

# HMP LONG LARTIN

Annual Report of the  
Independent  
Monitoring  
Board

01.02.09 / 31.01.10

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## **1. STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

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:

- Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- 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.

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### **3. Description of the Prison**

HMP Long Lartin is a dispersal prison within the High Security Estate. It is situated in the Vale of Evesham.

Long Lartin was opened in 1971 as a Category C establishment and upgraded to receive dispersal prisoners in May 1973. Since then successive programmes of investment have renovated and adapted the original premises. The one substantial extension to the prison has been a new house block and Segregation Unit; these were opened 10 years ago.

Further work has been completed within the reporting year. Two of the original six wings have been replaced by new accommodation. This was occupied from June 2009 onwards. In the medium term, there are plans for two more house blocks to be built. These would stand on the sports field, which is now disused. If these plans come to fruition, Long Lartin will be holding close to 1000 dispersal prisoners. This is territory as yet un-charted.

During the year under review Long Lartin has moved from a CNA of 454 to one of 622. These men will normally be in Categories A or B, with a small number drawn from High Risk Category A. From time to time there are provisional Category A prisoners held on remand before trials in the South West. A discrete unit accommodates some unconvicted men who are held pending arrangements for their deportation. They are deemed to be Category A or High Risk Category A.

Responsibility for healthcare lies with the Worcestershire Primary Care Trust. The Education contract is with the Manchester College. Provisions and canteen are provided by DHL Booker

## **4. Executive Summary**

This report covers the period 1st February 2009 until 31st January 2010. It is presented in the standardised national format.

### **Matters for the Minister**

1. The pressure of numbers placed on the prison system because of tariff expired or expiring prisoners unable to complete their sentence planning due to unavailable resource. It seems that any savings made by reducing sentence planning courses could be lost against the cost of keeping a prisoner longer than might otherwise be necessary and generally keeping prison population higher than need be. Paras 6.10.1-6.10.3
2. The lack of any apparent screening process for ADHD on Reception. Paras 5.3.3-5.3.6
3. The apparent lack of a coherent approach to dealing with issues arising from the significant increase in the proportion of elderly prisoners held in a high security environment. Para 5.3.7
4. The difficulty of finding sufficient beds in secure hospitals for the increasing number of prisoners who suffer with moderate to severe mental health issues. Para 5.3.8

### **Matters for the Director**

1. The apparent lack of training available for staff and Board members who deal regularly with sex offenders. Para 5.4.8
2. The difficulty of arranging transfers out of the prison owing to the unwillingness of potential recipient establishments to take them. Para 6.11.6

### **Matters for the prison**

1. The need for improved organisation within the visits area to unite prisoners and their visitors without delays. Para 6.2.3
2. The need to carry out effective training for suicide watch assessors and to improve the quality of ACCT form entries. Para 5.4.3



## **5. Areas upon which the Board is required to report**

- 5.1 Diversity
- 5.2 Learning & Skills
- 5.3 Healthcare
- 5.4 Safer Custody
- 5.5 Segregation Unit

## **5. Areas upon which the Board is required to report**

### **5.1. Diversity**

- 5.1.1. The prison Muslim population continues to be the largest religious minority with 162 out of 620 at the end of the reporting year. Managing Friday prayers and Ramadan has presented challenges in the past. These have been met with commendable diligence. Searching, always a significant part of the prison's routine, is generally done with sensitivity to dress codes and the handling of religious artefacts such as the Qu'ran.
- 5.1.2. The population of elderly prisoners is steadily rising in Long Lartin, as elsewhere in the prison system. There has been some increase in the need for more accessible accommodation. This is especially the case in the older wings housing vulnerable prisoners. There are few amenities for such prisoners and the limitations of the buildings allow little scope for improvements.
- 5.1.3. Many of the diseases of old age are progressive and not easily spotted. One prisoner has been identified as suffering from dementia. It is difficult to see how the condition of such prisoners can be addressed in the High Security Estate, and it is becoming more difficult to justify their remaining in it. There is likely to come a time when the decision to move demented prisoners will have to be balanced by the psychological harm such a move would risk.

