



**Independent Monitoring Board
HMP Wymott**

Annual Report

**Reporting Period
June 2009 - May 2010**

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 concerns 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 the prison's records.

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Section 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

- 1.1 HMP Wymott is a male Category 'C' closed training prison which houses both vulnerable prisoners and prisoners on main location.
- 1.2 The vulnerable prisoners are held in separate accommodation that has its own range of workshops and education and training facilities. Wymott is, therefore, to all intents and purposes two separate prisons within one compound.
- 1.3 The prison opened in 1979. Prisoners on main location are housed in relatively new accommodation built in 1996 with a high standard of facilities and security. Vulnerable prisoners are mainly housed in the two remaining original house blocks. Unlike the new blocks these do not provide integral sanitation; there are adequate arrangements, however, for night sanitation.
- 1.4 In 2004 the prison opened a new residential block of two wings (G and H). These were initially used as the prison's Induction Unit but are now used as standard residential units. G Wing provides lock-up cellular accommodation for vulnerable prisoners (as distinct from the older style VP accommodation on A and B Houses) and H Wing houses main location prisoners.
- 1.5 In September 2008 the prison opened a further residential unit, K Wing, with 64 cells and an operational capacity of 70. The Drug Therapeutic Community (TC), which was previously located on F Wing, moved to the new unit. The layout of F Wing was modified to make it suitable for use as the prison's induction unit with separation of vulnerable and main location prisoners.
- 1.6 During the reporting year a number of small under-used association spaces were converted to provide additional accommodation on the main location wings. As a result the current operational capacity of the prison has increased to 1176 with certified normal accommodation (CNA) of 1113. CNA represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the Prison Service aspires to provide for all prisoners. The prison operated at or close to its operational capacity throughout the year, This means that the prison is generally operating at 105% of decent capacity.
- 1.7 The prison has two specialist residential units, a drug therapeutic community and an elderly and disabled community.
- 1.7 Healthcare services at HMP Wymott are provided by the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust. Education (Offender Learning and

Skills Service – OLASS) is provided by The Manchester College.
Phoenix Futures run the drug therapeutic community.

N.B. The information given in Section 1 above refers to the reporting year and may not be currently accurate

Section 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(a) Issues requiring a response (note: numbers refer to paragraphs in the report)

For the attention of the Justice Secretary

Whilst the deployment of staff is a matter for local management the Board wishes to bring to the attention of the Minister examples of the specific effects of budget reductions:

- At HMP Wymott there is evidence of good practice in the development of the OMU and the role of the Offender Supervisor. Efficiencies currently required of the Prison are impacting on the effectiveness of that role. The Board urges that further budget reductions will not be allowed to lead to an increased caseload, resulting in further delays for prisoners. (4.2.6)
- Budget stringencies are leading to a lack of responsiveness in the staffing of some areas. For example in Reception, staffing levels lead to delays and inefficiencies in processing prisoners. On paper sufficient staff are profiled but where the number of prisoners being served can vary considerably there needs to be room for flexibility and responsiveness (4.2.2).

For the attention of the Director of NOMS

- As noted in its previous report, the Board again expresses concern that prisoners continue to be moved to HMP Wymott inappropriately. Prisoners are moved away from their families and to a prison that does not offer courses identified on their sentence plan. This does not support the Government's stated aim to reduce re-offending.
- The interface between the roles of a prisoner's Personal Officer and Offender Supervisor needs clarification. This has been recognised by the Prison's senior management team and plans are in place to that end, with for example, the introduction of a post-induction assessment with the prisoner, the personal officer and the offender supervisor. Such key developments need to be protected from budget stringencies. (4.2.5).
- Given that the number of prisoners over 60 years of age is increasing throughout the prison population, consideration should be given to an increase in appropriate elderly and disabled accommodation at Wymott. (3.2.14)
- The Board has concerns with regard to the sentence progression of some IPP prisoners. In a number of cases IPP prisoners arrive with specific sentence plan targets that are not offered at Wymott thereby delaying completion of those plans. (4.6.2)

