



**HM PRISON Dovegate  
Independent Monitoring Board  
Annual Report  
For the period  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

## **Statutory Role of the IMB**

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Minister of Justice from members of the community in which the prison is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to: -

- 1) Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prisons 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 it has.
- 3) Report annually to the Secretary of State, on how well the prison has met the Standards and Requirements placed upon 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.

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## **1. Description of HMP Dovegate**

- 1.1 HMP Dovegate, built on a greenfield site and opened in 2001, is a private prison run by Serco Civil Government. Following extensions completed in September 2009, the prison now comprises the original two house blocks with a Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) of 600 and a new house block with a CNA of 260. Also situated inside the single perimeter fence is the Therapeutic Prison with a CNA of 200. The prison is a Category B Male Training Prison, now adapted to receive remand and convicted prisoners from local courts, bringing its CNA to a total of 1060 and its operational capacity to 1120. A requirement in March to overcrowd raised its operational capacity to 1140. A number of Category C prisoners and a smaller number of Category D prisoners are held at HMP Dovegate awaiting relocation.
- 1.2 House blocks 1 and 2 house 300 prisoners each. Both house blocks have 5 wings built round the control “bubble”. The wings have 30 cells on each of 2 floors, 4 showers on both floors, with a servery and laundry downstairs. There are tables and chairs as well as a pool table, a large TV and exercise machines in the recreation area and an outdoor exercise yard. With the exception of approximately 20 cells, which are larger and designed for double occupancy, the rest were designed for single occupancy and have an in-cell washbasin and toilet. The cells are small with poor heating and poor ventilation. Approximately 60 of these cells have a second bunk bed fitted. Disappointingly, the requirement to overcrowd led to these cells being doubled up again, something about which the Board has previously expressed grave concern.
- 1.3 The new House block 3 comprises 4 wings, one of which is a dedicated drug treatment wing, two others are for sentenced prisoners and the remaining wing holds remand prisoners. Here, cells are larger, complying with European standards, and have integral showers and telephones. A large education and training facility building is part of the extension to the prison.
- 1.4 The ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) installed in all residential areas during the previous year have proved a huge success: their operation has been extended to cover other areas, e.g. a ‘frequently asked questions’ section, designed to reduce the number of requests and complaints that are asked about standard procedures. The Board reiterates its congratulations to HMP Dovegate for this imaginative resource.
- 1.5 The Board is pleased to report that, at last, a thorough and satisfactory refurbishment of the showers in all residential areas has taken place.
- 1.6 The Therapeutic Prison (known as the TP – see para. 4.12) is separated from the main prison by an internal fence. The residents are accommodated in 3 house blocks which all have single occupancy cells with in-cell toilets and showers. Each wing has a servery and a laundry as well as tables and chairs, a pool table and exercise machines. Outdoor exercise is in the central square where there is a 5-a-side football pitch. There is also a fourth building comprising admin offices, training facilities and classrooms. The only facilities used by both the Main and the TP are the gymnasium,

the Multi Faith Centre, Healthcare and the Care & Separation Unit (CSU). TP meals are prepared in the main kitchen.

- 1.7 HMP Dovegate has a contract with Serco Health for all healthcare needs and with Serco Integrated Services for facilities.
- 1.8 This report covers the period October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2010.

## **2. Executive Summary**

### **2.1 Issues for the Minister**

- 2.1.1 The reactivation of doubling up in single cells (see para. 1.2).
- 2.1.2 Transfer of prisoners with severe mental health problems to more suitable units. (para.3.3.6)
- 2.1.3 Transfer of Categories C and D prisoners. (see below, para. 2.4.3)
- 2.1.4 Foreign nationals who are held after completion of sentences. (para. 3.1.3)

### **2.2 Issues for the Prison Service**

- 2.2.1 HMP Dovegate as a privately run prison is still denied access to the computer system, P-NOMIS (Prison National Offender Management Information System).
- 2.2.2 Prisoners' property often does not follow them from other establishments (para. 4.10.3)

### **2.3 Issues for HMP Dovegate**

- 2.3.1 Healthcare, whilst much improved from previous reports, still gives the Board cause for concern (para. 3.3).