## **5.2. Learning & Skills**

- 5.2.1. Manchester College was awarded the education contract for HMP Long Lartin in August 2009. This maintained continuity as the previous contract was with the City College Manchester since renamed the Manchester College. There will now be stability for the five year period of the contract. The delivery plan to put the new work schedule into operation means that the Manager's role is now more strategic than "hands on" as previously.
- 5.2.2. Solid progress has been made during the year, not least in focussing on employability and individual prisoners' learning and skills needs. Improvements were made during the year in IT courses, with new equipment installed. Some prisoners are successfully working on Open University Courses.
- 5.2.3. There are nine education sessions a week, three for vulnerable prisoners and six for mainstream prisoners. Some classes such as Skills for Life and IT have waiting lists as the demand for education has increased since Echo and Foxtrot wings were opened. The department is doing its best to overcome this by duplicating classes for each regime. The department has made great efforts to combine learning with vocational courses (barber salon and construction workshop). A new food and drink qualification has been set up in the kitchen in conjunction with education. In addition, work is done with prisoners on developing their literacy and numeracy skills.
- 5.2.4. Some teaching staff has since been assigned to the workshops as a familiarization exercise. One instructor is now working on bringing learning skills into a workshop area. This scheme needs to be monitored more closely from the side of the education instructor, workshop instructors and prisoners.
- 5.2.5. The department is a credit to staff and a strong contributor to the process of the rehabilitation of prisoners.

## **5.3. Healthcare**

- 5.3.1. The Board is pleased to report that the Healthcare Dept. Has been seen to deliver a high standard of treatment and care to prisoners during the past year at Long Lartin, with the provider, Worcester P.C.T, having shown an ongoing commitment to ensuring the service achieves its targets and provides value for money. Weekly monitoring by the IMB invariably reports an extremely clean unit which is both quiet and orderly. There has been a recurring mention however of the lack of exercise facilities at times for those in Healthcare.
- 5.3.2. Prisoners are able to see a doctor within very acceptable times and this has also been the case with dentist waiting times. During the year the appointment system has been improved resulting in shorter waiting times.
- 5.3.3. The Board continues to have concerns about the lack of support afforded to prisoners who have an A.D.H.D. diagnosis. The problem caused by the recognised national shortfall in ongoing treatments into adulthood adversely affects younger diagnosed prisoners who have had treatments in childhood and adolescence. The impairments associated with this condition, or indeed other autistic spectrum disorders, result in prisoners finding it difficult to cope with the structure of the prison day or indeed the sentence planning process. These difficulties are reported by Probation staff and indeed Education.
- 5.3.4. Staff in the prison are very well equipped historically to deal with the prison population of offenders who are older. However certain such groups with specific difficulties do present a problem. Very successful training has been put in place by Healthcare for staff to deal with those prisoners suffering from psychiatric conditions in the past year. The Board would hope to see further training for the A.D.H.D. population taking place in the near future.
- 5.3.5. This concern was registered in the 2008/9 report and although the Board was assured by the Minister that a health screening process was in place on reception at Long Lartin, there is no evidence of this taking place at

this time. The prison has a duty to provide this under PSO 2855 and in particular subsection 6.32.

- 5.3.6. Not only does the prison need to comply with the PSOs but a clearer protocol and guidelines need to be in place to inform those working with a prisoner with this condition, with as stated, any accompanying training of staff. The P.C.T. acknowledges this shortcoming and is intending to start a pilot scheme in due course in the Worcestershire prisons to look at learning disability and screening provision. In the meantime many appear to be struggling within the system.
- 5.3.7. The older population of offenders who have been transferred to the prison associated with the vulnerable prisoner population will undoubtedly prove to make greater demands on the service as time goes on. Access to services, such as the optician, is identified as needing improvement in the prison in the near future.
- 5.3.8. It has been noted that more and more prisoners are coming into the unit with varying degrees of mental health problems. We often wonder whether they are being held in the most appropriate type of facility, or indeed if a High Security Prison has the resources to treat them. Whilst the situation is improving, the prison is still finding it extremely difficult to find beds in medium and high security hospitals. The average wait for such a bed remains in excess of six months.

