



HMP RYE HILL

INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2009 – March 2010

Section 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:

- (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 it has.
- (3) **report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.**

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

Section 2

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Section 3: Description & Function of the Establishment.

- HMP Rye Hill opened in January 2001 and was operated by Global Solutions Limited on a 25 year contract to the Home Office. In August 2008 GSL was bought by Group 4 Security (G4S) who took over the running of the prison.
- The premises are purpose built with eight residential units consisting of two Vulnerable Prisoner units where prisoners are held separately from other prisoners, three units where the majority of prisoners have signed a Voluntary Drugs Testing compact, a reception unit and two general units. One unit is also a 'Healthy Living Unit'.
- The prison is a Category B male prison with certified normal accommodation of 600 and operational capacity of 664. It held 649 offenders at the end of the current reporting period.
- **The prison is contracted to hold 120 life sentenced prisoners but currently holds 289 of whom 168 are held under Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection.**
- **There are 178 category C and 4 category D offenders in a category B prison.**
- **There are also 127 foreign national offenders.**
- The ethnic breakdown remains stable at approximately 60% white, 25% black and 7% Asian.
- The health care provider was Primecare at the start of the reporting period. GSL took over during April 2008 and health care is now provided by G4S themselves.
- The Education provider is City College Manchester.
- Catering is provided by Aramark.
- Links with Samaritans are established together with a Listeners Service.

Section 4: Executive Summary

The reporting year April 2009 to March 2010 has been one of progress and setbacks.

The Board believes that the progress reported in the previous year has been maintained and that the prison has been stable and safe where offenders are treated with respect.

During the year the prison was upgraded from level 2 to level 3 and the audit carried out in November awarded the prison 97% overall, one of only three prisons to achieve this degree of efficiency.

Much good practice has been embedded although there remains some way to go, for example, meetings are still postponed or cancelled at short notice.

A full unannounced inspection of the prison was undertaken in July by HMIP. The report issued in March 2010 found that 'G4S had worked hard to ensure that the prison was now a safer place. However there remained much more still to do'. The Board agrees with this view.

Healthcare has remained an area of concern with staffing problems being a major issue. Use of agency staff did not always solve these issues. See 5.2

CSU had begun to improve until an investigation by the MoJ Controller and a report by the Regional Manager Custodial Services (RMCS) revealed a number of anomalies which led, in the view of the Board, to unhelpful managerial changes. Talks apparently resolved the issue but led to changes in Management.

Changes were made in CSU and procedures and paperwork were tightened. However in the middle of March 2010, following a further visit and report by the RMCS, rectification notices were issued for three areas, CSU, Healthcare, and Staffing.

At the time of reporting these are ongoing. See 5.5

This has been disappointing and a blow to the morale of staff which affected offenders.

There remain a high number of ISPP offenders which complicates the delivery of courses to other life serving offenders.

There is also a high number of Category C offenders in this Category B prison although this has started to be addressed by rearranging the mix, with Category C offenders being transferred out to Category C prisons and being replaced by Category B offenders.

Staff morale has been good over most of the period but recent events have seriously affected it.

Education has continued to be satisfactory remaining at OFSTED Grade 3.

The library is to be relocated to become more accessible when suitable accommodation can be found.

Key Issues.

For the Secretary of State

The blocking of signals from mobile phones within the prison remains a key issue in the interests of security and good order. This serious issue has been reported over at least 4 years and remains unresolved.

The implications of the effect of the high number of ISPP offenders on the offenders themselves and on other life sentenced offenders remain a problem. HMP Rye Hill houses 168 ISPP offenders out of 649, a very high proportion.

The progress of category C offenders is hampered by being in a category B establishment. This is detrimental to their needs and progression to resettlement and the operation of the prison. Offenders should be located in prisons appropriate to their category.

The national training of qualified psychologists should be prioritised to assist the reduction of the waiting list for SOTP courses.

Equality of treatment between the Contracted estate and other prisons should be progressed with respect to the provision of the P-NOMIS data base and the training of IMB members of the COP estates in its use.

CRB clearance for prospective staff and IMB members should be speeded up and use of a single clearance for multiple uses should be made available.

For Group 4 Security Limited and Rye Hill

Mandatory information to the IMB from CSU must always be provided and the process completely embedded. Established and agreed times for reviews should be adhered to.

