



HER MAJESTY'S PRISON SWANSEA



ANNUAL REPORT 2009 – 2010

COMPILED BY: THE CHAIRMAN, MR BRIAN THOMPSON

DATE: Submitted August 2010. (Covering period end May 2009 – end May 2010)

SECTION 1

1.1

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Secretary Of State for Prisons 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 the right of Access to every Prisoner and every part of the prison and also to see Prisoner's records.

CONTENTS

SECTION 2

- SECTION 1 - The statutory role of the IMB
- SECTION 2 - Contents
- SECTION 3 - Description of the prison
- SECTION 4 - Executive Summary
- SECTION 5 - Diversity
Learning & Skills
Healthcare & Mental Health
Safer Custody
Death in Custody
Chaplaincy
Community Chaplaincy
IMB Training
Security
- SECTION 6 - Adjudications
Applications to the IMB
Reception & Induction
Catering
Building & Fittings
- SECTION 7 - The work of the IMB
Board Statistics
Talks

SECTION 3

3.1

Her Majesty's Prison Swansea is a Category B local prison, which holds adult males. These males are either remanded into Custody from the Courts, awaiting trial, or sentencing, or are convicted prisoners.

The prison was built in 1861 and has remained substantially unchanged since then although some parts have been modernised and upgraded. Swansea was designed to hold 219 prisoners but due to the increasing prison population nationally, Swansea has a current operational capacity of 428.

Swansea has a true community feel about it where respect for individuals is paramount. Relationships between staff and prisoners are at the heart of this and they also contribute to many other aspects of the varied and positive activities on offer to help the prisoners' resettlement into their community, by developing effective partnerships with statutory, private and voluntary organisations which effectively contribute to the National Offender Management Service "Reducing Re-Offending Agenda".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION 4

4.1 IMB AT SWANSEA – SECTION 1

The Chair and Vice Chair took up their appointments in January 2010. Talks on the work of the IMB continue to be given locally and visits are arranged for outside groups to the Prisons.

4.2 DIVERSITY– SECTION 5

The Board are pleased to report that HMP Swansea is fully committed to fulfilling its duties under the Race Relations Act. The Board are very concerned that Swansea is still one of the five most overcrowded prisons in the country and once again would ask THE MINISTER WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS TO REDUCE THE OVERCROWDING?

4.3 LEARNING AND SKILLS – SECTION 5

The main focus of this year for the Learning and Skills Department was the ESTYN inspection that took place from the 8 February to the 12 February 2010. Overall the inspection went well and the department is considered a very satisfactory provision. The quality of the teaching and training was graded as good and in a few cases outstanding. This is a marked improvement from the previous full inspection in 2005 where teaching was graded only as satisfactory.

4.4 HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH – SECTION 5

The structure and focus of HMP Swansea is moving towards providing a real focus on reducing reoffending and resettlement and health has a significant contribution to make in both fields. The Head of Healthcare is now also the Head of Reducing Reoffending, so Health as an agenda will remain a key priority within the establishment but with a greater focus on multi departmental/agency working.

4.5 SAFER CUSTODY – SECTION 5

By the end of 2009 the safer custody group had expanded significantly to consist of 9 staff including 4 of the now disbanded Intensive Prisoner Support (IPS) group formerly attached to C Wing. The group offers support and guidance in all facets of safer custody within the prison.

During 2009 there were 176 new ACCT (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork) documents opened by the prison, which was an increase of 12% on the previous year's total. There were 5 periods of constant watch amounting to a total of 65 days undertaken on five different prisoners and 42 reported incidents of self-harm in the establishment. Of these there were 8 incidents of self-harm that involved hanging or the use of ligatures. One prisoner was responsible for half of these and

thankfully none resulted in serious injury. It should be noted however that the difference between an incident resulting in no serious harm and a death in custody could be only a matter of seconds and is often due to prompt action by staff on duty. The number of fights between prisoners and the number of assaults on staff are very low for a local prison and gives weight to the argument that Swansea is in fact a safe and relatively violence free environment with few serious incidents reported.

4.6 DEATH IN CUSTODY – SECTION 5

There have been no deaths in custody to report during the year (end) May 2009-2010.