## **5.4. Safer Custody**

- 5.4.1. The Suicide Awareness Committee meets every other month throughout the year. There is an average of 10 Listeners available who play an important part in the prison. That number can vary from month to month due to prisoners being transferred, resigning or being suspended. Listeners are used on average about 7 times each month. The Long Lartin Listeners have this year produced a short film on DVD for staff training. During part of the year some Muslim prisoners were allegedly using Muslim listeners for passing messages to other prisoners. Even allowing that this may have been the case, we would like to express our appreciation of the work done by listeners who can bring real comfort to unhappy and disturbed prisoners.
- 5.4.2. During the reporting period there were no deaths in custody at Long Lartin. The ACCT system operates throughout the prison and 200 ACCT forms were opened during the reporting period which was higher than the previous year's 165. Part of this increase is due to the fact that Long Lartin's prison population was increased significantly with the opening of 2 new wings in July 2009 and the re-rolling of 4 wings as Support Units.
- 5.4.3. There is however a need for more trained suicide watch assessors but staff detail, staff shortages and courses being postponed prevents training taking place. The Board is also concerned about the effective completion of ACCT forms, both fully and accurately.
- 5.4.4. Until recently the new Managing Challenging Behaviour strategy did not appear to be very effective for those individuals who chose to ignore it and remain segregated, not working towards targets. This has led to prisoners remaining segregated for long periods without progression. It remains very difficult to negotiate a transfer for the few prisoners not compliant with the MCB strategy.
- 5.4.5. Violence Reduction Strategy: The number of assaults in the framework of Key Performance Targets has been reducing steeply over recent years. In our reporting year 2006 – 07 there were 88 assaults compared to 13 in 2009

– 10. There has been, roughly, a 50% reduction each year since 2006 – 07. There were a further 19 assaults outside the KPT framework. The prison is a noticeably calmer place than it was. This must be due to the continuing success of appropriate strategies put in place to reduce violent attacks and good commendable practice on the part of staff and management. Nevertheless, Long Lartin will remain a dangerous environment while it accommodates men disposed to violence.

5.4.6. When the prison numbers increased during the summer it might have been expected that violent incidents would have increased. This has not happened.

5.4.7. Anti-bullying: Recorded incidents of bullying have reduced from the previous year, from 147 to 130, in line with the longer term trend and despite the expansion of the population in the reporting period. It is notable that bullying is far from uniform throughout the prison. The vulnerable prisoner wings A and B accounted for more than half of all recorded incidents in the reporting year.

5.4.8. A particular area of concern for the Board is the apparent lack of available training for staff and Board members, in dealing with psychological issues raised when interacting with any of the vastly increased number of sex offenders at Long Lartin. Enquiries with the training department have proved fruitless, other than to recall some previous arrangement with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation which had proved to be of little or no benefit.

5.4.9. On the 20th September 2009 Long Lartin successfully hosted a Samaritans Open Day

## **5.5. Segregation Unit**

- 5.5.1. It has been another very busy year for the Segregation Unit with typically 25 – 35 prisoners held.
- 5.5.2. The Rule 45 Board has worked very well with most departments attending regularly. This allows the prisoner attendees a wider voice. The Board has strong reservations about the notional limit of 3 months segregation having been increased to 6 months. This can be extended further without referral where seg-to-seg transfers occur. It is apparent to the Board that the longer prisoners remain segregated, the more their general and mental health deteriorates.
- 5.5.3. The unit normally holds 2 high profile CSC prisoners. However in all respects other than their heightened unlock regime, they seldom cause staff many problems.
- 5.5.4. When the new wings came on line and the older accommodation was re-tasked as VP wings, the Board were assured that this would not result in an increased proportion of prisoners segregated for their own protection. Prior to this those held under Rule 45P represented no more than 1/3 of the total. At the time of writing the proportion stands at over 40%.
- 5.5.5. There have only been 83 instances of use of force within the calendar year and of these only 3 resulted in the use of special accommodation. These figures are exceptionally good for a prison the size and type of Long Lartin.
- 5.5.6. There were 12 instances of dirty protest throughout the year which was less than the previous year.