For the attention of the PCT

- The contracted GP supplier does not often provide the same GPs from its bank, some of whom may make only a single visit to the Prison. This prevents continuity of care, GPs having the opportunity to build up their experience of dealing with prisoners and the Prison, and becoming aware of the issues surrounding the prescribing of medicines in a prison environment. The Board is also concerned that the contracted GP supplier has not provided GP cover for a significant number of sessions during the reporting year (3.1.5 & 3.1.8)
- Health promotion activities for prisoners are limited and the Board urges the PCT to consider expanding this service. (3.1.10)
- When prisoners other than those housed in I Wing reach 60 years of age they are not automatically given a medical review. In addition, the elderly prisoners held on I Wing or elsewhere do not receive regular health monitoring. (3.2.15)

For the attention of the Governor

- The Board considers that the number of daily escorts allocated to Healthcare is insufficient given the size of the population, exacerbated by those occasions when emergency escorts reduce the number available for booked appointments. (3.1.7)
- There is no external body involved in independent quality checks of RIRFs and as a result the assessments lack independent scrutiny. (3.2.7)
- The Board is concerned that prisoners on the CSU spend an inordinate amount of time inactive, mostly sleeping. (3.3.5)
- The Board has observed, throughout the reporting year, there have been occasions when prisoners have been allocated to workshops with little or no work to do. The Board also notes that training time is often adversely affected, in some cases significantly, by delays in “movement to labour”. (3.3.5 & 3.4.6)

(b) Overall Judgement

The Board considers that the Prison continues to provide a safe environment within which prisoners are treated with decency and respect (both of which have been a focus of management activities during the reporting year) and that prisoners have access to an extensive programme of education and skills. The Senior Management of the Prison have set out to address those areas where prisoners are not treated decently within the limitations of what the Prison can do given its national resource allocation.

Section 3 Statutory Reporting Areas

a. Healthcare and Mental Health

3.1.1 The Board considers that Healthcare provision at HMP Wymott is satisfactory but there needs to be an improvement in the level of service in order to bring it up to that provided in the wider community.

3.1.2 Healthcare continues to be provided by the Central Lancashire PCT. Staffing shortages were highlighted in the previous Board report and this state of affairs continued throughout most of the current reporting year. This has presented difficulties in holding regular staff meetings. However the situation is improving despite staff resignations and over the reporting year vacancies have gradually been filled and two additional posts created.

3.1.3 Early in the reporting year the Healthcare Manager resigned and a caretaker manager was appointed until the present manager took up post in November 2009. The new manager is providing a positive lead. A new post of Primary Care Manager is to be filled in June 2010 to focus on the clinical leadership of the Unit and help improve the quality of service and the setting up of a chronic disease clinic. The Board welcomes this appointment. The Unit has made use of Bank nurses during the reporting year (as encouraged by HMCIP in their 2009 report). However whilst these nurses have helped to fill the gaps the Board considers they are never as effective as permanent staff.

3.1.4 Because of staffing shortages some clinics have not been offered as frequently as they should and intended tasks have not been completed as planned; for example clinical care plans for elderly prisoners. This is of concern to the Board. However the Prison, as part of its Establishment Priorities for 2010 - 2011 has promised care plans will be completed by September 2010 for all prisoners with complex health needs.

3.1.5 The HMCIP report of 2009 criticised the length of time that prisoners have to wait for a GP appointment. Nurse Practitioner clinics and increased GP time have helped to reduce the waiting list and the Board is pleased to report that currently the waiting time has reduced, but not significantly. However the Board is concerned to learn that the contracted GP supplier has not provided GP cover for a significant number of sessions during the reporting year. Although the dental waiting list has recently reduced slightly due to increased sessions, the rate of reduction is far too small to make a significant effect on waiting times.