4.7 ADJUDICATIONS – SECTION 6

All Board Members take the opportunity to sit in and observe Governors Adjudications and Independent Adjudications during their rota visits whenever possible. The board monitors and verifies that the hearings are carried out in a fair and concise manner with the offender understanding all aspects of the proceedings. The board also ensures that hearings are disseminated evenly and are conducted by all the Governor Grades.

4.8 PRISONER GRIEVANCES – SECTION 6

During the period board members received 43 applications. This was an increase of 2 on last year. There were no applications to see the full board.

4.9 RECEPTIONS AND INDUCTION – SECTION 6

The Reception Area is not the most attractive area of the prison. All prisoners arriving at Swansea are seen by a health professional before they leave the reception area. For non-English speaking prisoners there is a telephone translation service. There are posters and captions clearly visible in the area to help prisoners understand the prison system and also to provide information about the support available to them and some of the agencies they can engage with. There is a Listener located at Reception from 9 a.m. until the last prisoner has been allocated to a wing.

All prisoners arriving at Swansea are initially located on the Induction Wing. It is a small wing, staffed by experienced officers. All prisoners attend Induction Classes. National changes in the provision and distribution of prisoners' canteen has meant that there have been problems with prisoners located on this wing receiving the goods they have ordered within a reasonable time. There are inconsistencies in the system but some prisoners are waiting over a week at times for items. This is inevitably leading to frustration and complaints. Officers have expressed concerns about the possibility of bullying as a consequence.

4.10 CATERING– SECTION 6

The Catering department continue to produce over 1200 meals per day at cost of just under £2.00 per day per prisoner. Prisoners are trained in various tasks resulting in them obtaining certificates, which will assist them in securing jobs on release.

4.11 BUILDINGS AND WORKS-SECTION 6

During the last 12 months a new fire alarm system has been installed throughout the prison and all yard and pedestrian areas have been re-surfaced. All showers in “D” wing are in the process of being refurbished. Workshop 1 Information Technology training centre has now been completed and is in full use.

4.12 FOREIGN NATIONAL AND IPP PRISONERS-SECTION 5

There are 12 Foreign National prisoners held in Swansea Prison. Of particular concern to the Board is the plight of one of these prisoners who is awaiting the result of his appeals against deportation. He is still being held some 10 months after his normal release date has passed due to the fact that no place has been made available for him in the proper detainee detention system. It is felt by the Board that keeping him in prison is potentially an infringement of his basic human rights and in addition an extremely costly option for the public purse. The Board at Swansea have questioned this situation with local and area management with little sign of a satisfactory solution. The Board would like to ask the MINISTER FOR HIS COMMENTS ON THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION.

SECTION 5

5.1 DIVERSITY

Diversity in HMP Swansea can be divided between:

Race Equality.
Equal Opportunities.
Disability.
Foreign Nationals.

Diversity management Team meetings are held once a month and are chaired by the Governor. The last report by the HMICP mentioned that they were very pleased with HMP Swansea for the way it handles Diversity for all complaints and applications. Feedback from prisoners and staff showed that there was faith in the reporting system and confidence in the investigating process. The prisons average mix for the period was 90.50% white and 9.50% other. Staff ethnicity was 2.2% with the target for this being 3%.

5.1.1 RACE EQUALITY

Staffs at HMP Swansea are fully committed to carrying out their duties under the Race Relations Act. This year there has been a slight increase in incidents from last year over the same period. There were 16 incidents last year and 17 this year. Prisoners and staff have a great deal of faith in the reporting and investigating system.

HMP Swansea has taken on an Imam on a more permanent basis to cater to the needs of the Muslim community.

HMCIP carried out their inspection during this year and they were extremely satisfied with HMP Swansea and the Action plans put in place for future improvement. During their inspection they talked to prisoners and staff about how they felt about Race Equality within the prison and found that all were satisfied with the procedures in place within the prison.

5.1.2 EQUAL OPPURTUNITIES

The Race Equality Officer in HMP Swansea is in charge of making sure of eradication of discrimination and harassment by making sure that staff have full knowledge of their duties and are given all training required to recognise the perpetrators and to protect complainants.