## **6. Areas upon which the Board chooses to report**

### **6.1. Censors**

6.1.1. It appears to be accepted practice that when areas are short staffed it is frequently Censors staff who are used for covering those areas. This can create significant backlogs, disrupting the smooth running of not only incoming post but also visiting orders. This can create anger with prisoners awaiting post from family and friends. Post, food, and gymnasium are a huge part of prisoners' lives and when any are disrupted it has a deleterious effect throughout the establishment.

## **6.2. Children and Family Pathway Forum**

- 6.2.1. This strong and positive group now incorporates the former Visitors Centre Management Committee. Meeting bi-monthly it is enthusiastically chaired by a member of the chaplaincy team but with regular participation from all departments with an interest in fostering communication between prisoners and their families.
- 6.2.2. The Board was pleased to note the regular holding of family visits, now reformulated as Family Time. These are held in school holidays or at half term break and are scheduled several months in advance. At the present time only Enhanced prisoners on normal location are eligible to partake in these sessions. During the next year it is proposed to extend this by two sessions for Enhanced prisoners from support wings. Owing to security considerations there is a maximum of eleven families permitted at any one session. Initially the take up had been slow although this has improved during the last year.
- 6.2.3. The difficulties in the regular visiting sessions continue to be brought to the attention of the Board. Several different courses of action to unite prisoners with their visitors have been tried and found wanting. The Board will continue to press for improvements in this area which causes so much frustration for visitors, prisoners and staff.

### **6.3. Detainee Unit**

- 6.3.1. This unit has the responsibility of holding 6 – 8 prisoners who are neither charged nor convicted. They are being held pending agreement on their deportation or extradition. Their status is deemed to be Category A and one Category B prisoner.
- 6.3.2. This unit was locked off from the rest of the prison in early December 2008 and has since remained so. In August 2009 a new regime was introduced where Detainees had a once-weekly access to the main prison library. Resources also improved during the year with more education provisions including an education tutor and a gym instructor once a week.
- 6.3.3. There is still much frustration among the Detainees about the regime and the unit being inadequate for its purpose (it was previously a Segregation Unit). The matter has been in the hands of a Judicial Review – the judgement for which has now been published and which, in the main, took the side of the prison. Nonetheless, the Board cannot but be concerned at the evident effects of continued isolation on this small group of men

## 6.4. Foreign Nationals

- 6.4.1. In September 2009 there were 11,056 Foreign Nationals (FN's) held in prison establishments in England and Wales. This includes 504 who are sentence expired and are held under immigration laws. Currently Long Lartin has 106 FNs, 4 of which are Detainees being held under Immigration power and 5 awaiting extradition. 26 of these are determinates, 67 Lifers/ISPP's and 4 are suspected FNs.
- 6.4.2. The prison has 42 different nationalities; the largest group are Jamaican (42). There are also 14 Irish and 10 Pakistan nationals. The FN population has obviously increased over the last 12 months as would be expected with the increase in the population of the prison. The prison has had 1 FN due for release this year and he is now currently being held under Immigration powers as he is appealing against his deportation.
- 6.4.3. Meetings are held bi-monthly with a good representation of prisoners from most wings. Those wings not having representatives are kept informed by the Governor chairing the meetings. Regular issues regarding property, canteen, visits and telephone calls were all dealt with quickly each month. Halal meat is still an ongoing concern. Halal meat is regularly not labelled and yet it is clearly supplied by Certificated Halal suppliers. Prisoners request all Halal meat to be labelled accordingly.
- 6.4.4. Immigration Surgery takes place when prisoners request a visit. Immigration staff were regularly attending Long Lartin at the beginning of the year but due to lack of appointments by prisoners were cancelled in July 2009. Immigration staff are now notified when prisoners wish to discuss an issue and visit Long Lartin accordingly.
- 6.4.5. The Board has noted that Foreign National meetings are getting shorter indicating less issues being raised by wing representatives. Also the majority of Foreign Nationals communicate very well using the English language.