### **2.4 Overall Judgement**

- 2.4.1 The opening of house block 3 and the advent of remand prisoners at the end of our last reporting year gave cause for apprehension and some anxiety. Fortunately both proved unfounded. The SMT(Senior Management Team) and staff at HMP Dovegate have coped magnificently and deserve warm congratulations. The quantity of drugs being brought in by remand prisoners is challenging but a challenge with which staff are coping.
- 2.4.2 The new property store has alleviated the number of applications we have received about property missing inside the prison. The main property applications still concern belongings not transferring from the prisoner's previous establishment with him. This problem is almost impossible to solve.
- 2.4.3 The IMB is not happy that mentally-disturbed prisoners have to wait so long to be transferred from Healthcare to more appropriate accommodation. Another concern is the Foreign Nationals who have finished their sentences awaiting deportation (see para. 3.1.3). Also of concern are the Category C and D prisoners who are unable to progress towards the Parole Board's demands for them due to the non-availability of specific courses at Dovegate.

### **3. Areas that must be reported on**

#### **3.1 Diversity**

- 3.1.1 HMP Dovegate takes the recognition of diversity of its population very seriously. Monthly meetings of DREAT (Diversity and Race Equality Action Team) are chaired by the Director and attended by managers from all relevant departments, as well as representatives from residential wings. Rarely is this meeting cancelled, and committee members failing to attend two consecutive meetings have to explain their absence. A wide range of reports is considered, and their outcomes reviewed. When possible, an IMB member observes these meetings.
- 3.1.2 A Race Equality Manager appointed in March stayed only for three months. However, by the end of this reporting year, the post had been filled again. Focus groups exist to cover the various strands which comprise diversity: age, disability, gender/transgender, race, religion and beliefs, sexual orientation and foreign nationals. Consideration during the year has been given to matters as wide-ranging as the importance of incense during Pagan meditation to care plans for older prisoners.
- 3.1.3 Some 10% of prisoners held at HMP Dovegate are foreign nationals. During this reporting year 3 foreign national prisoners remained incarcerated after completion of their sentences.
- 3.1.4 Of particular note is the fact that the library at HMP Dovegate holds a full recital of the Quran on DVD, a first for the prison service.

#### **3.2 Purposeful Activity**

##### **3.2.1 Overview**

- 3.2.1.1 At Dovegate, Purposeful Activity covers 27 out of cell activities in a wide range of subjects which can include time spent in the kitchens, gymnasium, chaplaincy, library, healthcare, tackling substance abuse, sentence planning, maintaining family ties, Offending Behaviour Programmes, other resettlement opportunities and so on. However the main bedrock of Purposeful Activity centres on Education and Workshops.
- 3.2.1.2 Purposeful Activity for the last two IMB reporting years averaged 37.5 and 35 hours per week respectively, which were prior to the prison extension in 2009. However on the introduction of remand prisoners in September 2009 a reduced target of 27.5 hours was agreed for the current prison year based on the mix of main/remand prisoners and more accurate data collection. Time unlocked is a KPT figure (key performance target) which at our reporting year end averaged 9.68 hours per day against a target of 9 hours.
- 3.2.1.3 Education is mainly provided by Serco but with the assistance of one or two independent organisations. Nergy deliver NVQ level 2 in Industries and the Kitchens, and the Rotary Club of Uttoxeter provide support to the Skills for Life classes (English and Mathematics). There are sufficient activity places for all prisoners and unemployment is minimal. The 50/50

education/workshop arrangement is still applicable although some prisoners are still engaged in full time employment.

- 3.2.1.4 Long term Healthcare residents now go into the Therapeutic Prison (TP) garden for a walk round with staff. The Education Department and Employment Department met all KPTs in the last year and are optimistic of meeting current targets at just over halfway through the reporting year.

### 3.2.2 **Education**

- 3.2.2.1 Prisoners are required to be occupied for 9 modules each week in work, education, or a combination of both. An additional paid module known as a 'domestic' session allows for visits to reception, cell cleaning etc.
- 3.2.2.2 The number of prisoners engaged in education varies from week to week, but a normal day would see 385 places occupied out of a maximum possible of 450 available.
- 3.2.2.3 The prison should have a complement of 31 tutors but at the moment there are 30 (32 the previous year). At the present time there are 44 Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) as opposed to 24 during the previous year.
- 3.2.2.4 Courses available are Information Technology (IT), European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL), English, Mathematics, Social and Life Skills, and Offending Behaviour courses. About 45 prisoners from the vulnerable prisoner wings attend Education during the morning and afternoon sessions. This facility became available when the new build opened and gives these prisoners their own education classroom area. Outreach is also available and staffed from the existing tutor pool which has a new timetable to allow more flexibility.
- 3.2.2.5 Prisoners are inducted into Education via the main induction process. At the moment in Dovegate there are 761 Prisoners indicating they are working under Level One for English and Mathematics. At the IMB Annual Conference, September 2010, it was stated that the percentage of the prison population with reading difficulties was in the region of 48%. The Education Department estimate a similar percentage applies to Dovegate. Basic literacy skills are tutored through the Shannon Trust reading plan well used in the prison estate.
- 3.2.2.6 This year Dovegate has developed new areas including an on-going education project across the prison to build an 8ft x 6ft greenhouse from 1500 recycled two-litre plastic bottles. In addition horticulture has been replaced by ground maintenance which will provide further paid employment.