At HMP Swansea there is an Impact Assessment Programme to assess the impact of all policies and procedures on different racial groups. The prison has action plans in place to address indirect discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity. Monitoring procedures are in place so that they are quality assured. These plans become part of the overall Race Equality Action Plan.

5.1.3 DISABILITY

11.5% of prisoners in HMP Swansea at present are classed as disabled. There is a PEEP (Personal Emergency Egress Plan) folder on each wing of the prison in case of emergency, to help those who need assistance due to their disability, in case of an emergency.

5.1.4 FOREIGN NATIONS AND IPP PRISONERS (INDETERMINATE [SENTENCE] FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION)

HMP Swansea has recently started ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) lessons. A teacher for this purpose is going to be made full time. Books are being ordered for the library to help in this. Also a translation computer, which can translate 48 languages, has been recently purchased. The prison also has 4 dual handsets on order to assist with medical requests from prisoners who cannot speak English.

Of particular concern to the Board is the plight of one of the 12 Foreign National prisoners currently being held in Swansea who is awaiting deportation. He is still being held some 10 months after his normal release date has passed due to the fact that no place has been made available for him in the proper detainee detention system. It is felt by the Board that keeping him in prison is potentially an infringement of his basic human rights and in addition an extremely costly option for the public purse. The Board at Swansea have questioned this situation with local and area management with little sign of a satisfactory solution.

There are 6 IPP prisoners currently held at Swansea

5.2 LEARNING AND SKILLS

The main focus of this year for the Learning and Skills Department was the ESTYN inspection, which took place from the 8 February to the 12 February 2010. Overall the inspection went well and the department is considered a very satisfactory provision. The quality of the teaching and training was graded as good and in a few cases outstanding. This is a marked improvement from the previous full inspection in 2005 where teaching was graded as satisfactory.

The teaching and vocational training accommodation was highlighted as a very good standard. The inspectorate were very impressed with the standard of the converted workshop, which now houses an Information Technology Suite and includes a BICS (British Instituted of Cleaning Science) training area. The use of prisoners to mentor their peers was also seen as good practice and to date six prisoners have been accredited with mentoring qualifications.

The areas that need improvement include more accurate data collection in order to inform the provision. This also impacted on the management of the department. The Information and Guidance service (IAG) given to prisoners was considered not adequate for their needs. Both of these areas were identified in the department's own Self Assessment Report (SAR). There is still a lot to do to ensure that the education

and training in the prison is of a very high standard. The inspectors acknowledged this and felt that improvements made since the last inspection along with staff changes meant that the department was very well placed to make these improvements.

Management systems and data collection are high on the agenda at regional level with a new computer system C-Start being introduced in the establishment. Along side this system a 'virtual campus' will also be installed to introduce the concept of e-learning for prisoners. They will be able to access various courses, sit examinations on line prepare CVs and the 'virtual campus' will also enable prisoners to make links with outside agencies including the Jobcentre. A broadband line will be installed in order to download courses and to make referrals.

The virtual campus is going to be a very innovative way of delivering learning and skills programmes and provide a more interactive way to assess prisoners. This will increase and improve the breadth of training and learning programmes the department will be able to deliver to prisoners. It will also give a link to the community and begin to ensure that a prisoner can continue learning once 'outside' the gate.

A final report has recently been submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government since funding began in April 2009. One of the most encouraging aspects is the fact that numbers of prisoners accessing the department has gone up by 44%. This has been done with no additional staffing. The current members of staff have worked hard to achieve this.

Staffing continues to be an issue within the department and it can be difficult to maintain class cover if there are sickness issues. There are currently vacancies for a new IT Tutor for the new IT suite in workshop 2 and an administrative officer. Due to the new vetting system it can take up to 3 months to get security clearance for potential candidates through the shared services centre in Newport. The IT suite is a real asset for the department. Both of these posts are vital to drive through improvements in the department and begin to put in place the recommendations made by HMCIP (Her Majesties Chief inspectors of Prisons).