## 6.5. Kitchen and Catering

- 6.5.1. With the increase in size of the prison, kitchen production has risen by over 30% (from 430 – 620 prisoners). This has been accompanied by the further challenge of budget restrictions being placed upon the operation. Despite these factors, and against the numerous challenges faced by the kitchen due to the inevitable vagaries of the regime, standards have remained high. The IMB receives very few complaints about the quality of the food and when sampling food on rota visits members usually report favourably. Lunch is mainly wet meals and tea is generally “pick-up” drier meals.
- 6.5.2. During the reporting year the kitchen employed 34 prisoner staff, of whom 19 were kept on and 15 were ‘sacked out’, due to loss of their enhanced status. Very few losses of prisoner staff were due to inappropriate behaviour in the kitchen. Staffing levels have risen from 16 – 19 prisoners, in response to the increased workload, and an extra member of professional staff has also been added.
- 6.5.3. The maximum stay of a prisoner working in the kitchen tends to be 12 months – due to such factors as transfers out. Over the year approximately 25% of prisoners stayed for three months, 25% for six months, 25% for nine months and 25% for 12 months.
- 6.5.4. No major maintenance problems have occurred during the year and extra equipment has been added. Although the budget has been very tight it has been very well managed by the kitchen SO. It is hoped that the replacement of the experienced kitchen SO by a civilian manager will not see a drop in the quality of budgetary management, although it is noted by the IMB that there is a dip in the, usually good, staff morale due to this uncertainty. Currently the kitchen has a daily budget of just £1.60 per prisoner for the three daily meals.
- 6.5.5. At present a lack of funding means there is no NVQ training, although it is hoped money will become available in the near future. Traditionally it has been hard to achieve a balance of study and cooking as the kitchen

is a busy, 365 day, working operation. Nevertheless, during the past year thirteen prisoners participated in NVQ training and 59 units were passed. Seven prisoners completed a full NVQ, whilst others were transferred out before completing the full course at HMP Long Lartin. The British Institute of Cleaning Science (Stages 1 & 2) can also be studied.

6.5.6. Ramadan was a busy time for the kitchen but it is reported to have gone well and the IMB observed hard work in the kitchen, including contribution from prisoners drafted in to help during this period. Halal meat is required to be kept separate and this is being achieved but is difficult due to space restrictions.

6.5.7. The chaplaincy and education dept (which has just introduced a new learning skills course) have become more involved with the kitchen. The chaplaincy has enlisted the kitchen to provide food for various religious feast days during the year.

6.5.8. Morale has generally been good during the year from staff and prisoners – this observation being based upon ad hoc conversations with both groups during the year. Prisoners feel they are treated fairly and with respect by the professional kitchen staff.

## **6.6. Legal Officers**

6.6.1. At present the prison has only two legal officers. This means that any prisoner wanting urgent legal advice can wait up to two months before seeing anyone. The Board's view is that the presence of a reasonably effective legal officer service could reduce both time and money spent on litigation by heading off at least some of the issues at an early stage.

## **6.7. Prisoners Consultative Committee**

6.7.1. This group has met infrequently and with little notice during the year 2009. The first three extraordinary meetings at the beginning of the year dealt exclusively with the introduction of the new canteen system.

6.7.2. After a strong performance in 2008, the Board is sad to note the lack of opportunity and focus in 2009

## **6.8. PSO1700 and P-NOMIS Computer System**

6.8.1. The introduction of the new revised PSO1700 has increased considerably the amount of administrative work required by unit staff and official visitors. Let us hope it will make a beneficial difference to the wellbeing of prisoners.

6.8.2. The new P-NOMIS computer system has also made much more work for personal officers.

6.8.3. Both of the above are very time consuming and impact on available resources. We are concerned that landing work and time spent working with prisoners is being adversely affected as a consequence.