### 3.2.3. **Workshops**

- 3.2.3.1 The Industries operation at HMP Dovegate consists of four independent assembly workshops (one workshop is for vulnerable prisoners) and a Laundry. Up to 200 prisoners each day are gainfully employed in manufacturing disciplines that can be found in any modern factory; further, they are exposed to management disciplines which they would experience in the external industrial environment. NVQs are available and the whole operation is focused on improving employability on release. There is full employment and a waiting list at the present time. There are 2 managers

and 11 staff members, a yard supervisor, a laundry officer and a training tutor.

3.2.3.2 The two main customers have maintained regular contracts despite a downturn in the general economy. These contracts have been on-going and are testimonies to the quality of the work carried out on a consistent basis and on a par, if not better than, the customers' own manufacturing operations.

3.2.3.3 The Dovegate retail shop employs 7 prisoners and encourages them to take an NVQ.

### 3.2.4 **Library**

3.2.4.1 The library is still well stocked having over 17,000 items including books, digital media and periodicals. Rotation is estimated at 25% over the year. Prisoners have access to 3 computers in the library.

3.2.4.2 The library is open for evening and weekend access and all prisoners are allocated a weekly visit. In the past it was often the case that insufficient badged escorts made it difficult for prisoners to access the library but this issue has improved considerably since education classes now find time for prisoners to attend the library.

3.2.4.3 Muslim prisoners now have a selection of Islamic material comprising 40 books that have been approved by the Imam, including the whole of the Quran on DVD.

3.2.4.4 A new delivery system has been put in place for those confined on Upper K wing, the CSU and Healthcare, who otherwise would have difficulty in obtaining the material.

3.2.4.5 Throughput is in the region of 800/900 prisoners per calendar month.

### 3.2.5 **Gymnasium**

3.2.5.1 The enlarged gym area with improved exercise facilities and all weather sports pitches are popular and well attended. Activities include football, badminton, basketball and weights as well as cardio-vascular equipment. Staff are always seeking to add to the gymnasium curriculum through dialogue with the prisoners.

3.2.5.2 Dovegate gymnasium usage is 7 hours per prisoner per week, considerably above the minimum requirement. The prison encourages everyone to exercise and throughput is in excess of 1700 prisoner sessions per week.

3.2.5.3 The gymnasium and associated areas are open 7 days a week.

### 3.2.6 **Offending Behaviour Programmes**

3.2.6.1 The prison now offers 3 accredited Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs) – TP (Therapeutic Prison), Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) and Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage It (CALM), the latter being the only recent addition. Last year's report highlighted the lack of OBPs as a significant concern to the prison. Of 4 possible programmes identified as being required, funding was only granted for CALM.

3.2.6.2 There are OBPs available which are not recognized as being accredited by the MOJ: Victim Awareness, Social and Life Skills and Stress and Anger Management are however all delivered as part of Education.

- 3.2.6.3 Waiting lists cause frustration amongst prisoners wanting to progress. However Dovegate now has a much bigger capacity to deliver but a waiting list still creates problems as the programmes' team needs to balance oral hearings/parole dates and risk and need. Prisoners are given an approximate date for course commencement but slippage does occur. The number of complaints has reduced in view of the new targets.
- 3.2.6.4 There are 10 new facilitators in post and 3 trainees who are taking the role of Treatment Managers; all support a part-time Programmes' Manager. This increase in staff adds to the frequency of OBP sessions which have increased to 150 completions from 48.