A recent re-organisation of senior staff at HMP Swansea means that the Learning and Skills Department has now been given a more pivotal role in the workshops. This will not only raise the status of the department but also will enable more accreditation for prisoners in all workplaces across the prison and make staff with the industries more aware of the provision in Learning and Skills. There are currently moves for prisoners working in the clothing store to gain accreditation in laundry operations.

The Learning and Skills department has supported staff across the establishment in gaining qualifications. Two members of staff in the re-cycling unit have passed their Level 2 in re-cycling operations. In addition, the kitchen manager is currently training for his A1 assessor's award. This will make it easier for prisoners to gain the NVQ qualification in catering.

Some curriculum developments include the required inclusion of employability skills that the Welsh Assembly Government has set targets for from April this year. In response a new course will start called Ready Steady Work accredited by OCR (Oxford and Cambridge RSA). This will enable prisoners to gain skills up to level 3.

Other developments include the change of basic and key skills to essential skills and the mapping of all qualifications against the Credit and Qualification Framework (CQFW) This will ensure better progression and coherence of qualifications when a prisoner moves between establishments.

The library in A wing is now closed and all the library provision is located in the newly refurbished library in the Learning and Skills department. An extra librarian has been employed along with increased opening hours during the day and during evening association.

5.3 HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

This year could be viewed as a year where the department has seen the benefit of a lot of hard work and effort to achieve service change over the last three to four years. Again, this has been in partnership with the Local Health Board, who remains a consistent source of support and guidance on developing services further.

In particular, the department has been going through physical change in terms of it as an environment. The building itself has been, and still is party to a series of improvements, aimed at providing prisoners with a health service that is distinct and purpose designed for their needs. Our successful bid to take part in the King's Fund 'Enhancing the Healing Environment' programme has resulted in a new design for the waiting area. More importantly, the King's Fund has inspired a whole programme of improvement (HMP Swansea's 'Safe and Sound' project). This has been an exceptionally positive initiative for staff and prisoners to achieve change in consultation and working with each other. Work is still underway and planned for 2010.

Pharmacy Team continued improvement on for their contribution and quality in their work, both in terms of prisoner contact and clinical governance. Pharmacy services now provide one to one counselling on medication and also a substance misuse review service. The recent HMCIP (Her Majesties Chief Inspectors of Prisons) verbal feedback indicated how much improvement this department has achieved. Prisoners enjoy and benefit from their input, providing information on medication, advice and monitoring.

Another big achievement has been in the field of substance misuse. Assessment, through-care and aftercare provision is now very structured and systematic, firmly within a clinical evidence base, with excellent links with community providers. In addition, an alcohol specific clinic for prisoners was introduced during the course of the year. Although in it's infancy, this has formed the basis of quite a unique service that actually distinguishes the needs of those with alcohol problems from other substance misuse issues and we look forward to it's future development.

We have had positive verbal feedback from HMCIP as a service, marking whole scale change and improvement since the previous inspection of 2005.

Obviously, we move into 2010 with a degree of uncertainty as the Local Health Boards have gone through total reorganisation in Wales. In addition, there is no clarity as yet as to where Prison Health will sit within the Local Health Board. It is imperative that good relationships are continued and nurtured within the context of change for the continued promotion of prisoner's health and well being as an agenda within NHS Wales (National Health Service).

We look forward to another year of change and working towards providing a far more integrated model of health services in the future. The structure and focus of HMP Swansea is moving towards providing a real focus on reducing reoffending and resettlement and health has a significant contribution to make in both fields. The Head of Healthcare is now also the Head of Reducing Reoffending, so Health as an agenda will remain a key priority within the establishment but with a greater focus on multi departmental/agency working.

The Dental service is running well and seeing approximately 16 prisoners each visit, some new, some follow up. The waiting list is approximately 4/5 weeks, an improvement on last year and overall prisoners who have spoken to us have stated that they are more than satisfied with the service provided by the dental services at Swansea.

5.4 SAFER CUSTODY

2009 was a busy and significant year, full of change for Safer Custody at HMP Swansea.

The year began with 3 full time staff working within the group, with 2 other staff attached to the group but whilst maintaining duties and responsibilities on C Wing. By the end of the year the group had expanded significantly to consist of 9 including 4 of the now disbanded Intensive Prisoner Support (IPS) group formerly attached to C Wing.