## **6.9. Rehabilitation – Writer in Residence**

- 6.9.1. The Board was encouraged by the dedication and commitment of staff and prisoners who participated in the Creative Writing and the Reading workshops, organised and delivered by the Writer in Residence at Long Lartin. Most prisoners from within the Mainstream and Vulnerable Prisoner population had opportunity to attend workshops. Furthermore the Board is pleased to report that both workshops were also offered to prison staff during lunchtimes by the Writer in Residence.
- 6.9.2. The Board wishes to congratulate everyone involved for their hard work in producing a record number of entries processed at Long Lartin for the Koestler Awards, which includes a novel, a poetry pamphlet, an individual collection of poems, single poems, a radio play and a screen play. It is apparent to the Board that prisoners and staff find the workshops an exciting learning experience which identifies a fulfilling and interesting area of education to be enjoyed as part of a group, as well as a personal pastime.
- 6.9.3. The full text of this report whilst overlong for the standard format used here is considered to be of sufficient merit to be reproduced in Appendix 2.

## **6.10. Sentence Planning**

- 6.10.1. During the year, and particularly currently it has come to the Board's attention that there are a number of inmates located on the support wings and waiting courses. Our most recent information is that at the time of writing there were 43 prisoners referred but not yet scheduled.
- 6.10.2. Several of these inmates are tariff expired, or coming to the end of their tariff, and have been recommended for the Cognitive Self Change Programme (CSCP) However no such course is currently available on A, B, C, or D wings. There is apparently the possibility of funds being released at the end of the year, with possible funding for assessments after that, but in the meantime inmates are in limbo and are unable to progress through the system.
- 6.10.3. Not only is this situation damaging for them as it is reflected in their application for parole, but it causes difficulties for the wing staff that have to deal with their frustration.

## **6.11. Transfers**

- 6.11.1. The transfer board considers applications from prisoners. These applications fall into four main categories; prisoners who wish to move to a prison which runs courses on their sentence plan; prisoners no longer needing the rigour of the high security estate; prisoners who are far from home and receive few or no visits from family members; and those who are reaching the end of their sentences and should be prepared for release at a local jail.
- 6.11.2. Transfer Board meetings take place each month attended by a broad range of staff. An IMB board member usually attends as an observer. The applications are dealt with thoughtfully, fairly and thoroughly.
- 6.11.3. The Transfer Board considers whether the move would facilitate prisoners' progression of sentence with regard to public safety. Applicants must have completed their courses and six months residence at Long Lartin without proven adjudication. Applicants are most likely to succeed if they seek a transfer to prisons which offer courses in line with sentence planning. Humane grounds for transfer such as to be near family are treated sympathetically provided that such moves are in line with sentence planning and are to appropriate establishments. Some applications depend on re-categorisation to Category C.
- 6.11.4. All transfers depend on both a suitable placement being identified by Long Lartin staff and the prisoner being accepted into the receiving establishment.
- 6.11.5. Staff at Long Lartin make strenuous efforts to obtain placements in appropriate establishments. There are continuing serious difficulties facing the prison with regard to finding places for prisoners. This has been a cause for concern for some years. There has not been an appreciable improvement.
- 6.11.6. The interval between a move being agreed and a placement can stretch into months and even years. The difficulties arise, in part, out of

a shortage of suitable accommodation. However, another factor is unwillingness on the part of other prisons to accept Long Lartin prisoners. There have been cases in which even after a transfer has been agreed and the prisoner has arrived in the receiving prison when officers have recognised him and refused to accept him. The result is that the prisoner is returned to Long Lartin with very little prospect of progress. This is demoralising for the prisoner who has demonstrated his suitability and the staff whose efforts to rehabilitate him have been ignored and even damaged. It has long been the case that informal deals are struck in which prisoner swaps take place. This often results in prisoners coming to Long Lartin who do not require high security conditions. Sometimes to move a prisoner on to an appropriate establishment a two for one deal is made, increasing Long Lartin's problem.