3.1.6 The Board notes with concern that in the 2009 MPQL survey almost three-quarters of prisoners surveyed disagreed that Healthcare at Wymott was as good as the service they would expect to receive outside of the Prison. The Board also notes the lack of a regular Healthcare Forum for prisoners and urges that one be established to provide feedback.

3.1.7 The contracted GP supplier does not often provide the same GPs from its bank, some of whom may make only a single visit to the Prison. This prevents GPs having the opportunity to build up their experience of dealing with prisoners

and the Prison or becoming aware of the issues surrounding the prescribing of medicines in a prison environment. As a consequence it has been considered essential for nurses to be present during consultations. The Board fully understands the reasons for this requirement but believes that this reduces the NHS aim of providing prisoners with a service equal to that to be found in the wider community. The Board brought this issue to the attention of the PCT in its last Annual Report. In the Minister's response to that report it was stated that '*prisoner consent is obtained in these situations*'. Conversations with many prisoners show that this is not the case. Additionally some prisoners have stated to the Board that their treatment was often discontinuous and attributed this to not seeing the same GP more than once. These prisoners also complained of changes in prescribing depending upon which GP was seen and appears to be a common cause of frustration.

3.1.8 Casual interviews with prisoners raised issues regarding cancelled hospital appointments, often at short notice, with the frustration that re-appointments could be months later. One prisoner commented that he had had more than 2 consecutive appointments cancelled. The Board considers that the number of daily escorts allocated to Healthcare is insufficient given the size of the population and the fact that there are occasions when emergency escorts reduce the number available for booked appointments.

3.1.9 Informal interviews with prisoners also raised concerns that prescribed medications were not received within a reasonable time following consultation. The Board has identified several underlying reasons for this problem, most of which stem from Wymott, with a population of over 1100 prisoners, not having its own pharmacy.

3.1.10 There are limited health promotion activities at Wymott other than those for sexual health, smoking cessation, Well-man and Asthma. The Board considers that staff shortages will have contributed to this. However the Board also notes that a health promotion specialist has not been allocated to Wymott by the PCT and hence there has been no focus for development. Nevertheless the Prison has set up a 'Healthy Prison Network' involving both prisoners and staff and the Board welcomes this.

3.1.11 Because of staff shortages, Healthcare staff have had to work hard to provide a satisfactory level of service to prisoners. The Board has noted an improved working relationship between Healthcare management and Prison management over the reporting year and is hopeful that this relationship together with the improvements in staffing levels will result in a better service. It is also hoped that the requirement after May 2010 for the PCT to register with CQC for prison healthcare will support the Prison in its desire to improve healthcare standards.

3.1.12 Mental healthcare is provided by a Primary Care Mental Health Team (PCMHT) supported by visiting counsellors and a visiting Psychiatrist. A Mental Health In-reach Team provides support for prisoners with severe or enduring mental health problems. At the time of writing the PCMHT is currently recruiting additional staff.

3.1.13 Currently there is a small waiting list but the waiting time from referral to consultation for non-urgent cases is only 3 to 4 weeks. This compares favourably with the NHS target of 18 weeks. Urgent cases are seen on the same day as referral.

3.1.14 Whenever a case warrants it, the PCMHT will inform the appropriate wing officers if a prisoner needs some special help on the wing. The Board understands that the PCMHT are appreciative of the readily available willingness of officers to help and that in general, officers support the work of the team. The Board is pleased to see that mental health training for prison staff is included in the 'Establishment Priorities for 2010-2011'.

3.1.15 Team members visit prisoners on their wings rather than at a central point. However because of pressure on wing accommodation it is not always easy to find a vacant suitable room and this can cause problems for the team when one is not available. The Board urges the prison to review this problem.

b. Diversity

3.2.1 Overall the Board considers that the Prison takes its diversity commitments seriously and is managing and responding satisfactorily to diversity issues.