In keeping with the expansion of the group, it's profile within the establishment changed, with a greater level of expectation from all areas. After an initial period where sometimes these expectations exceeded realistic levels of performance there is now a much wider realisation of exactly what the role and purpose of the group is. This can be summed up as offering support and guidance in all facets of safer custody within the prison, not, as what was thought by some staff, to take sole responsibility for these areas at the exclusion of other staff.

In 2009 there were 176 new ACCT (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork) documents in the prison, which was an increase of 12% on the previous year's total. Whilst this is a fairly significant increase it should be taken in the context of two important factors that impacted on the high levels of ACCTs.

The first was the situation which saw an unprecedented number of sex offenders being housed on normal location throughout the establishment for several months during the middle part of the year until the temporary opening of F Wing, as a dedicated sex offenders unit. The problems faced by sex offenders whilst on normal

location manifested itself in the number of ACCTs generated within this small section of the prison population. In June 2009 the percentage of sex offenders in the prison was 11%, yet they accounted for 40% of ACCTs opened at the time. Secondly was the most unfortunate death in custody of Peter Murphy on 12/5/09 which is outside This reporting period.

During the year we have analysed statistics surrounding the opening of ACCTS and have made observations as follows:

- 9 of the new ACCTs were transferred in from other establishments – there were no new ACCTs opened by escort/court contractors.
- 16 Prisoners were subject to more than one ACCT throughout the year; 14 had been subject to 2, one Prisoner had 3 and another had had 4.
- Nearly 65% of ACCTs were opened as a part of reception/induction procedures.
- 60% of ACCTs were opened on prisoners who had not been sentenced – this figure is disproportionately high – this category of prisoner account for less than 40% of the prison population
- There is little correlation between the age of prisoners and the incidents of ACCTs. No one age group has been found to be more at risk than any other.
- Over 80% of ACCTs were opened between the hours of 12.00 and 20.00 hrs, only 8% were opened during the night (20.00 – 08.00hrs)
- Only 15% of ACCTs were opened at weekends which is proportionately about half of the expected level

There were 5 periods of constant watch amounting to a total of 65 days undertaken on four different prisoners. One Prisoner had two instances of Constant watch.

There were 42 reported incidents of self-harm in the establishment with 8 of these being the responsibility of one individual in a 10-week period between Feb and May. One other prisoner appears on the list 3 times and 4 others appear twice. In total only 26 individuals self harmed throughout the year.

Of these incidents, 22 resulted in the opening of an ACCT for the first time, 3 resulted in the re-opening of an ACCT and 17 prisoners were already on an ACCT.

There were 7 occasions when the severity of self harm required attention in outside hospital, these were spread through the year and included 4 incidents of cutting, one o/d of paracetamol and one of inserting a paint brush into an old wound. Of these 7 events, 2 resulted in new ACCTs.

There were 8 incidents of self-harm that involved hanging or the use of ligatures. One prisoner was responsible for half of these and thankfully none resulted in serious injury. Of course the suicide by hanging, which occurred during May 2009, was reported on last year and lies outside the period of this report. It should be noted however that the difference between an incident resulting in no serious harm and a death in custody could be only a matter of seconds and is often due to prompt action by staff on duty.

There were 18 incidents of cutting, 4 of which were serious enough to require attendance in outside hospital and 2 instances, both self reported of, swallowing blades and an overdose of paracetamol – both of these cases were referred to outside hospital but there was no evidence forthcoming to support either of these claims. Other methods of self-harm used included self biting, head-butting the walls and opening up an old wound.

There was a clear peak in the number of assaults and threats made in the 2nd quarter of 2009 and this was likely due to the number of sex offenders located throughout the prison at this time on normal location.

The number of fights between prisoners (10) and the number of assaults on staff (11) are however very low for a local prison and gives weight to the argument that Swansea is in fact a safe and relatively violence free environment with few serious incidents reported.

Cell Sharing Risk Assessments are well established in the prison with dedicated members of staff on each residential unit being identified to conduct reviews of medium and high-risk prisoners. Reviews are generally carried out promptly and throughout 2009 there were 160 CSRA reviews, 76% of which resulted in no change of risk, 23 % resulted in a lowering of the risk and only 1% an increase.