- 6.11.7. It is practice not to release prisoners directly from the high security estate. Nevertheless prisoners are released from Long Lartin without proper preparation for resettlement outside as a direct result of other prisons refusing to accept them. This lack of preparation must increase the risk of re-offending.

## **6.12. Wings - Alpha & Bravo**

- 6.12.1. Alpha and Bravo wings can accommodate up to 75 prisoners on each wing. Both Alpha and Bravo have the same mix of prisoners – VP's and sex offenders.
- 6.12.2. Alpha Wing has the Integration Spur located on the ground level which is kept separate from the rest of the wing. This Spur houses prisoners that come from the Segregation Unit with the view to moving them back from Segregation to normal location. Each prisoner arrives on to the Spur with a Local Behaviour Care Plan to support them and that is reviewed every 4 days to get them off the basic regime. This is based on their behaviour and compliance and the progress they make on the wing.
- 6.12.3. The Integration Spur has 8 cells including 2 listener cells and is allocated an officer, located in the Movements office, to monitor and supervise the Spur and nothing else. There are normally 7 staff plus an S/O on Alpha and Bravo wings but Alpha has the extra officer to look after the Integration Spur. The idea has been tried out for about 6 months and appears to be a success by the feedback received from prisoners and staff on Alpha wing in general.

## **6.13. Wings - Charlie & Delta**

6.13.1. The re-rolling of these two wings took place in the spring of 2009. Both wings were closed for short periods to enable cleaning and general maintenance to take place. Prisoners needing the structure and security offered by the structure of these wings were then transferred either from within the prison, or from elsewhere in the High Security Estate. Charlie wing was re-rolled as an Enhanced wing while Delta wing holds mainly Standard prisoners. Both wings are Support Units. The sudden influx of so many new prisoners put enormous strain on the staff on the wings and the Board was impressed with the way they coped and managed a potentially difficult situation.

6.13.2. The Board does note that due to the profile of prisoners on the support wings there are a number of elderly prisoners on these wings. Following re-rolling the average age increased by 8 years and at the end of the year there were 29 aged over 65 years of age. In addition there are a number of prisoners classed as medically unfit to work and they can be seen wandering aimlessly around the wing.

## **6.14. Wings - Echo & Foxtrot**

- 6.14.1. These wings were opened in May 2009 at a cost of £20m. Echo wing houses mainly standard prisoners and Foxtrot wing houses only Enhanced prisoners. There are 2 cells on each wing catering for disabled prisoners with wheelchair access. There are 41 staff shared between the 2 wings. There have been minimal assaults on both wings since they were opened.
- 6.14.2. The Board is concerned about the level of BME Muslim prisoners on Echo wing. This currently runs at 56% compared to 26% throughout the rest of the prison. Because of the layout of the prison and the support wings there is very little scope to adjust this figure as there is no other wing to house these prisoners. There are very few BME Muslim prisoners on the Support wings.

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

7.1.1. This report results from a good deal of Board time and legwork within Long Lartin and elsewhere. Board members registered one thousand and twenty five visits to the prison over the year under review though in a year which has seen the prison population increase by over one third; such statistics have less immediate application.

7.1.2. Many of the Board's visits were in response to applications made by prisoners.

7.1.3. The Board has lost one experienced member to relocation, and gained fresh insight with the recruitment of one new member during the year.

Richard West  
Chair

Appendix 1– Board Statistics

	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>
Recommended complement of Board members	18	17
Numbers of Board members at the start of the reporting period	17	15
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	14	17
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	1	2
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	4	0
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	27	28
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	1025	999
Total number of open applications received	590	582
Total number of confidential access applications received	77	39
Total number of segregation reviews held	52	52
Total number of segregation reviews attended	52	52

## **Rehabilitation – Writer in Residence**

### *Full report text*

The Board was encouraged by the dedication and commitment of staff and prisoners who participated in the Creative Writing and the Reading workshops, organised and delivered by the Writer in Residence at Long Lartin. Most prisoners from within the Mainstream and Vulnerable Prisoner population had opportunity to attend workshops. It was a testament to everyone involved, that their hard work and boundless enthusiasm resulted in some amazing and unique pieces of work. Furthermore the Board is pleased to report that both workshops were also offered to prison staff by the Writer in Residence during lunchtimes. With the co-operation of the Writer in Residence, library staff and prisoners, the Board attended a number of Creative Writing and Reading workshops and made the following observations.