There is a need for staff stability in Healthcare.

The provision of specific medical clinics should be reinstated to improve ongoing care.

Units should have the appropriate number of staff on duty at all times.

Rearrangement or cancellation of meetings at short notice should be avoided where possible.

The lack of Sunday and Bank Holiday visiting should be readdressed.

Section 5: Essential Reporting Areas

5.1 Diversity

Trends

- The Board notes that the improvements in Diversity previously reported have been maintained but meetings are continually changed, cancelled or rescheduled at short notice.
- Range setting continues to monitor and identify any need for action.
- Ethnicity remains stable at about 60% white and 40% non white.
- All Foreign National Prisoners receive a weekly five minute phone call, at the establishment's expense, to whichever country is relevant.
- An effective poster campaign was conducted around the prison highlighting the importance of diversity.

Concern

- The Board remains concerned that suitable employment other than education is not always available to disabled offenders as most of the work is physical.

Statistic

- There are 15 offenders over the age of 65.

5.2 Healthcare & Mental Health.

Improvements

- The GP changed in February and has a 6 month contract. She is working closely with the Healthcare team to reduce the numbers being referred to secondary care.
- A general review and clarification of criteria has resulted in more appropriate referrals, reducing them and the numbers of appointments being cancelled.
- The Doctor has also begun work with other departments in the prison with regard to Occupational Health issues for offenders for their work allocation
- The Mental Health 'In Reach Team' continues to be an integrated part of the Healthcare staff and have been instrumental in the movement of 3 offenders to more suitable establishments.
- There have been significant changes to the working of Healthcare since January and it is hoped that greater stability and a more effective service will ensue.

Concerns

- Staffing has continued to be an issue and cause for concern. Bank staff has been required throughout the year. Fortunately it has been possible to use the same personnel thus giving a little stability.
- The setting up of clinics for specific long term conditions has been very slow and is only now being commenced.
- The number of hospital appointments remained high, with subsequent last minute cancellations being an issue.

- **The Board has been concerned by the number of offenders on the IDTS programme, and the number of those on a maintenance programme.** G4S has had discussions with the PCT and revised criteria have been in operation since February resulting in a reduction of offenders on the programme.
- The providers of this service are to be changed as from April 2010 with clear criteria for referral to the service and the service provided..
- **Smoking cessation clinics, provided by the PCT, have not been available for several months despite continued representations to them.** Funding issues have been resolved and these sessions are due to be resumed in April.
- At the present time there is one offender, who has been waiting longer than 20 weeks for transfer, despite every effort being made to expedite his move. He requires a very specialist mental health placement which is expected to be available in early April. **However this situation is a cause of great concern to the Board.**

5.3 Learning & Skills

Developments

- Specially adapted lap top computers are now available for students doing Open University courses. There are 24 O.U. students – believed to be more than any other prison – and 26 doing other open learning courses.
- Portacabins are on site for the relocation of the library but some modifications are needed before they can be used. The library can then be redeveloped into more classroom accommodation.
- There are approximately 250 offenders undertaking formal training leading to accredited qualifications.

Improvements.

- Plans and discussions are in hand for introducing NVQ accredited courses in barbering and the reintroduction of rail track training.
- An NVQ level 3 course in catering was due to be introduced until the offender was transferred out before it could start.
- An offender in Industries has become a Microsoft approved engineer.
- An NVQ in Hygiene has been started.

Concerns

- Funding for Higher and Further Education has been reduced.

Statistics

Basic skills	Entry level	124	Target	99
	Level 1	118	Target	63
	Level 2	95	Target	77

5.4 Safer Custody

- **The Board is satisfied that over the reporting period the prison has continued to be a safe environment and that prisoner morale has improved.**
- **The high number of ISPP offenders continues to stretch resources particularly in respect to courses necessary for life sentenced offenders to progress.**

Developments

- Specific effects of recent changes in management not yet clear, but general focus improving

Improvements

- Recent tightening up of quality of recording, monitoring, follow-up, especially on enhanced case reviews
- Good audit result: 94% (March 2010).
- Improved data bases leading to improved early warnings

Concerns

- IMB not always informed of review arrangements (even when we have specifically asked and been promised information).
- Significant numbers of slight self-harm have followed management of prisoners – i.e. reduction in IEP level -> scratching. This cycle needs to be addressed (management have it under consideration).