There has been a steady but minimal increase of the number of high-risk prisoners throughout the year and a degree of fluctuation of the numbers of medium risk prisoners.

5.5 DEATH IN CUSTODY

The Board are pleased to report that there have been no deaths in custody during the year (end) May 2009 to (end) May 2010 covered by this report.

5.6 CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy Team at H.M.P. Swansea plays an invaluable role in ensuring that spiritual support and guidance is available for prisoners of all faiths. There continues to be a strong emphasis on developing and strengthening links with the community. Visiting speakers and musicians are regularly invited to enhance and lead both Sunday Worship and classes exploring faith. There are also a number of other groups organised by the chaplain that involve people from the community supporting prisoners. This year the work of two groups of volunteers was recognised. The Samaritans/Listener group was celebrating 25 years involvement in H.M.P. Swansea and the Ladies who have run the crèche at visits for the past 20 years were invited to a buffet lunch. Both these groups play a valuable role in supporting those in custody.

The Team has moved to new offices and are now located in the Chapel building. During the year a new translation facility has been provided so that foreign nationals with little English can access the services and feel fully included. At present the system can translate into three languages. A washing facility has also been fitted in the chapel to enable Muslim prisoners to hold their prayers there. An electric piano has also been purchased.

The Sunday services have been reorganized due to the loss of the sex offender population and currently about 14% of the prisoner population attend a Christian service on Sunday. Christmas and Easter festival are always marked with lively and

exciting services with prisoners playing an active part. The Muslim population fluctuates but generally all attend Friday prayers during their time in custody. The Chaplain is fully involved in the Safer Custody group and plays an active part in ACCT assessment. He also leads an induction group each week for prisoners who are new to custody.

5.7 COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

There is extremely positive news for H.M.P. Swansea this year. The Community Chaplaincy team, submitted a tender to the Coastal Project bidding for European money. The tender was successful and there is now funding until December 2012. Two new members of staff have been appointed as outreach chaplains and this vital project became fully operational again in October 2009. The team has been successful in implementing OCN learning and training courses and every prisoner involved with Community Chaplaincy will undertake a course and receive a certificate.

They have produced an excellent cookbook called "Tastier than Porridge" which has been designed to support people leaving custody on a low income with limited kitchen facilities and poor skills in literacy and numeracy. The recipes are designed to provide one good meal every day for a two-week period. The ingredients have been chosen so that they provide the nutrients that should improve cognitive ability. The Community Chaplaincy team will also provide a larder of basic ingredients to prisoners involved in the scheme.

Although currently the team is able to provide excellent support for those leaving custody and in contribute towards reducing reoffending, there will inevitably be serious funding concerns for the future unless it becomes a part of H.M.P Swansea's base line. If society is serious in trying to prevent prisoners reoffending then projects such as the Community Chaplaincy need to be properly funded and even integrated into the formal prison system.

5.8 IMB TRAINING

A number of members attend various courses throughout the year run by the IMB Secretariat and talks have been given at most monthly meetings, by prison staff, on different aspects of the work undertaken by different departments within the prison.

5.9 SECURITY

The requirement to supply staff for bed watches and escorts continues to be a significant drain on staff resources.

The main conduit for information to the Security Office is via Security Information Reports (SIR). There were 976 SIRs during the year, which is a slight decrease on last year.

SECTION 6

6.1 ADJUDICATIONS

All Board Members take the opportunity to sit in and observe Governors Adjudications and Independent Adjudications during their rota visits whenever possible. The board monitors and verifies that the hearings are carried out in a fair and concise manner with the offender understanding all aspects of the proceedings. The board also ensures that hearings are disseminated evenly and are conducted by all the Governor Grades.