### **3.3 Healthcare and Mental Health**

- 3.3.1 Serco Health has a contract to provide healthcare at HMP Dovegate. Unlike Home Office prisons the local Primary Care Trust is not responsible for delivering healthcare at HMP Dovegate.
- 3.3.2 The Healthcare Centre was extended and refurbished during July – Sept 2009. All dormitory rooms were changed to single cell accommodation (twelve in total) and extra waiting rooms and a pharmacy were added. Other modifications were made to improve facilities and security. The new house block added to Dovegate to accommodate remand and IPP prisoners has increased the demand for all healthcare facilities and has stretched the ability of staff to cope.
- 3.3.3 All grades of additional staff have been recruited over the last year: managerial, nursing, and administration staff. There have been problems in all areas with turnover of staff and some agency staff have been used to fill the gaps. Currently the staff consists of two doctors, one dentist, one dental nurse and thirteen nurses including three team leaders. Other specialists are available as required.
- 3.3.4 Prisoners are very capable of exposing the weaknesses in any system and 67 applications to the IMB regarding healthcare represent 16.6% of all applications. The majority of these concerned medication. On an average week there will be approximately 800 prisoners receiving medication, some on a daily basis and others as “in possession” medication. Two nurses are allocated to each wing to deliver this: a big task when each prisoner has to be checked for identity and observed while they take the medication.
- 3.3.5 Waiting time to see a doctor is seven working days. All applications are triaged by a nurse who will arrange the appointments either to see a nurse or a doctor. Emergencies are sent to a local district hospital. It takes approximately twenty weeks to see a consultant but there are no problems with emergency treatments. The number of elderly prisoners is increasing, and this will put more pressure on the staff and facilities.
- 3.3.6 Mental Health is the same as ever and the beds in the in-patient facility are occupied long term mostly by prisoners with long-term mental health problems. The mental health team consists of three nurses and a team leader. Further help is provided by specialists. It is still difficult to find a place in a secure mental health hospital – twelve weeks being the normal waiting time.

- 3.3.7 The staff in the Healthcare Centre run some specialist clinics e.g. well man, chronic disease, diabetes, heart problems etc. They have also set up a walk-in centre in the Therapeutic Prison and this is proving to be supported and useful, so it may be extended to other wings.
- 3.3.8 Over the last year the IMB have seen many changes in Healthcare and this is where the highest number of applications originate from. The management structure has been strengthened and new systems introduced. We all hope that the staff will embrace these changes and give some much-needed stability to this facility.

## **3.4 Safer Custody**

### **3.4.1 Meetings**

Safer Custody Meetings are held every month. All departments are represented and an IMB member is always in attendance. Three Peer Support Workers (PSWs) attend the first part of the meeting.

### **3.4.2 Assessment, Care in Custody Team (ACCT documents)**

At the end of each meeting 3 or 4 random ACCT documents are checked in detail by those present. The process is very thorough and any points discovered are discussed in detail and lessons learnt.

### **3.4.3 Self-harm incidents**

There were 482 self-harm incidents during the reporting year, compared with 244 and 104 in the previous two years. There are several serial self-harmers in the total, and it should also be remembered that there has been a large increase in the number of prisoners with the opening of the new house block. This house block also houses a substantial number of local and remand prisoners. Nationally a large proportion of self-harm occurrences are in the first 48 hours in custody and this is reflected in Dovegate figures. Very few of the self-harm incidents have required hospital treatment and many were very minor cuts which are considered to be only marginally reportable.

### **3.4.4 Violence Reduction**

There were 23 assaults on staff compared with 21 and 32 in the previous two years. This is a good result again considering the increase in inmate numbers. 25 weapons were found and there were 103 prisoner-on-prisoner assaults. Prisoner-on-prisoner assaults were generally of a fairly minor nature with very few requiring medical treatment, but there has been an increase in frequency in the latter part of the reporting year.

### **3.4.5 Anti-Bullying Strategy**

The prison continues to operate a zero tolerance policy which seems to be having results. There has, however, been a spate of bullying on G & H Wings

(vulnerable prisoners) recently which has caused problems as there has been nowhere to separate the suspected culprits from their victims.

#### **3.4.6 Peer Support Worker (PSW) Scheme**

The PSW scheme seems to be working well. There is a frequent turnover of PSWs, but generally there has been at least one per wing. Their morale seems to be, on the whole, quite good.

#### **3.4.7 Poor Copers' Unit (PCU)**

We have had reservations about the regime and conditions in K Wing Upper, the PCU, for some time. We were concerned about the amount of time spent in cell, the length of time that prisoners stayed on the unit and the lack of purposeful activity. We are pleased to see that the PCU has recently been closed and the residents moved to the TP Reintegration Unit where they have a more normal regime. (see also para. 3.5.6)

#### **3.4.8 Summary**

Overall the statistics show HMP Dovegate to be a relatively safe place for both staff and prisoners. This is considered to be the result of the staff becoming more experienced and firm in their dealings with prisoners. The improvement in conditions for the previous members of the PCU is to be welcomed.

### **3.5 Segregation**

3.5.1 The Care and Separation Unit (CSU) is a separate building away from the main prison and contains 20 cells: 18 normal, 1 special and 1 which has been converted into a fitness suite. A business plan was introduced at the end of January which undertook to improve the image and environment of the CSU as perceived by the prisoners.