Trends

- Management says numbers on ACCT have increased (because needs are better identified) but evidence of a trend is not clear.
- Serious self-harm has decreased but totals of self-harm are fairly static with a small number of repeat self-harmers accounting for about half the incidents most of which are slight.

Statistics

Numbers on ACCT:

April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
(as at 1 st wk in month)											
n/a	n/a	n/a	10	11	10	13	12	12	9	12	13
Self-harm											
n/a	n/a	19	28	22	16	25	18	15	15	21	n/a

5.5 Care & Separation

Developments

- PSI 26/09 has helped sharpen up practice
- Recent reconvening of quarterly SMARG meeting helps effective monitoring of CSU [IMB has agitated for this ever since SMARG was abandoned by Rye Hill]
- Changes in management of CSU have had mixed effects. Current situation is promising

Improvements

- Recent tightening up of routines and regimes
- Risk of conditioning/over-familiarity/taking things for granted addressed more thoroughly.
- Average lengths of stay reduced. (see below for evidence)

Concerns

- Paperwork still has occasional glitches
- Informing IMB has had glitches (improved since PSI 26/09 enforced)
- Still occasional use of extended stay for individual prisoner (not easy for prison but not right for prisoner).
- Inconsistent availability and updates of care/exit plans

Trends

- Increasing pre-planned use of CSU i.e. pro-active rather than reactive. Numbers have not significantly changed but use is more focused and there is a clear downward trend in average length of stay (see below)
- Number of adjudications falling

Statistics

Admission numbers:

April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
22	31	23	25	26	26	20	24	60	31	31	n/a

Minimum stay: 1 night (all months)

Maximum stay											
142	116	145	153	70	79	46	69	90	72	96	n/a
Average stay											
35	26	22	26	12	18	13	14	15	19	n/a	n/a

Section 6: Other Areas. (Alphabetical order)

6.1 Accommodation

- Cell ventilation continues to be a problem during the summer period due to the design of the windows. Modification, air conditioning or any other solution would be prohibitively expensive and likely to cause considerable disruption.
- Offenders in double cells are issued with a fan.
- Many of the cell door flaps are bent and there is concern with regard to Health and Safety because of their sharp edges.
- The Board is of the opinion that accommodation is of a satisfactory standard.

6.2 Adjudications

- New guidelines introduced in January following the appointment of a new Manager have improved the procedures and reduced the number of adjudications.

Statistics

Adjudications	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Proven	40	33	64	65	41	41	50	51	31	28	25	n/a
Dismissed	40	56	66	67	35	50	37	37	49	19	13	n/a
Total	80	89	130	132	76	91	87	88	80	47	38	n/a

6.3 Bullying

Developments

- (Recently) better identification of bullies
- ABS policies being re-written to include ‘unacceptable behaviour’

Improvements

- An anti-bullying competition had positive results
- Better security information and communication exchange generally (resulting in better identification).
- Improved consistency of action following identification
- Greater use of lower levels of ABS (and therefore fewer at a higher level)

Concerns

- The board is unsure how embedded the current progress is. Rye Hill has a history of taking its eye off the ball!

Trends

- Numbers have been up and down. This may be a positive result of specific targeting following security-based information
- There seem to be steady numbers in total but each case on ABS for a shorter time and dealt with at a lower level.

See over for statistics

Statistics

Nos. on ABS:												
	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
(as at 1 st wk in month)				2	7	4	8	7	1	5	4	7

6.4 Catering, Canteen & Kitchens

Developments

- Hastings wing has now become a healthy eating option wing.
- Halal chicken is now sourced from Poland to reduce cost.
- Aramark has been on site for 13 months now and this has resulted in far fewer complaints, only one or two per week, and any errors in canteen can be rectified rapidly.
- Fresh fruit is delivered to all units on a Thursday.
- 466 items are now sold from 15 different suppliers.

Improvements

- In June 2009 Daventry council awarded 5 stars for excellence in achieving and managing high standards in food safety legislation
- There are 17 offenders studying for NVQ's – a healthy situation.

Concerns

- There are no particular concerns as the kitchen is run extremely efficiently. The workforce is stable reflecting satisfaction all round.
- Any occasional dismissal is usually as a result of a failed MDT

Trends

- There are now 20 special diets prepared daily from low fat, lactose free, 'soft' to kosher.
- A monthly menu cycle operates with seasonal trends.