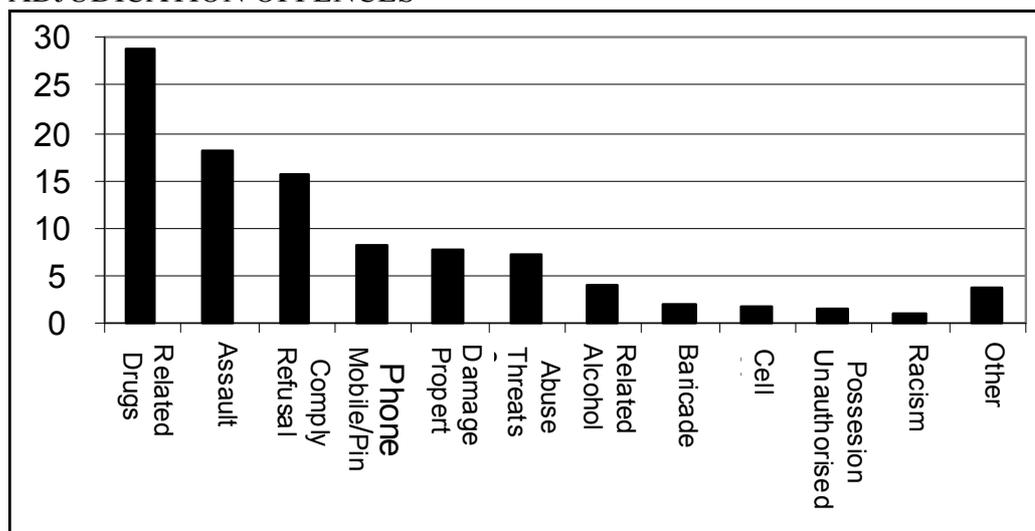
The total number of charges brought for offences against prison rules is up on the previous year by 12% with 2 offences being considered serious enough to be referred outside to the Police.

In total 392 charges were brought against prisoners during the year of which 289 were proceeded with. In 103 (26%) of all cases the charges were dropped, principally because the cases were either considered not to be established on further review and subsequently dismissed, or the prisoner had been released, did not return from court, or was transferred to another prison. In 13 (3%) of the more serious cases the adjudication was referred to an Outside Independent Adjudicator.

In total penalties amounting to 2354 days were awarded against offenders of which 418 (18%) were suspended subject to the prisoner's future good behaviour. In total around 95% of heard adjudications were dealt with by the Governors within the prison with the awards involving a range of punishments from the loss of prison privileges and earnings for lesser misdemeanours, to the loss of association and additional days being added to the sentence for more serious misdemeanours.

A detailed examination of adjudication records reveals the following apportionment of offences.

ADJUDICATION OFFENCES



A breakdown of the offences by ethnicity shows that it is proportionate to the ethnic distribution of the prison population.

6.2 APPLICATIONS TO THE IMB

All prisoners have a right to address grievances to the IMB and may request referral to the full board. During the period of this report there have been no applications to the full board. There have been 43 applications to the IMB, which is a slight increase of 2 on last year but extremely low and reflects the commitment of staff to deal with most problems being raised by prisoners. In addition to formal applications Board members accept verbal applications on their rota visit or at any other time they are in the Prison. The Board has marked and locked IMB boxes on all wings for Prisoners to post their applications.

Applications have been analysed by category

Category	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
Food	2	3	0	1
Property	11	4	0	4
Medical	12	14	6	13
Visits	5	0	5	4
Transfer	8	5	3	2
Adjudications	1	0	0	1
Mail	1	0	1	1
Cell Conditions	11	3	1	
Sentence	7	5	5	4
Racial Abuse	0	3	0	
Bullying	0	1	3	2
Miscellaneous	22	18	17	11
TOTAL	80	56	41	43

There were a reduced number of complaints concerning medication all of which were dealt with speedily by the Healthcare unit. The miscellaneous (17) continue to be high and are in the main general queries and request for advice.

6.3 RECEPTION AND INDUCTION

The Reception Area is not the most attractive area of the prison and would certainly benefit from a coat of paint. It is, however, very efficiently staffed and officers are courteous and professional. All prisoners arriving at Swansea are seen by a health professional before they leave the reception area. Their needs are assessed and those prisoners with incoming medical issues and drug issues are dealt with appropriately and swiftly. All prisoners are given the opportunity to shower though few avail themselves of this facility. For non-English speaking prisoners there is a telephone translation service that enables officers to complete the necessary paperwork and allows them to explain to the prisoners what is likely to happen. There

are posters and captions clearly visible in the area to help prisoners understand the prison system and also to provide information about the support available to them and some of the agencies they can engage with. There is a Listener located at Reception from 9 a.m. until the last prisoner has been allocated to a wing.