3.5.2 The CSU is there to encourage change in individuals who struggle to act in a pro-social manner. It is there to help people to reflect on the attitudes, thinking and behaviours that led to their relocation with the hope of preventing such behaviour being repeated in the future. It provides structure and support for such individuals in a pro-active, constructive and reasonable way.

3.5.3 The CSU was repainted in colours more relaxing to the eye and the Adjudication room altered to give it a much less austere look. New office equipment was also introduced and the result was a more pleasing appearance and environment from the prisoners' point of view. Much more information regarding the prison is displayed on the walls near the ATM machine.

3.5.4 Whereas previously Purposeful Activity tended to be a little bit hit and miss, a new Purposeful Activity programme was introduced into the CSU and prisoners were actively encouraged to use it. Purposeful Activity consists of Origami, Creative Writing, Art Therapy and Education. A fitness suite was introduced for the benefit of the inmates.

- 3.5.5 Flasks of hot water are now being given out each evening, and new underwear (i.e. boxer shorts and socks) are being given out every day (previously twice a week).
- 3.5.6 Upper K Wing no longer houses 'poor copers' but does hold some prisoners serving Cellular Confinement (C.C.) and also prisoners on normal regime. The Board keeps a close watch on this wing, and monitors those who are on C.C. (see also para. 3.4.7)

## **4. Other Areas of Prison Regime**

### **4.1 Adjudications**

- 4.1.1 With respect to Adjudications the "Fast Track Appeals" are no longer the responsibility of the Director, but are faxed to the Briefing and Casework Unit which is based in London and the results of most appeals are returned the same day.
- 4.1.2 On looking at the total number of Adjudications for the year October 2009 – September 2010 as against the total number of adjudications for the year October 2008 – September 2009 there has been in most months a slight increase, which is due to the increase in the prison population since the new wings were added.
- 4.1.3 On looking at the total of new Adjudications per month as a percentage of the prison population this shows a fall on average since January 2010 of over 2.3% per month.

See Appendix B for details.

### **4.2 Catering and Kitchens**

- 4.2.1 During his first months in office the Catering Manager (who started at HMP Dovegate on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009) did a fantastic job: menus were changed radically and the IMB received few if any applications on the subject. Disappointingly in recent months the standards have slipped, causing grave concern to the IMB. The standard of food has become unpredictable and the cleanliness of the kitchen complex leaves a lot to be desired. The Director was informed and inspected the kitchens on three different occasions, and as a result the kitchens are to be professionally steam-cleaned every three months. All IMB members are asked to be vigilant in this area.
- 4.2.2 On a brighter note there is now a facility for doing NVQs in a small kitchen off the main kitchen. Ramadan and Eid were a huge success thanks to the Imam (who has been congratulated). The food was excellent. The switching on of the bain-maries continues to be a problem. Another concern is the amount of food waste from the serveries.

### **4.3 Multi Faith Centre**

- 4.3.1 The work that the Multi Faith team do is an essential part of life in Dovegate and is vital to the welfare of staff, all prisoners and their families. The team are always busy and approach their work with an open positive attitude. Worship

and pastoral support is available to prisoners of all Faiths and none and the Multi Faith team are in turn supported by many volunteers who attend on a regular basis.

- 4.3.2 As well as the religious elements of the Multi Faith Centre activities there are many secular events based there which contribute greatly to life in the prison and are valued by all who attend and enhance the general well-being of the prisoners.
- 4.3.3 As reported in previous years deaths in custody inevitably increase the workload of the Multi Faith team but they continue to carry out this duty with great care and sensitivity to staff, prisoners and prisoners' families.

#### **4.4 Deaths in Custody**

Sadly, there were three deaths in custody during the course of the year, occurring in October 2009, January 2010 and August 2010. Inquests into all these deaths have been concluded. However, inquests into three other deaths, which occurred in March, July and September 2009, are still outstanding.

#### **4.5 Drugs**

- 4.5.1 As was expected with the arrival of remand prisoners, the possibility of drugs getting into the prison was increased. The vigilance of staff, and a good working relationship with both the Courts and the court transport company, has minimised this possibility. The problem of drugs, hooch and mobile phones continues to be given priority at the monthly Security Meeting. A Supply Reduction meeting is also held monthly, which gives rise to innovative ideas being tried to combat the supply of drugs, with an emphasis on all wing staff being aware and playing their part.
- 4.5.2 A Harm Reduction meeting also takes place each month, where the various professionals demonstrate a tremendously conscientious approach to minimising the harm which substance misuse can cause within the prison and on the prisoners' release. A member of the IMB attends each of these meetings.
- 4.5.3 The Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) rate has fluctuated throughout the year, but the rates are now well within Key Performance Targets (KPTs).
- 4.5.4 The Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) wing in the new House block is running well.

