in practice carried by staff at this level when preparing the critically important reports that carry so much weight with the Parole Board. This is manifestly unfair not only to the prisoners and their families but also to the staff involved. (See also 5.06).

5.06 Offender manager and offender supervisor overload

Changes made to the OMU last year resulted in improvements in some areas of operation of the OMU. However over recent months the Board has been receiving an increasing number of applications from prisoners unsatisfied with the timeliness, lack of communication and even quality of care with which their sentence planning is being handled by the prison. This is a complicated subject, and it is likely that in some instances there may be unrealistic expectations from prisoners. It is noted that staff complain of increasing workloads. The Board shall focus monitoring attention on this area in the coming months.

5.07 Parole Board delays

Serious delays are still occurring, but the situation is much improved and the Board recognizes the work that is ongoing to tackle this problem as detailed in the Minister’s replies to concerns raised last year.

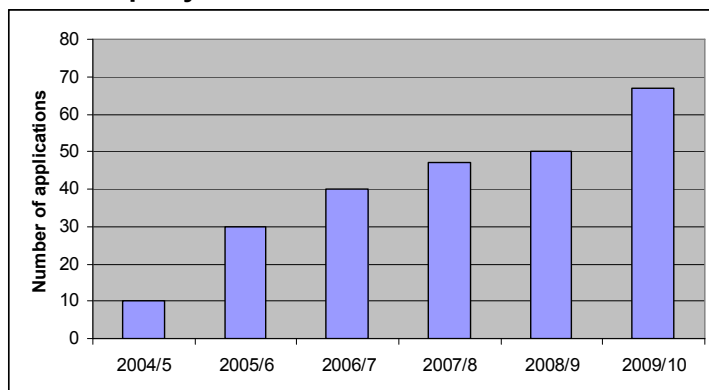
5.08 Personal officers

Continuing the improvement noted last year, the Board feels staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that all prisoners are aware that they have a Personal Officer and who he/she is. Further development of the role of the Personal Officer is planned, which the Board strongly supports.

5.09 Prisoners with short remaining sentences

Last year the Board expressed concern about the increasing numbers of prisoners arriving with less than six months sentence remaining, as most existing rehabilitation courses require a longer period. NOMS commented that it is “currently looking into the training needs” of such prisoners. The Board has not seen any evidence that NOMs has stopped looking and started doing. Current plans by the Government to reduce the number of offenders given short sentences would be a start.

5.10 Property



During the year the Board received 67 applications regarding property. A means of addressing this ever increasing amount of lost property is now urgent. A swifter response to efforts for retrieving it would help both prisoners and IMB Members who inevitably get involved as chasing lost property is not a good use of IMB time.

5.11 Request complaints

Prisoner applications/complaints to the prison remain on a level with last year and the Board is satisfied that these are handled promptly and with care.

5.12 Staff unsettlement

Last year the Board reported that there was a “widespread feeling amongst staff that they are given one cutback target after another, which prevents anything settling down and saps enthusiasm”. Sadly things have not improved this year with the seemingly soft target of the Prison Service earmarked for yet more cuts. The Board does have concerns that staff are being pushed to the limit.

5.13 Transfers

The Board appreciated that NOMS commented in some detail on concerns we raised last year on the quality of some commercial management in NOMS regarding estates, canteen, TVs and healthcare. This year the Board would like to add transport and education (see section 4.21) to the list. The Board feels contracts may have been awarded which do not adequately reflect the needs of the Prison Service. In addition to the issue of transporting suitable prisoners from out of the region to complete required offending behaviour courses where space exists in the Prison eg to the DTC, transfers between C cat prisons to be closer to friends and family remains a problem. Singleton transfers are understandably difficult, but in June for example, despite plenty of notice, the transport provider would not respond to a request to arrange transport for a GROUP of prisoners where spaces had been secured in a Thames Valley prison. This does rather seem to be the tail wagging the dog. Transfers where the prisoner has not been told where they are going, or worse, where they are told they are going to one prison only to end up at another are also occurring. In some cases the prisoner has been misled into thinking he is moving closer to home, only to end up in Devon. This can only lead to unrest. NOMS commented on our criticism last year that “wherever possible prisoners should be told in advance of their transfer by the sending establishment”. Surely it is reasonable to expect that it is ALWAYS possible to inform a prisoner where they are being sent? A blind transfer of several prisoners from HMP Parc in April was a blatant example of what should not happen.

Section 6 Areas of good practice

Calendar of notable achievements in the year

Dec	90.4% of prisoners released to settled accommodation since April 09 and 43.4% to employment or training on release - well above average.
Feb	Successful bid for Belief in Change programme to be piloted at Channings Wood. Prison officer awarded Butler Trust award presented at St James Palace.
March	Positive attitude of staff during the changeover to PNomis system. Notable achievement with nine prisoners gaining NVQ Level 2 in laundry operations, which is significant because few in the industry achieve this.
April	Excellent audits for DTC, SOTP and CSCP including 3 higher achieved awards. Twenty three staff members commended for commitment to adult learning and assisting other learners to achieve qualifications.
June	High scores in security audit (90%+) and suicide and self harm audit (high 90%+s).

