



## ANNUAL REPORT

HMP RANBY

1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2013- 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014

## **Section 1**

### **Statutory Role of the IMB**

#### **The 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 Secretary of State for Justice from members of the community in which the prison or centre 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 prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- (2) Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern the Board 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.

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### **SECTION 3 Location/Description/Changes from last year's report.**

#### **3.1 Location**

i) HMP Ranby is situated in North Nottinghamshire, mid-way between the towns of Worksop and Retford. The Category C male adult working prison was converted in 1971 from its previous function as a Forces Army Camp.

#### **3.1a Accommodation / Capacity**

i) The Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) at HMP Ranby as at the end of March 2014 was 1084 and its Operational Capacity (OC) is currently 1098.

#### **3.1b Agencies/Contractors**

The non-exhaustive list of agencies and contractors help HMP Ranby achieve its vision:

Applied Security Design; Electrical Component Assembly Plastic Injection Mouldings.

#### **Offender Learning & Skills Service:**

(OLASS 4); Milton Keynes College Education provision.

Nottinghamshire County Council; Library services.

Trackwork Ltd; Specialist training for the rail industry.

Utilise Ltd; Specialist training for Utilities industries.

#### **One 3 One Solutions;**

(internal prison market); Woodwork, plastics, engineering, powder coat, textiles.

Print UK; Plastic coat hangers/mouldings.

Tow Tester; Caravan Multi Tester.

Plasgran; Plastics recycling.

HMP Ranby recycling; Textiles, office and cell furniture.

Toolfast; Assembly of shower components and fixing packs.

Fletchers Metals Ltd; Metal recycling.

Creative New Futures; Moulding plastic chairs.

XTA; Moulding and assembly of snow shovels and ice scrapers.

HMP Ranby printing; Provides printing for Ranby.

Toe by Toe; Shannon Trust peer reading scheme-restarted.

Catering Equipment Ltd;

Nottinghamshire NHS; Commissions healthcare, also involved with the Drug Strategy programme.

Milton Keynes College; Holds the contract for Education, Learning and Skills.

The Samaritans; Provide a counselling service for prisoners. They assist in the training of prisoners who volunteer to be "Listeners" helping other prisoners who are in need of someone to talk to who is not in a position of authority.

#### **3.1c Buildings/Facilities**

i) The residential accommodation consists of seven house blocks. Located on the house blocks are: the departments for the induction of new prisoners, Resettlement, Skills for Life, Safer Custody, Street Works, Trackwork and Gardens. One House block has prisoners on Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy (IDTS) and one includes the Induction area.

ii) There is no provision for a 24 hour healthcare service as HMP Ranby has no hospital unit. The single storey Healthcare building, which has been extended, accommodates other functioning departments such as Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DARTS), Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy (IDTS), Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT)

iii) The Segregation unit, previously the Care and Separation Unit (CSU), located in one of the old buildings, has sixteen cells, of which four are used as doubles. Attached to the Segregation is a small, paved exercise area which is contained by a high wall.

iv) Education is allocated within two buildings, one of which also holds the library and one the chaplaincy. For prisoners who cannot leave the house block, and those

in the CSU, the education is tailored to their needs and teachers visit them regularly.

v) The workshops in Industries consist of Painting/Decorating, Engineering/Welding, Powder Coating, NVQ Woodwork, Woodmill, Wood Assembly, Clothing Exchange store (CES), Plumbing, Data Input, four workshops working in electrical and packing, three Textile workshops, Complas (this workshop has a three-shift pattern, days, after and nights and produces plastic items eg tooth brushes) and Gardens,

vi) Physical exercise takes place within two buildings and the sports field. One building instructs prisoners mainly on weights and also treats prisoners who have physical disabilities/stroke complaints. The other concentrates on football, rugby and indoor sports. Football is played against visiting teams. Away games are not permitted. The Muslim prayer room is also temporarily located in this area.

vii) The Board again must bring to your attention the excessive activity that the Reception building at HMP Ranby deals with as there are almost 3000 prisoners each year arriving and departing to other establishments. The prisoner movement occurs six days a week. In addition, Reception deals with prisoners attending Court, prisoners who have served their sentence, Police Production, hospital appointments and security moves. The property brought in by prisoners does not conform to the rules set by HMP Ranby and is almost always excessive. Staff then have to spend time storing it away. This activity takes up the already insufficient time that staff have especially when they are re-located to other duties around the establishment.