Statistics

- 590 canteen orders are made weekly to the value of £12000.
- Six offenders work at Aramark and working conditions and pay are good - £25 per week and the workforce is stable.
- Food is still prepared at £2.23 pppd despite the many price increases.
- Offenders spend on average between £14 and £16 per week each on canteen.
- Curiously A & B units take 6 boxes of canteen per delivery but G & H take 16 !

6.5 Complaints

Developments

- Property remains a constant source of complaints especially on transfer from one establishment to another. The proportion of applications to the Board re property has remained similar to last year – see Applications to the Board.
- Transfer, employment and health care complaints remain high.
- The Complaints Clerk has changed several times over the year.
- The number of complaints is high but the clerk always has time to cope.

Trends

- If a trend is noticed it is investigated immediately but none is showing at the end of the reporting period.

Statistics

- During the period 3752 complaints were dealt with covering all areas.

6.6 Drugs

Developments

- Problems have been concerned with Healthcare throughout the year.
- Many meetings have taken place and improvements in referrals have been made. However this has not been a lasting result.

Improvements

- Communications have improved with weekly meetings between Healthcare, IDTS and CARATS.
- Target achieved for completions of group work.
- KPT for assessments was reached and exceeded.
- Three courses are running – crack cocaine awareness, drug awareness and relapse prevention.

Concerns

- Most concern has been regarding IDTS. The provider is about to change and a detox programme for all will be put in place rather than a maintenance programme. This should be positive but concerns about every offender being able to detox in the same time, raise some issues as needs differ.
- Demand for CARATS always goes up when drug availability in the prison goes down.
- It is felt that the team has been consumed with the development of IDTS and the effort of working to get joint work off the ground.

6.7 Foreign National Prisoners

Concerns

- The Board is concerned that the delay in provision of paperwork from other agencies continues albeit that some improvement has been made. This causes extra work for the FNP clerk.

Statistics

- At the end of the reporting period there were 127 FNP offenders from up to 52 countries in HMP Rye Hill representing 19% of the total population with Jamaica providing the highest proportion at 13%.
- The proportion of FNP offenders is higher than in most other prisons.

6.8 Gym & Sports Hall

Developments/Improvements.

- The area is well equipped and popular with the offenders but is rather small for the size of prison
- New schedules for attendance are brought out quarterly for fairness – early morning attendance is not popular and the session after roll check is often reduced in length or even cancelled.
- Much new equipment has been installed at a cost of £15k to £20k replacing worn out original machines.

Concerns

- About half of the offenders never attend the sports hall. This ought to be reduced for health reasons but how?

Statistics

- Basic regime offenders have two sessions per week, standard five and enhanced seven. Many buy high protein drinks through the sports hall spending up to £17/ month.

6.9 Health & Safety

- Developments over the reporting period have been positive
- The Health and Safety manual has been updated and improved.
- Staff is more involved and well organised.
- H & S meeting minutes are received regularly by the Board.
- More staff are going on H & S courses and becoming more involved in the process and training is ongoing.
- Complaints have fallen

6.10 Incentives & Earned Privileges

Developments

- The Board has noted that some change towards relating behaviour to status is beginning to take place.

Concerns

- The Board continued to monitor the numbers on each level of the I&EP scheme and, as reported last year, continue to be concerned by the high number of offenders on enhanced level and the low number of basic level offenders.
- The latter concerns the Board more due to the high number of offenders who have been segregated and/or adjudicated on throughout the year.
- The inappropriate behaviour that results in adjudication should, the Board feels, be reflected in the I&EP scheme.

Statistics

- The table below shows the figures recorded during the reporting year.

2009-10	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Enhanced	448	441	430	428	408	467	444	442	441	405	349	337
Standard	165	174	182	184	210	175	193	194	181	211	266	284
Basic	35	39	39	37	31	11	18	24	27	27	19	12

6.11 Induction

- The Board continues to contribute to the offender induction programme currently by issuing handouts containing IMB information.
- Induction is undertaken by resident offenders and is working well.
- The responsibility for financial matters, work allocation etc. is carried out by staff.
- Staff is devising an interactive programme to be overseen by a member of staff which is expected to be introduced shortly.