Wherever possible, workshops benefited from the use of library facilities, increasing prisoners' awareness and access to reading material which could develop their knowledge of literature. Engaging a small group of prisoners in each workshop ensured that they benefited from a sense of community and collaboration throughout the sessions.

Reading workshops were energised through an eclectic choice of fiction and non-fiction reading material. Books, poems and writings were selected to cultivate dialogue and debate, and prisoners were invited in turn to comment on their likes and dislikes on each topic. The Board can give credit to the Writer in Residence for the way in which each group was managed, allowing the opportunity for everyone to voice their opinion. At times the literature would be hotly debated, indicating that everyone was engaged and involved. It was recognised at each workshop that everyone's opinion was valid, and group discussion encouraged prisoners to consider different perspectives and ideas of others. The groups were encouraged to read different genres of books which could challenge them to develop different ideas in a new context, critically examining, responding to, and evaluating alternative viewpoints and a variety of perspectives. As well as stimulating creativity and broadening the mind, reading offered prisoners a way to improve their writing

skills, by developing their vocabulary to enable them to construct language in the written form. It also allowed opportunity to build prisoners' confidence to engage in debate around different themes and subject areas.

Creative Writing workshops encouraged the prisoners to express ideas and explore their imaginations to produce individual and often innovative pieces of writing. The Board observed some prisoners who demonstrated a natural talent in their ability to articulate their thoughts and feelings with imagination, who were helped to refine their writing skills. It was also encouraging to observe some prisoners, who though initially unsure of their own ability, responded positively to the practical support offered by staff. For some of the group, the art of writing appeared to be as an effective form of communication as speech, allowing them to express themselves without inhibition or judgement. Every individually crafted, structured and descriptive piece of writing honed the prisoners' ability to formulate their thoughts and offered them a platform for communication and expression. Prisoners were encouraged to explore the use of different language styles and refine their ideas until their message was conveyed, and each prisoner was offered the opportunity to be listened to without criticism, judgement or belittlement. In an atmosphere of interest and enjoyment, the workshops acted as a forum to evoke constructive and enthusiastic discussion of each piece of work.

Workshop attendance was good, and comprised an average of eight prisoners and there were regular faces attending each one. Group dynamics varied, with each group having different levels of ability and interest; staff injected a great deal of energy into the groups to help keep up momentum and maintain prisoner enthusiasm. During the observed weeks, the Board noticed a growth in confidence and increased prisoner self-esteem. On one occasion, a prisoner reluctant to participate because he was unable to find inspiration to write was encouraged by the group to think more broadly and explore his imagination. By challenging his own inhibitions, he finally put pen to paper and his achievement was a credible piece of writing. As a result, fellow prisoners in the group and the Writer in Residence deemed his piece of writing to be one of the best during the workshop that day.

Prisoners were engaged in writing activities which were varied and meaningful. They were also encouraged to write collaboratively, working together in shared writing as

well as individually, experimenting with different genres of writing. The Writer in Residence also facilitates regular writing competitions for prisoners and staff, with deadlines for completed entries, creating an opportunity for inspiration and creative thought during other times of the day or night. The Board can also report that a Screenplay Writing workshop is now held fortnightly.

The Board wishes to congratulate everyone involved for their hard work in producing a record number of entries processed at Long Lartin for the Koestler Awards, which includes a novel, a poetry pamphlet, individual collection of poems, single poems, a radio play and a screen play. It is apparent to the Board that prisoners and staff find the workshops an exciting learning experience which identifies a fulfilling and interesting area of education to be enjoyed as part of a group, as well as a personal pastime.