### **3.2 Changes from last year's report**

#### **3.2a Accommodation / Capacity**

The Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) at HMP Ranby as at March 2014 was 1084 and its operational capacity(OC) is currently 1098.

#### **3.2b Agencies/Contractors**

Medacs: Healthcare contractor- now Notts NHS.

Toe by Toe: Suspended during the period of the report but organising for new start.

The Well: No longer supplying Visits-done now in- house by Ranby kitchens.

#### **3.2c Buildings/ Facilities**

A new multi-faith centre is being built in the current reporting year.

A New laundry is being built in current reporting year.

## **SECTION 4 Executive summary**

### **4.1 Main Concerns**

- 1) Drastic funding cuts on staffing numbers, food allowances and prison regimes.
- 2) An ever-increasing amount of drugs in the prison.
- 3) Greatly increased bullying and self-harm arising mainly from debts.
- 4) Increased number of attacks on and threats to prison staff.
- 5) Low morale among prison staff.
- 6) Problems with healthcare, medication distribution and cleaning.
- 7) A marked increase in the number of ACCT documents opened.
- 8) Failure to provide sufficient work so far to enable "Working Prison" concept to succeed.
- 9) Increasing presence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in the prison.
- 10) Difficulties in obtaining prisoner transfers for some prisoners under threat.

### **Question to the Minister**

Can the Minister really justify the reductions in prison funding in the light of these concerns?

### **4.2 Short summary of whole report**

HMP Ranby lost excellent skilled staff through the Voluntary Early Departure Scheme (VEDS) thus leaving the experienced staff remaining with the rigorous task of inducting new staff. They also dealt with ongoing issues such as bullying, threats to both prisoners/staff, contraband coming in via perimeter fences or visits, prisoners

self-harming and finds of mobile phones and drugs including “black mamba” the use of which inspires a false sense of confidence and increased bodily strength. The number of Governors and Senior Managers has also decreased which means an extra workload for those remaining. These changes in staffing have adversely affected both prisoners and staff alike.

There were four deaths in custody in the reporting year including two that were self-inflicted. In February and March there was a concerted indiscipline incident, a perceived hostage situation and four incidents of prisoners on the netting. There were other incidents of this nature but those mentioned were acute enough to warrant opening the command suite. Additionally, there has been a high number of prisoners on Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) documents at any one time due to incidents on the house blocks.

The new regime aligned to a longer working day for all, has meant that a lack of staff has been constant. From April 2013 to the end of March 2014 there have been over 280 e-mails asking staff to cover shifts, parts of shifts etc. On a number of e-mails there have been multiple requests. Staff working on the most demanding and difficult house blocks have to be moved to quieter house blocks for short periods to recover from the stress and anxiety brought on by exacting duties.

HMP Ranby was also selected in a pilot project for a “Working Prison” in April 2013. One3one has failed to support HMP Ranby with sufficient work to realise the project’s success.

The Governing governor has changed three times and Deputy Governor twice in a short period of time. This amount of change, at the inception of the Working Prison concept, cannot be good for the establishment. However, this Board is working well with the new Governing governor who took up the post in December 2013. The Board looks forward to working with the new Deputy Governor in the 2014-5 period.

The new NHS healthcare which took over in April 2013 has made changes in its working practices with a complaints system that has mainly replaced the prisoner applications to the IMB. The Board believes this has had a negative effect on its monitoring of healthcare issues and its ability to glean information regarding prisoners’ general concerns about healthcare.