6.12 Life Sentenced Prisoners

- **The prison is contracted to hold 120 life sentenced offenders but currently holds 289 of whom 168 are ISPP offenders, some of whom are on relatively short tariffs.**

Developments

- Significant changes in the management of lifers' cases following administrative stream-lining have been made. The effects are not yet clear.
- Use of named liaison officers gives better prisoner contact and greater case clarity.
- Staff team-working has helped ensure more positive relationships (especially for ISPPs) and targets being met.
- The increasingly pro-active use of OASys.

Concerns

- Numbers have increased (especially ISPPs who now form 25% of the prisoner population) and can be overwhelming. This leads to difficulties in meeting needs and shortage of resources, so that it is difficult to improve the over-all quality of work.
- A stable year for the first time.

Statistics.

Below are partial figures.

- A stable proportion (18%) of the population is serving traditional life sentences. 25% of population is ISPPs. This has risen slightly but been fairly stable.
- % of applications to IMB from ISPPs is significantly above what would be expected and rising. Sept 24%, Oct 31%, Nov 36%, Dec 39%, Jan 19%, Feb 36%.

6.13 Multifaith Centre

- Three new Chaplains were appointed during the reporting year.
- Most services are now attended by both VP and mainstream offenders

6.14 OASys & IT

- OASys is up to date but the moving of terminals may cause some delays next year. However plans are in hand to eliminate any backlog quickly.

- Five specially adapted laptop computers have been acquired for the use of Open University students and other distance learning students.

6.15 Offending Behaviour Programmes / Management

Developments

- There are five Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP) courses available but Rye Hill undertakes two of them – Core SOTP and Being Not Me.

Improvements

- During the reporting period the reclassification of two units to Vulnerable Prisoner units was considered but as yet not implemented. The reasoning was the lack of suitable offenders.
- There have been delays in some courses due to insufficient numbers of suitable offenders.
- The Enhanced Thinking Skills course was renamed the Thinking Skills Programme and is deemed more appropriate to those undertaking the course.

Concerns

- The unavailability of the other three courses can result in offenders being held back from reducing their risk and moving on.
- There were insufficient places allocated to Rye Hill to train staff for delivering the SOTP course which also resulted in fewer courses being run.

6.16 Preparation for Release / Resettlement.

- The numbers of Category C offenders held at Rye Hill reached 211 in December. This number has begun to decline but **the Board have concerns for these offenders who should be progressing through their sentence and have access to ROTL.**
- All reports for Parole decisions are up to date and on time. **Decisions are frequently delayed causing offenders to be retained at Rye Hill when a progressive move would be beneficial.**
- Some decisions are greatly delayed with one decision outcome being from May 2009.

Statistics

	ISPP	Lifers	Total
Pre-Tariff Paper Reviews	27	10	37
Post-Tariff ICM Directions outstanding.	14	5	19
Post-Tariff outstanding Oral Hearings	4	9	13
Post-Tariff Scheduled Hearings	3	2	5

6.17 Prisoner – Staff Relations

Developments

- A computerised system for registering complaints and issuing receipts is now in place.
- Offender/staff relations in CSU are good

Trends

- The Board notes that the improvement reported previously has been maintained during this reporting period with positive comments from both offenders and staff.
- The number of assaults on officers has remained low.

Concerns

- The Board notes that issues which should be resolved by unit staff are being referred to the IMB which does not build confidence between offenders and staff.
- Complaints/requests are taking too long to be resolved, often many weeks.
- The deployment of three officers on the units is not always in place reducing their availability to deal with offender issues.

6.18 Property

Developments

- New property cards have been issued.
- Efforts are being made to reduce the amount of lost property.
- Offenders are informed on arrival at Rye Hill that they are not allowed to receive property by post or via visits but must be purchased from approved suppliers.

Improvements

- There are many items on the I&EP list which may be purchased from approved suppliers but often the articles take a long time to arrive.

Concerns

- Property still goes missing especially on transfer from another establishment.
- Even with the new property cards it still takes too long to issue a new arrival with his property.

Trends

- Staff is always trying to work out ways to reduce the property issues and there has been a slight reduction in recent months.
- Applications to the Board regarding property are still high

6.19 Purposeful Activity

Developments

- ‘Arts and Crafts’ in small areas in each of the three workshops produces articles which are sold within and outside the prison.
- Industries are working at full capacity with new projects being introduced.
- Unemployed prisoners are locked down during working hours.