#### **4.6 Health and Safety**

- 4.6.1 The report for this year is written as the first full year working with the extended prison, an increased prison population and the new Health and Safety Officer, appointed in April 2009.
- 4.6.2 Much work has been undertaken to ensure the new premises meet the necessary requirements, whilst not losing sight of the continued needs of the everyday running of the existing establishment.
- 4.6.3 Regular monthly Health and Safety meetings have taken place and these have been well attended, well run and very constructive. The reporting of, and actions taken relating to Health and Safety issues, now raise the question of

continued requirement for monthly meetings. Consideration is now being given to making this a quarterly meeting.

4.6.4 Currently there are 11 new Health and Safety Representatives undergoing training to represent differing parts of the establishment.

4.6.5 The Health and Safety Officer and his team should be justifiably proud of the progress made, and the importance given to Health and Safety issues.

#### **4.7 Life Sentenced Prisoners**

4.7.1 Most lifer officers have been replaced by Probation Offender Supervisors, who are now responsible for all the reports. The Lifer Manager is to be replaced by the Senior Probation Officer.

4.7.2 All indeterminate prisoners are now either lifers or IPPs (imprisonment for public protection) with no 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> stage lifers as previously. Unlike the cap on lifers, there is no cap on the number of IPPs being sent to Dovegate, many of whom are only on a short tariff, with the result that the prison does not have the time to complete all the relevant paperwork or courses. At the end of the reporting year, 37 IPP prisoners were over tariff.

4.7.3 On a positive note the prison is now able to transfer some of the Category C lifers, who will therefore be able to progress with their sentence.

4.7.4 Currently in the main prison we house 144 lifers, of whom 37 are Category C, and 103 IPPs, of whom 14 are Category C; on the TP are 83 Lifers, of whom 19 are Category C and 83 IPPs, of whom 36 are Category C.

#### **4.8 PRIAC (Prisoners and Residents Information and Activities Committee)**

In July, PIAC (on the Main) and RIAC (on the TP) were merged into one weekly meeting. An IMB member attends when possible. The meetings are well attended, well run and constructive (see also para. 4.12.2).

#### **4.9 Reception**

The reception area has been expanded and staff numbers increased to cope with the greater throughput of prisoners. Pressure on the staff is particularly marked on a Friday afternoon, but the unit soon adapted to their new role and has coped well. During a short spell of very hot weather, the Board expressed concern that the holding cells were insufficiently ventilated for the number of men within.

#### **4.10 Applications**

4.10.1 The total number of applications received this year is 404 against a total of 257 for the same period last year. A rise of 147 applications representing a rise of 57% initially looks a very sharp increase but this should be set against the fact that a new house block, house block 3, housing 250 prisoners has been in operation throughout the current year and 123 of the 147 increase have come from this house block. It should be noted that one wing of house block 3 is an IDTS (integrated drug treatment system) wing and a second is a

remand wing. Against a population of 1150 housed on a daily basis the applications represent a relatively small number in total.

- 4.10.2 When looking at applications by subject heading, Healthcare remains the highest at 67 (16.58%) with Property a close second at 55 (13.61%). This means that 30% of all applications come under these two headings. Systems are already in place to reduce the Healthcare figures and note should be taken, that whilst this subject heads the list, it represents applications from only a small proportion of the prisoners at HMP Dovegate.
- 4.10.3 Property issues are more difficult to influence as the majority of applications relate to property lost in transfer between prisons.

See **Appendix C** for further details.

#### **4.11 Security**

- 4.11.1 There is a security meeting every month which is chaired by the Director. A representative from every department attends (as well as the IMB), which emphasises that security matters are high profile and everybody's responsibility. Details of all security targets are discussed at the meeting e.g. cell searches, drugs, mobile phones, arrival of new prisoners, security incident reports.
- 4.11.2 Everyone entering Dovegate is searched, bags are X-rayed, drug dogs are often present and a BOSS (body orifice security scanner) chair is available. All parcels arriving at the prison are also searched. However contraband still gets through to prisoners. Staff are encouraged to be constantly alert to all the different ways that prisoners can receive and then hide illegal goods.