The IMB has had its own issues. The complement has changed from nineteen to fifteen. At the start of the year the Board had only six members and, at March 31<sup>st</sup> nine. The Board is certain that the new restrictions on tenure will severely disrupt the efficiency of all boards and invite a severe shortage of members. This Board has monitored all the changes made during the reporting period. It has received seven hundred and sixty six prisoner applications. The Board has written several times to the Minister with its concerns on both cuts to staffing and to the cost of prisoners’ meals.

The Chair commends the Board. Members can be very proud of themselves in the work they have carried out on behalf of the Minister for Justice.

#### **4.3 Particular issues**

##### **Segregation (previously the Care and Separation Unit)**

1. An increase in the number of ‘own interest’ prisoners admitted to Segregation.
2. Disruptive incidents increase.
3. Mental health issues in Segregation.
4. Increased workload due to Class B drugs use.
5. Defects in building regarding waiting room and exercise yard.

##### **Education, Learning and Skills**

1. Difficulties in appointing lecturers and instructors.
2. Poor recording of prisoners’ skills levels in records from previous prisons.
3. Lower attendance at Induction sessions owing to regime changes.

## Healthcare and Mental Health

1. Lack of 24 hour nursing care.
2. Inappropriateness of having prisoners with severe mental health issues in this prison.
3. Cleaning of specialist areas of the health centre.
4. Shortage of nurses.
5. Need for increased patrolling in Healthcare and surrounds.
6. Lack of sufficient staff on Mental Health team.

## Purposeful Activity

1. The 'working prison' concept of this prison is not successful to date. Insufficient work coming into the prison is the prime cause.
2. The number of prisoners still remaining on house blocks during the day.
3. Indiscipline in some workshops.
4. Shortage of instructors at times.
5. In some workshops too many prisoners are allocated for the number of machines or the number of instructors or the work is not available.
6. Incidents involving Class B drugs occurring in work time.

## Resettlement

1. Too frequent redeployment of attached officers amounting to 270.5 hours in March 2014 alone.
2. Unacceptable waiting lists for initial housing appointments (255 at March 31st) and for education, training and employment (205 at March 31<sup>st</sup>.) show desperate need for extra staff.

## Residential

### Kitchen

1. Delay to equipment repairs.
2. Poor state of some flooring areas.
3. Cut in food allowances.
4. Early arrival of lunch trolleys and inadequateness of breakfast packs.

### House Blocks

1. Staffing on new regime too low.
2. Vandalism levels to cells.
3. Heavy workload on some house blocks.
4. Poor condition of one house block of an older type and inadequate camera supervision.

## Safer Custody

1. Poor completion of ACCT documents.
2. Reduction in staffing in the prison.
3. There have been four deaths in custody.
4. Short hours of attached officers due to moves to other duties too frequently.

## Drugs

1. Increasing presence of NPS such as black mamba.
2. The role that drugs are playing in the increased violence and debt in the prison.

## Foreign Nationals

1. The constant redeployment of attached officers to other duties.

## Property

1. Failure to standardise property allowances for all prisons.

## Transfers

1. Growing difficulty in obtaining transfers out of HMP Ranby for prisoners.

#### **4.4 Previous year's concerns**

##### **1 CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT**

- a) The Board strongly opposes the use of the CSU for those with mental health issues.
- b) The poor facilities in the holding room of the CSU.

##### **2 EQUALITY AND INCLUSION**

- a) Staffing problems and delays that affected the service. RESOLVED
- b) Poor identification methods regarding disabled prisoners.

##### **3 EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS**

- a) Prisoners working towards a qualification are not able to complete their course due to lack of assessors or the closure of a workshop. RESOLVED

##### **4 HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

- a) Medical records from other prisons sometimes inadequate.
- b) Healthcare and disabilities- problems of communication. RESOLVED
- c) Cancellation of hospital appointments due sometimes to lack of escorts and transportation sometimes for other non-prison reasons
- d) Healthcare systems differing from the prison system makes IMB monitoring of prisoner applications difficult
- e) Medication queues at the pharmacy are occasions for bullying etc.
- f) Length of waiting time for dental and other services. PART RESOLVED.
- g) Conservatory, designed for mental health prisoners to use as a meeting area, not completed to the contracted time. PART RESOLVED
- h) Staff reductions in mental health team leading to eight week waiting list.
- i) Some prisoners on (ACCT) documents not always referred to mental health team. RESOLVED

##### **5 PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY**

- a) Improvement in recruitment of suitably qualified instructors required.
- b) Improvement in flow of work required
- c) Too many prisoners not in education or employment.