Improvements

- Purposeful activity hours have generally met target.
- The flower beds and lawns inside the prison are maintained to a high standard. Areas outside the walls have improved with the beds being cared for by an outside contractor.
- The allotments are well organised and tended with some of the produce being used in the prison. Some rescue hens are also kept.
- VP's have a small area mirroring that of the mainstream plots.

6.20 Reception & Admissions

- New BOSS (Body Orifice Surveillance System) chairs have been introduced to monitor visitors and incoming offenders for concealed contraband. These have been successful in detecting particularly mobile phones, SIM cards and drugs.
- The Board has learnt that in the coming year Reception and Communications units are to be merged after appropriate training has been undertaken.

6.21 Security

Developments

- All improvements to security have been positive making Rye Hill a safer place.
- Security department has been constantly updating intelligence and working on new developments.

Improvements

- The number of Security Intelligence Reports has remained between 500 and 600 per month leading to targeted searches for contraband.
- Mobile phone detection and confiscation has increased through targeted searches and the use of the BOSS chair.
- The closed circuit television camera system has been updated giving clearer coverage in the prison and particularly around the perimeter.
- There have been once again no reported 'throw-overs' during the year.
- More dog handlers are undergoing training and another dog is in use.

Concerns

- Contraband still manages to enter the prison but improved intelligence is helping to make good progress in reducing this.

Trends

- There is a downward trend in drug supply through targeted searches and a reduction in serious assaults
- There are clear signs of a reduction in Use of Force.
- Good control of visitors with the aid of the dogs and state of the art surveillance cameras and constant monitoring is reducing the entry of contraband into the establishment.
- More finds of mobiles. SIM cards, chargers and weapons are being made through better intelligence.

6.22 Transfer

Concerns

- The Board has continually raised the issue of the number of Category C offenders held in Rye Hill, a Category B prison. When an offender has reduced his risk by undertaking relevant courses and been recategorised, he should be given the opportunity to transfer to a lower risk prison and continue his journey towards resettlement. It is only towards the end of the reporting period that a dedicated member of Population Management Unit has been responsible for ensuring that appropriate transfers are facilitated.
- **Overcrowding in the prison system makes it extremely difficult to progress Category C and D prisoners. This reduces their access to ROTL. This problem is now being addressed with the exchange of Category C offenders for Category B offenders.**
- **It is a matter for NOMS to ensure that offenders are held in appropriate category of prison**
- At the end of the reporting period there were 178 Category C and 4 category D prisoners out of 649 at Rye Hill, a Category B designated prison

6.23 Visits & Visitor Centre

Developments

- The new booking in system makes it quicker for visitors to book in and go through to main gate for searching
- Visitors spoken to by Board members have said that Rye Hill is one of the better prisons to visit.
- Staff in the centre is very polite and helps make visitors feel welcome and comfortable.

Improvements

- The Visfingers system has been replaced by a quicker system. This immediately tells staff in the centre who has arrived. Staff calls them in at regular intervals and there is less delay in getting in to the prison.

Trends

- Visitors and legal representatives are waiting less to be booked in, processed and searched before their visit begins.
- A new timetable has been introduced.
- Staff and visitors have told Board members how much better the new system is.

Concern

- **The Board remains concerned that Sunday and Bank Holiday visits are not available. This is beyond the control of Rye Hill**

6.24 Vulnerable Prisoners

NOTE: VPs at Rye Hill have all been convicted of a sex offence

- Problems in arranging progressive moves for Cat C prisoners (because of lack of places for those denying the offence) have eased
- SOTP targets have again not been met, but there have been fewer drop-outs from courses.
- The move from ETS to TSP has been positive with courses open to a wider range of prisoners

Improvements

- Staffing and prisoners have been more stable and settled as evidenced by complaints being fewer and less serious, and fewer adjudications.
- Team-working the unit managers has allowed higher levels of management visibility on the units.
- Self-harm has lessened over-all.
- More stringent use of IEP levels following misdemeanors mean that prisoners see the consequences of their behaviour.