#### **4.12 Therapeutic Prison**

- 4.12.1 The Therapeutic Prison continues to flourish under the Director and his team which has been strengthened by the appointment in early 2010 of a Principal Psychologist and a Senior Psychologist. Changes to the normal day continue to show benefits with all therapy sessions taking place during the mornings. During these periods no visitors are allowed on to any of the therapeutic wings thereby removing any distraction or disturbance in therapy sessions, which can be and are very difficult sessions for some of those confronting their misdeeds. The Board has sometimes felt that this is restrictive of its activities but has come to respect the requirements of the regime.
- 4.12.2 It is pleasing to see that the regular RIAC (Residents Information and Activities Committee) which had improved so much and worked so well has been brought together with the PIAC (Prisoners Information and Activities Committee) meeting on a weekly basis thus saving duplication of representation and effort by those dealing with similar problems and concerns. IMB members continue to attend these meetings.
- 4.12.3 The grounds of TP show a marked improvement in their appearance and productivity, with much of the horticultural produce being utilised in the kitchens, making considerable savings to the budget of the establishment.
- 4.12.4 The target roll of 190 can be difficult to achieve when consideration has to be given to the housing of those who have completed therapy or have been deselected and await relocation. This year there has been a dramatic

increase in the numbers in therapy, 92% compared with only 50% in the previous year. Added to this, it is pleasing to note that the KPTs are running at 150%.

- 4.12.5 Prisoners spend 50% of time in Therapy and 50% in Education. The courses on offer include Essential Skills, Mathematics, English, Information Technology, Basic Biology, Re-integration, Garden Party, Money Management, Industrial Cleaning, Family Relationships, Life Crisis, Art Therapy, Drama and ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence). The Ceramics course is without a tutor at present. A typical day would see 100 prisoners attend Education out of a maximum possible of 140 or so places available. (71% efficiency). Therapy through art has also been very successful along with the therapy gained during targeted gym sessions.
- 4.12.6 The dramatic success and performance within TP is further enhanced by the fact that other establishments such as HMP Grendon and Rampton are keen to establish systems along similar lines. The only downside is the lack of progress within the prison system once therapy has been completed.

#### **4.13 Throughcare**

Since the opening of house block 3, HMP Dovegate has many prisoners with short sentences to review at this meeting. Sadly, there is not much the prison can do regarding their throughcare so this falls onto their outside probation officers. With this in mind the meeting is now known as the MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangements) meeting and concentrates on the high-risk prisoners being released, who are reviewed at 3 months and again 1 month prior to release. A designated IMB member attends these meetings. However for the last few months many of these very important meetings have been cancelled. This is a cause of great concern to the Board.

#### **4.14 Visits**

- 4.14.1 The Visits area is another part of the prison which was extended to cope with the anticipated increase in the number of visitors and the whole system works smoothly. Recently the outside bungalow, where visitors first book in, has been made more accommodating and friendly, with a simple reception desk, comfortable chairs and a television screen.
- 4.14.2 The Board receives a trickle of applications from prisoners placed on closed visits, but when followed up, the reasons are always found to be necessary. The closed visits area is in better condition than at times in the past.

## **5. The Work of the Board**

- 5.1 The Board now numbers 12 established members and 3 members in their probationary year.
- 5.2 The Board continues to have half-hour training sessions before the monthly Board meetings, as well as two full days of training per annum.
- 5.3 Members of the Board have visited HMP Lowdham Grange, with their Board, and the Board at HMP Grendon, visiting us.
- 5.4 The Chair and Vice-Chair have attended the biannual meetings of Area Chairs and Contracted-out Chairs. 2 members attended the Annual Conference and 3 members attended the Continued Development course.
- 5.5 We thank the Director and his staff, as well as the Controller and his staff, for their generous hospitality and for the courtesy they extend to all members. We also thank our Clerk, who is provided by Serco.