##### **6 RESETTLEMENT**

- a) The board regrets that family/lifer days have been integrated due to budget cuts.
- b) The Board regrets that ROTL, for whatever reason, has been deferred in this prison
- c) Budget cuts to a debt advice agency have ended this service. The Board feels that the advice offered by prison officers may not be of the same standard.
- d) Lack of suitable accommodation for some difficult to place prisoners.

##### **7 RESIDENTIAL-ACCOMMODATION**

- a) Real effects of budget cuts on the quality of each prisoner's care especially in the food allowance cuts
- b) In the Board's view supply and quality of mattresses is not fit for purpose
- c) Reductions in staffing on house blocks create situations where any extra needs cause a strain on available staff. Problems still arise on house block 5 which is antiquated and inadequate as repeatedly reported in previous years.

##### **8 RESIDENTIAL- FOOD, CATERING AND KITCHEN**

- a) Breakfast packs being issued with evening meals is unsatisfactory
- b) There are real concerns regarding the cut to food allowance from £2.10 to £1.96
- c) The Board notes that there have been a number of prisoner applications and many comments regarding food portions.



## **9 SAFER CUSTODY**

- a) Fear of increased violence and self harm possibly due to reduced staffing levels.

Only where indicated have concerns been resolved.

### **SECTION 5 Areas of the prison**

#### **5a. Segregation, / Close supervision**

The Board wishes to acknowledge the on-going high standard of duty and care demonstrated by officers working in this area. They have coped competently with a very high number of prisoners through the unit in this reporting year. This is despite the area being older and, in several ways, inadequate.

There has been an increase in the number of 'own interest' prisoners admitted to Segregation; some of them circumventing procedures by creating incidents. Owing to issues arising from debts and gang allegiances the prison's attempts to counter this and insist on correct procedures has been largely ineffective. This has been a considerable part of the pressure on Segregation. Disruptive incidents have increased within the Segregation unit itself, often at time of admittance, causing damage to the unit with which the staff have to deal as well as the physical threat. As in previous years, the Board repeats its belief that the Segregation unit should not be used for those with mental health issues.

The increased availability and use of Class B drugs(particularly "Black Mamba/Spice) has increased admissions and incidents in the Segregation unit.

The Board again points out the inadequacy of the room where prisoners wait before adjudication. It is small and badly-ventilated and not suitable for a holding room. In addition, the Board considers the exercise yard inadequate.

#### **5b. Equality and Inclusion**

During the reporting year the Board has seen a very real improvement in both the quality of provision and the record-keeping in this area. The relocation to a place with office and meeting facilities for various groups of prisoners has been very successful and we congratulate the Equalities team on their efforts. The Board regrets, however, that prison officers designated for some duties with Equality and Inclusion have not been able to assist owing to staffing shortages elsewhere.

#### **5c. Education, Learning and Skills**

The Board congratulates the library staff and prisoner-helpers on the attractive area that has been maintained throughout the year. The library has good book stocks, effective information presentation and good displays. The newly revived Toe by Toe scheme is progressing well with complimentary comments from representatives of the Shannon Trust. Some sessions (lasting twenty minutes a week) are conducted in the library but most are completed on the house blocks. Open University students are making good progress their Milton Keynes supervisor believes with regular sessions online in the library. Some issues are a cause for concern to the Board. Training for the workshops has been suspended from time to time in certain areas owing to difficulty in recruiting instructors. It is, however, the Board's belief that the quality of the instructors employed at HMP Ranby is good.