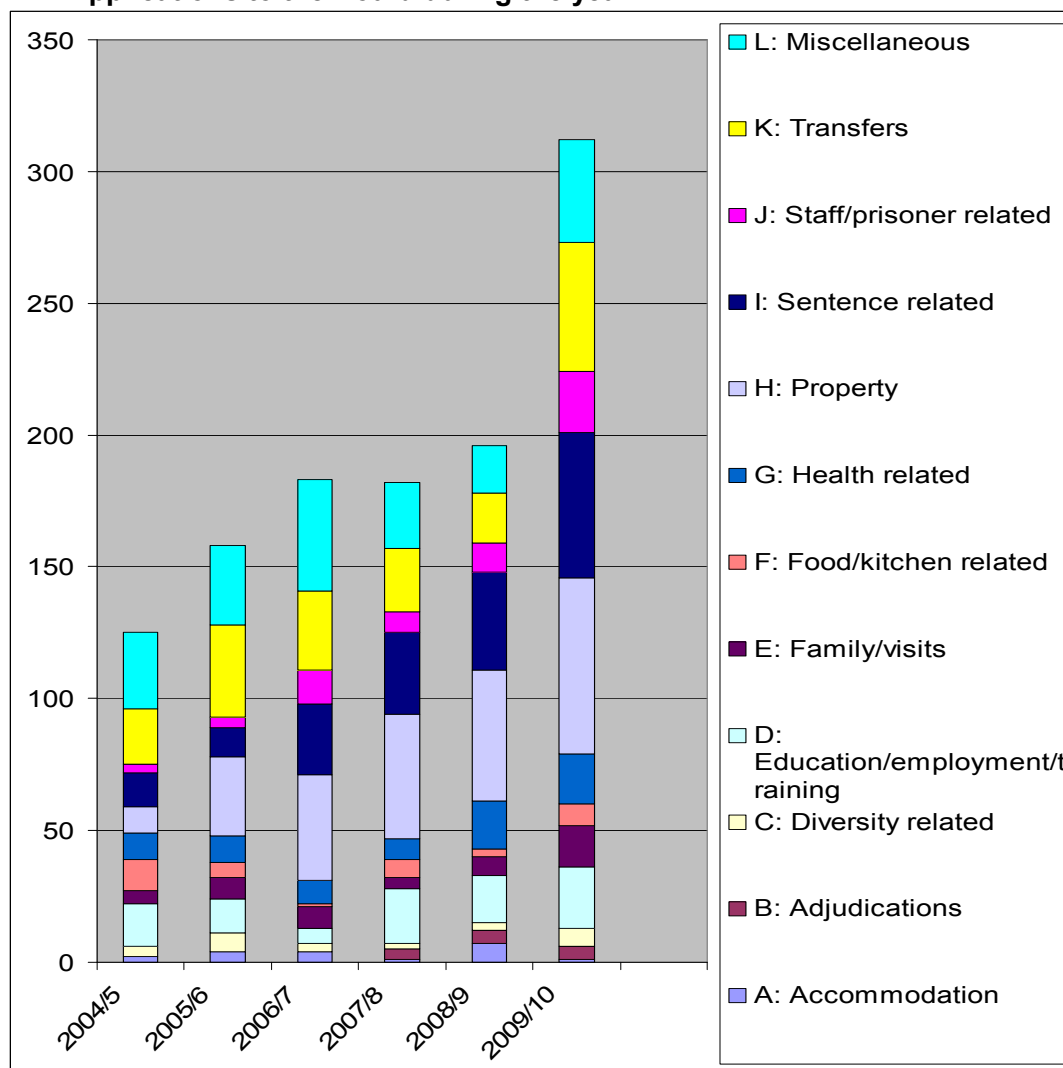
Section 7 The work of the Board

7.1 Review of the year

The Board meets monthly and a prison governor, usually the number 1 Governor, is always in attendance for a part of the meeting. Two Board members visit the prison each week on unannounced Rota Visits to monitor that prisoners are treated fairly and humanely; two members hold weekly application clinics and we hold weekly induction sessions for new arrivals. Adjudications and segregation reviews are attended regularly, and all prisoners in segregation are seen at least once a week. One member acts as Information Officer and provides the Board with up to date information from a wide variety of sources. Board training sessions are held. Two members attend the annual IMB conference.

BOARD STATISTICS	Number attended
Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	15
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	11
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving within reporting period	4
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number in attendance at Board meetings during reporting period	9.8
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	463
Total number of applications received	312
Total number of segregation reviews held	
Total number of segregation reviews attended	62

7.2 Applications to the Board during the year



Code	Subject	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
A	Accommodation	2	4	4	1	7	1
B	Adjudications	-	-	-	4	5	5
C	Diversity related	4	7	3	2	3	7
D	Education/employment/training	16	13	6	21	18	23
E	Family/visits	5	8	8	4	7	16
F	Food/kitchen related	12	6	1	7	3	8
G	Health related	10	10	9	8	18	19
H	Property	10	30	40	47	50	67
I	Sentence related	13	11	27	31	37	55
J	Staff/prisoner related	3	4	13	8	11	23
K	Transfers	21	35	30	24	19	49
L	Miscellaneous	29	30	42	25	18	39
	Total number of applications	125	158	183	182	226*	312

* In the Annual Report for 2008/9 an error led to an under reporting of 'miscellaneous' by 30 and the subsequent under reporting of the total by 30. This has been corrected for 2008-2009 in the figures given above.