Concerns

- A number of persistent self-harmers remain so that there are too many repeat incidents.
- It remains difficult to identify enough candidates for SOTP. The current situation leads to bed-blocking

Trends

- Better inter-departmental communication.
- Raised levels of staff awareness of manipulation and conditioning techniques used by prisoners.
- Better intelligence systems and feedback enabling improved identification and management of bullies.

Section 7: The Independent Monitoring Board 2009/10

7.1 Membership & Recruitment

- The Board remains significantly below establishment strength of 17 members. Again prioritisation of monitoring areas has been in operation for most of the reporting period.
- At the end of the period there were 13 members.
- Two new members on long term absence, left during the year.
- Three new members were recruited during the period.
- Support from the Secretariat has been much appreciated.
- Clerical support has continued throughout the year. The clerk left the employ of G4S in January but has been replaced by another member of staff
- The Chairman was re-elected to office for 2010.
- New Vice Chairman and Board Development Officer were elected for 2010.

7.2 Board Meetings

- Monthly Board Meetings have been generally well attended with 122 out of 166 possible attendances. The majority of absences were by those on long term leave of absence or were employment related. The Director or a representative has attended. The Ministry of Justice Controller attended until he moved on and the new controller attended initially but has not done so since the December Board meeting despite being invited.

7.3 Rota Visits

- These continue to be completed on a weekly basis with non mandatory areas visited rotationally.
- Each visit results in a formal report that is discussed with the Director at the monthly Board Meeting or earlier if urgent issues arise.

7.4 Applications to the Board

- Completed applications continue to follow an auditable paper trail and were collected at least weekly by the Board from all units including CSU and Healthcare from the installed red boxes or taken directly from offenders by members.
- 303 applications were received during the period compared with 411 and 242 for the previous two years, a reduction of 25% over 2008/9.
- 24 applications were received under Confidential Access but most were not matters requiring CA and were treated as normal applications. Applicants were normally seen within five days and most issues resolved quickly.
- Property issues resulted in 47 applications, 15%, about the same as last year.
- The Board is to be commended for the timely responses particularly as it was significantly below strength for the reporting period.

Statistics

Subject	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Accommodation		n/a	13	16
Adjudications		n/a	9	7
Diversity related		18	13	17
Education/employment/training		n/a	60	21
Family/visits		n/a	13	12
Food/kitchen related		n/a	7	5
Health related		n/a	30	32
Property		45	64	47
Sentence related		11	29	30
Staff/prisoner/detainee related		n/a	54	19
Transfers		24	29	20
Miscellaneous		n/a	90	87
Total number of applications	230	242	411	303

Note. 'Miscellaneous' includes complaints, finance, mail, canteen etc.

7.5 Training 10

- The Board Development Officer has had a marked effect on the Board particularly in the training of newly appointed members and the organisation of monthly Board meeting pre agenda training sessions and talks. The newly elected BDO has attended the IMB training course and will be guided initially by the retiring BDO. The Board thanks the retiring officer for her devoted application to her duties.
- Training has included :-
 - New member induction
 - Experienced members courses
 - Annual conference
 - Regional and Contracted/SLA Chairs meetings
 - Serious incident training
 - Monthly pre agenda meeting sessions
 - Annual Team Performance Review
 - Prison visits

7.6 Budget

- No budget allowance was communicated to this Board for the period 2009 – 2010
- The Board remains concerned that budget allowances are unrealistic, resulting in approximately 45% overspend by this Board from the 2008/9 budget allowance, mainly due to increased fuel costs and new member training. Under this restriction it is difficult to formulate or work to a plan.
- It is hoped that a new and fairer distribution of available funding can be worked out and sustainable budgets formulated.
- It is hoped that those expected to control budgets will be given proper and appropriate training in doing so.

See chart below for Board statistics.

7.7 Board Statistics 10

Recommended complement of Board members	17
Number of Board members at start of reporting period	12
Number of Board members at end of reporting period (includes 1 temporary experienced member)	13
Number of new members joining within reporting period	3
Number of members leaving in reporting period	2
Number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	10
Number of attendances other than at Board meetings	395
Total number of visits to the prison	517
Number of applications received	303
Number of CSU Reviews scheduled to be held	ca140
Number of CSU reviews attended by Board- mostly multiple reviews	ca130

Acknowledgement

This report has been compiled from information gathered by all members of the Board.