Milton Keynes College have expressed concern, which the Board shares, about the poor record keeping of prisoners' educational levels in some records from prisons transferring prisoners to HMP Ranby. The drop in the number of prisoners attending Induction is, since regime changes, unacceptably low. Previous numbers around 80% are down to approximately 60% which the Board does not consider acceptable.

**5d. Healthcare and Mental Health**

During the current reporting year the Board has had various issues regarding Healthcare. In the early months the number of applications to the Board showed this to be an area of great concern for prisoners and the Board. Fortunately this appears to have eased although the Board's ability to monitor in this area is rendered less effective by the need for prisoners, now, to submit complaints initially to the Nottinghamshire NHS complaints system.

It should be stressed, however, that the existing Healthcare staff work under great pressure owing to heavy workloads and frequent inappropriate behaviour and language by prisoners. Fortunately a main pressure point in the queue for medication at the pharmacy each morning is being effectively dealt with by prison staff and the distribution of medication from more house blocks and so is no longer such a pressing concern for the Board. The Board's main issues in Healthcare are that once again, it must point to the fact that HMP Ranby does not have the 24 hour nursing care that the number of prisoners would seem to suggest is essential and continues to stress the need for more severely mentally ill prisoners to be transferred to an appropriate unit. They should not be in normal prison environments. With regard to mental health care within the prison, the Board feels that staffing levels are insufficient for the number of issues of poor mental health within this prison.

During the year the Board has had occasion to question the absence of effective cleaning of clinical areas due to the absence of an appropriately trained member of the prison's cleaning staff. This has now been rectified although the Board fears it has stretched the manning resources of the general cleaning areas. Manning levels within healthcare have not been sufficient throughout the year and retaining staff has been difficult in a challenging environment. This has led to extended waiting times for prisoners although it is recognised that Nottinghamshire NHS has tried hard to rectify staff shortages.

The Board continues to be aware of the inappropriate behaviour and language of some prisoners when attending healthcare and considers sufficient officers need to be available for patrol duties in this area.

**5e. Purposeful activity (includes work)**

During the current reporting year HMP Ranby became a "Working Prison" with the commitment to place all prisoners either in full-time education and training or meaningful work. The Board applauds the concept but is sorry to report that, so far, various issues are delaying the realisation of this plan. Members have found instructors are capable, and keen for the prisoners to gain valuable work experience, but frustrated by lack of suitable work available because there is insufficient work being allocated to the prison by One3One which has failed to live up to its assurances regarding the volume of work which would be available. From the Board's observation during monitoring, there are far too many prisoners remaining on the house blocks during the working day, many of whom are not older prisoners, those reporting sick or those mentally incapable of work at the present time. Lack of work within the prison has left prisoners in some workshops with too much time to waste and there have been too many incidences of alarm bells sounded, equipment tampered with and threats to instructors who bear the brunt of these occurrences.

Unfortunately, there still remains some difficulty in recruiting instructors of sufficient calibre to train prisoners for the NVQ and other qualifications which give validity to the training.

The Board deplores the practice of allocating too many prisoners to a workshop for the work available, the number of machines or the suitability of the workshop for observation and adequate supervision. This over-allocating would seem to be a way of increasing the number of prisoners who are 'employed' but has deleterious effects upon the workshops' ability to manage. It is alarming to find that incidents of Class B

drug-taking are now occurring in various workshops and recognises the dangers to prisoners, instructors and machines when such incidents occur.

#### **5f. Resettlement**

The Board is dismayed to see what the effect of attached staff being constantly redeployed to house blocks etc has on the amount of work which can be produced. Interviews for housing within three months of release are in a drastic state as are figures for the education/training/employment needs. The existing staff are finding it increasingly difficult to cope. Added to this is the necessary study of government proposals to invite tenders for the takeover of Resettlement provision due next year.