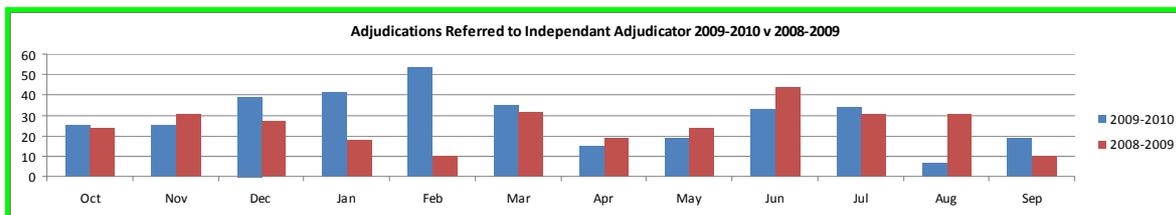
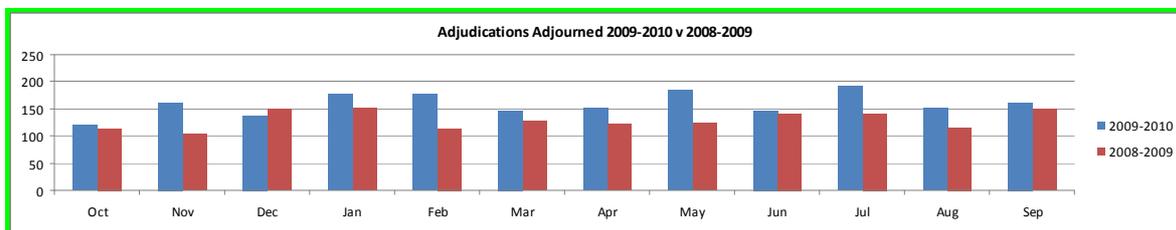
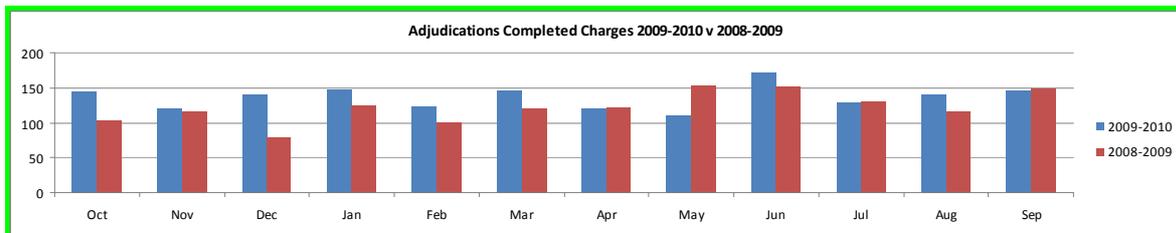
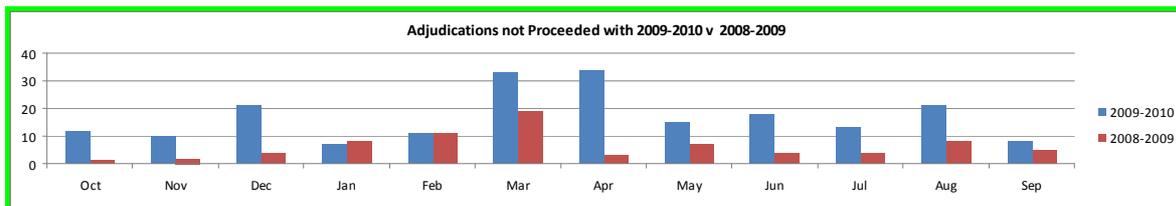
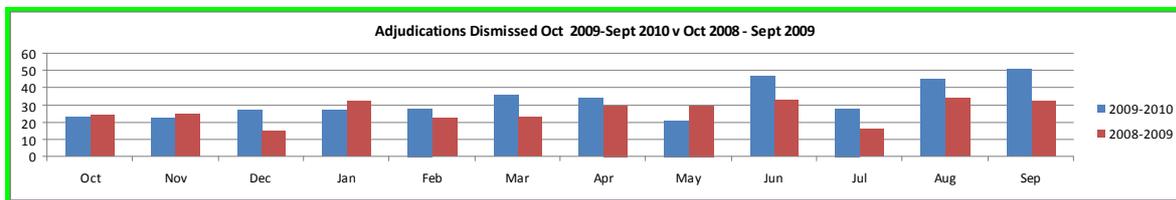
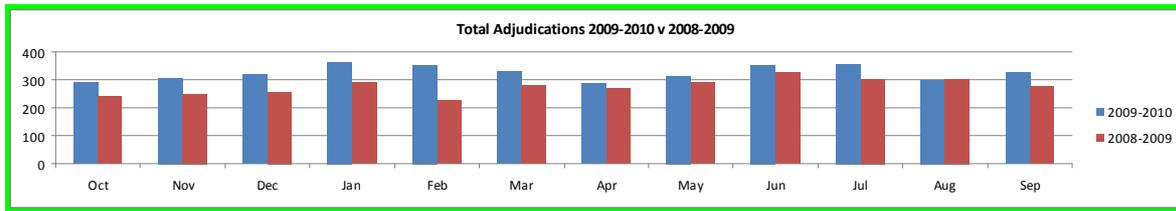
## **Appendix A**

### **Board Statistics**

Recommended Complement of Board Members	20
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	13
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	15
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3
Number of members leaving within reporting period	1
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	10
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	73
Total number of visits to the prison/IRC (including all meetings)	557
Total number of applications received	398
Total number of segregation reviews held	81
Total number of segregation reviews attended	79

## Appendix B

### Adjudications



## Appendix C Applications