All prisoners arriving at Swansea are initially located on the Induction Wing. They complete a Housing Needs and Assessment document before undergoing an initial interview. The regime on this wing is specifically designed to introduce prisoners to the routines and regimes of prison life in a very supportive way. It is a small wing, staffed by experienced officers who are very diligent and committed. ACCT's are opened where necessary. Prisoners are allowed to make their first telephone call once they are located on this wing and they are given an advance pack of telephone credits and a tobacco pack or alternative. The telephone and canteen systems are fully explained. They are given detailed induction packs and officers take time to explain systems to those with poor literacy. All prisoners attend Induction Classes. Officers use the telephone translation service when dealing with non-English speaking prisoners to ensure they understand and are fully conversant with the system. They also try, where possible, to foster links with prisoners who share the same ethnic background.

National changes in the provision and distribution of prisoners' canteen has meant that there have been problems with prisoners located on this wing receiving the goods they have ordered within a reasonable time. There are inconsistencies in the system but some prisoners are waiting over a week for items. This is inevitably leading to frustration and complaints. Officers have expressed concerns about the possibility of bullying as a consequence.

6.4 CATERING

The catering department at HMP Swansea caters for around 420 prisoners, which equates to over 1200 meals, prepared at a cost of around £2 per day. The team also had its first Candidate pass NVQ at level 1. The head of catering is currently in the process of obtaining an NVQ assessor qualification to be able to add to prisoners' education during their stay.

6.5 BUILDINGS AND FITTINGS

During the last 12 months the works department have been involved in many projects throughout the establishment. The installation of the fire alarm system was completed by the end of April.

10 new hydro-mist machines are ready to be placed in appropriate locations throughout the prison. The machines are very efficient in combating fires with little damage to the immediate area.

All yard and pedestrian areas have been re-surfaced and all crossing areas and walk ways properly marked in the interest of health and safety.

All showers in “D” wing are in the process of being refurbished. This work was due to be completed by the end of June.

The installation of new central heating and hot water boilers is due to commence shortly and is expected to be completed at the end of March next year.

Workshop 1 Information Technology training centre has been completed and is in full use providing a valuable opportunity to teach prisoners new IT skills and to enhance their understanding of computers.

All existing and new installations are regularly checked for compliance with the Health and Safety legislation.

SECTION 7

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Secretary Of State for Prisons has appointed Mr B Thompson and Mrs J Michael as Chair and Vice Chair respectively with effect from the 01st January 2010.

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair	Mr Brian Thompson
Vice Chair & Board Development Officer Information Officer	Mrs Judie Michael Mr Roger Jones Mrs Karen Andrew JP Mr Philip Owen JP Mr Pat Dwan JP Mrs Deirdre Jones Mrs Suman Kanish Mr Barrie Maskell JP Mr Geraint Morgan Mrs Jan Osborne JP Mr Colin Walters
Clerk to the Board	Miss Lisa James

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING

Name	Actual	Possible
Mr Phillip Owen JP	11	12
Mr Brian Thompson	10	12
Mrs Karen Andrews JP	10	12
Mr Pat Dwan JP	9	12
Mr Roger Jones	9	12
Mrs Deirdre Jones	9	12
Mrs Suman Kanish	9	12
Mr Barrie Maskell JP	10	12
Mrs Judie Michael	11	12
Mr Geraint Morgan	11	12
Mrs Jan Osborne	11	12
Mr Colin Walters	10	12

TALKS

Talks are given in the local community about the work of the Independent Monitoring Board and visits have been arranged to HMP Swansea by outside bodies.

BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended compliment of Board Members	12
Number of members at start of reporting period	12
Number of Members at end of reporting period	12
Number of new Members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of Members leaving within the reporting period	0
Total number of visits to the Prison (excl Monthly Meetings)	122
Total number of applications received	43