#### **5g. Residential Kitchen**

Specific complaints to the Board via written application regarding the standard of food have not been numerous but verbal complaints suggest that food portions are small and not of good quality. The kitchen staff, however, have done all that is possible given the tight budgets to which they must work. There are also long delays in effecting repairs to essential kitchen equipment often owing to outside contractors. The poor state of parts of the kitchen floor remains despite the renovation a year ago.

The severe cut in food allowances during the year to £1.96 per day is a major concern and the Board still has reservations about the time the lunch trolleys arrive at the house blocks often half an hour or more before the official lunchtime of 12.15pm so that food can be left on a hotplate for a considerable time. The breakfast packs distributed at evening meal time, supposedly to be consumed in the morning, are inadequate and often eaten overnight by hungry prisoners. This would seem to be an unsatisfactory system.

#### **House Blocks**

During the reporting year the eleven residential wings at HMP Ranby have become seven house blocks. Unfortunately the staffing levels without use of time off in lieu (TOIL) have seemed, to the Board, insufficient to police prisoner activity fully. House blocks have dealt with a range of disruptive behaviour, often occasioned by drugs and debt which officers have, at times, struggled to control. It would appear that homemade weapons, defensive and offensive are increasingly being carried on the house blocks. Concerted indiscipline is particularly prevalent on house block 1 North and South. Vandalism occurs frequently in cells usually through fear, frustration or mental health problems.

Some house blocks appear to be carrying an excessive workload, namely house block 1 North and South, dealing with the greater number of ACCT documents, Induction and some of the more difficult prisoners. House block 5, the oldest of the house blocks is not fit for purpose. The building and facilities are in a poor state. Inspections of showers, particularly, have discovered missing tiles and mould amongst the defects. Cameras on the spurs obviously do not cover showers and this is proving an area where suspect activity takes place because of this. It demonstrates the need for newer facilities and individual toilets and shower in individual cells.

#### **5h. Safer Custody (includes ACCTs)**

The Board is very aware that the number of ACCTs has risen quite dramatically over the reporting year. This has inevitably led to a greater workload at a time of staff reductions particularly for officers on House block 1 which has been designated "Safer" and "Constant watch" without additional staffing agreed. Requests for two "safer cells" on other house blocks to allow for the dispersal of prisoners on ACCTs was refused on cost grounds. With only 12 "Listeners" in a prison as large as HMP Ranby, the Board is pleased to see that a further 12 have now been trained and are ready to begin. At a time of such stress they perform a valuable service provided the calibre of the volunteers is maintained.

Poor completion of ACCT documents has led to concerns among management and this Board. Whilst some are the result of poor clerical work eg missing photographs on documents, some arise from neglect of the documents with a consequent completion of several observations at once, a practice the Board members have noted and of which they disapprove. Some officers, temporarily promoted to Band 4, lack sufficient knowledge for managing the ACCT documents. The rise in ACCTs is reflected in a similar increase within the Segregation unit.

Less time for quality “conversations” and entries means there is little possibility of officers becoming aware of prisoners’ day to day anxieties. The current situation: larger numbers, fewer staff, less time and the inevitable shortcuts in completion of

documents is of real concern to the Board in a prison where there have been four deaths in custody in the reporting period. The four deaths in HMP Ranby this year raise fears that shortage of time to observe and talk to prisoners might have contributed to two of the deaths. This may have led to an inability to detect the mental state of the two prisoners who suffered self-inflicted deaths. The Board feels that the loss of “personal” officer time has had a deleterious effect. The greater difficulties arise from national funding and staffing policies but officers need to be aware of areas where improvements can be made. The Board, additionally, has serious concerns about the actual hours worked by officers in Safer Custody at a time when officers are having to cope with increased demands on their time. Expected hours a week for Safer Custody attached officers is 51.25 but the shortfall in hours has varied between 33.752 and 51.25. These are due to attached officers being moved, regularly, to other duties to ease shortages of staff elsewhere

## **SECTION 6 Other issues**

### **6a. Drugs**

Despite sanctions the supply of illicit drugs within HMP Ranby has increased adding significantly to the workload of the reduced number of officers available.

The Board welcomes the presence of dogs on site which has assisted the searches to great effect. A particular worry is the increased use of ‘black mamba’ which has produced violent reactions in some prisoners under its influence. Its use has become known in workshops offering dangers to instructors and other prisoners.

Greatly increased amounts of debt from drug use have put some prisoners in real difficulty leading to requests for transfers and/or protection in the Segregation unit and more frequent carrying of weapons. The violent reaction, both physical and mental, to a range of new drugs, particularly black mamba, which has appeared in this reporting period is a cause for great anxiety.

### **6b. Foreign nationals**

The Board is concerned that staff working with foreign nationals has been decreased with no specific co-ordinator. The two attached officers are deployed very frequently to other duties.

### **6c. Property**

Property issues continue to generate a good number of prisoner applications. Discontent arises over the varying amounts of property a prisoner is allowed in a prison each of which sets its own limits. When property is beyond that allowed in HMP Ranby, the excess is stored away and prisoners find themselves without items they need or want and are obliged to purchase again at some cost. Our specific concern is with the failure to standardise property allowances in all prisons.

### **6d. Security**

The Board is dismayed by the amounts of contraband such as phones and drugs entering this prison. The long perimeter fence bordering open countryside is a real challenge. The Board also notes the considerable increase in Serious Incident

Reports (SIRs) completed in the reporting period. In addition, the amount of weapons found in the prison, usually crudely made, is a cause for concern.

**6e. Transfers**

The Transfers department is faced with a very heavy workload due to the increasingly difficult task of arranging, in a prison system where some prisons are closing and others already at capacity, urgent transfers for prisoners at risk, prisoners who request a transfer on compassionate grounds and prisoners who need to be re-categorised to B after extreme disruptive behaviour. In addition the workload is further increased by arranging for prisoners on production (court visits), hospital appointments and those transferred from other prisons. The inevitable slowness in securing transfers puts departments such as Segregation under great pressure. The Board sees this as a serious concern for the prison.

Signed for on and behalf of the Independent Monitoring Board  
At HMP Ranby

C Gee Chair

**SECTION 7     BOARD STATISTICS**

**Appendix 1**

**THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**  
**DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

<b>BOARD STATISTICS 2013 / 2014</b>	
<b>Recommended Complement of Board Members</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Number of Board Members at the start of the Reporting Period</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Number of Board Members at the end of the Reporting Period</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Number of New Members joining within the Reporting Period</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Number of members leaving within the Reporting Period</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total number of Visits to the Establishment</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total number of Care and Separation Unit Reviews Held</b>	<b>130 sessions</b>
<b>Total number of Care and Separation Unit Reviews Attended</b>	<b>336 average 112 visits</b>
<b>Date of Annual Team Performance Review</b>	<b>28 /10 /13</b>

**SECTION 7 BOARD STATISTICS**

**Appendix 2**

**PRISONER APPLICATIONS TO IMB DURING REPORTING PERIOD**

<b>CODE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>2013/ 2014</b>	<b>2012 / 2013</b>	<b>2011/ 2012</b>	<b>2010/ 2011</b>	<b>2009/ 2010</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjudications</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Equality &amp; Diversity</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Education / Employment / Training inc IEP</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>E1</b>	<b>Family / Visits inc mail &amp; phone</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>( ) ( 34 )</b>	<b>( ) ( 36 )</b>	<b>( ) ( 24 )</b>
<b>E2</b>	<b>Finance / Pay</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Food / Kitchen Related</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Health Related</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>H1</b>	<b>Property (within current establishment)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>
<b>H2</b>	<b>Property (during transfer / in other establishment)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>( ) (117) ( )</b>	<b>( ) ( 84 ) ( )</b>	<b>( ) ( 90 ) ( )</b>
<b>H3</b>	<b>Canteen, Facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>	<b>( ) ( )</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Sentence Related</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>J</b>	<b>Staff / Prisoner Related</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>Total Number of Applications</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>478</b>
	<b>Total number of Confidential Access</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