3.2.2 In 2009 the current Diversity Manager inherited a system from the previous manager that was apparently not as fully comprehensive and developed as it should be. This meant much work over the reporting year to improve systems and procedures. At the end of the reporting period 15.8% of the prison population was other than white British. Of these there were two major groups; 5.3% were Asian or Asian British and 4.6% were Black or Black British.

(i) Race Equality

3.2.3 In 2009 the Race Equality Action Team (REAT) was re-formed to improve its effectiveness under a new and enthusiastic full-time Diversity Manager and with a new and equally enthusiastic part-time Race Equality Officer (REO).

3.2.4 Over the reporting year the team, chaired by the Deputy Governor, has met regularly, with each meeting working to a set agenda covering all of the important diversity issues, including analysis of SMART data. All functional heads are invited as well as the Chaplaincy, Healthcare, Kitchen, Education and the IMB. In addition, prisoner representatives are in attendance and their comments and observations are regularly sought.

3.2.5 Over the reporting year the REO has chaired a regular monthly Prisoner Race Representative's meeting at which there are representatives from each wing. A Board member also attends these meetings. Each meeting had a published agenda and is minuted; the race reps receiving copies for notices on the wings. The Board has observed that meetings are well organised and that prisoners take an active part in raising and discussing important race-related issues. There is a good rapport between prisoner representatives and the REO.

3.2.6 Racist Incident Reporting Forms (RIRFs) and envelopes are readily available on the wings. Forms are also available in 24 languages other than English. During the reporting period 73 RIRFs were submitted to the REO of which 10 were complaints on prisoners against prisoners, 28 from prisoners against staff, 25 from staff against prisoners, 1 from staff against staff and 9 others of a general nature. In April 2010 the Board carried out a review of all RIRFs submitted since January 2010 with a detailed evaluation of a 10% sample. The evaluation reviewed the procedures followed and the quality of responses. The Board found that the RIRF process is working satisfactorily and it provided some constructive feedback to the REO.

3.2.7 At the time of writing there is no external body involved in independent quality checks of RIRFs. Until recently the Preston and West Lancashire Race Equality Council, for a fee, attended REAT meetings and scrutinised RIRFs. The Prison has stopped this arrangement and the Diversity Manager is currently seeking a replacement organisation. There are currently no external bodies involved in Impact Assessments and as a result the assessments lack independent scrutiny. The Board urges the Prison to seek external involvement in RIRF audits and impact assessments as a matter of urgency.

3.2.8 The 2008 HMCIP inspection report recommended that there should be separate boxes on the wings for submitting RIRFs. The Prison's Action Plan produced as a result of the inspection stated that these would be in place by September 2009. At the end of this reporting year they had not yet been installed.

3.2.9 The Kitchen is proactive in providing for the diverse cultural and religious needs of ethnic minority prisoners. Chefs have undergone training to help them produce authentic Caribbean food. Prisoners with ethnic culinary expertise have been invited to give demonstrations in the kitchen.

3.2.10 There have been two diversity events since June 2009: Black History Month and Holocaust Memorial Day. Both events were well supported and prisoners provided much acclaimed input to a public event held in the Chapel.

3.2.11 At the end of the reporting year 2.60% of staff are identified as BME compared to the target for Wymott of 3.10%. The Board understands that it is difficult for the Prison to make progress against this target as recruitment applications must be made via the Prison Service website. However the Prison is attempting to link with Jobcentres, minority communities and organisations in the area in order to raise the profile of working at Wymott.

3.2.12 All staff undergo race equality/diversity training at induction. Existing staff have also received this training which is refreshed every 3 years. At the time of writing 71% of staff have attended Diversity training.

(ii) Elderly Prisoners

3.2.12 Some elderly and disabled prisoners are held on a dedicated wing (I Wing) which has easy access to Healthcare and a daycare centre. Currently there are 73 prisoners on this wing. The daycare centre was opened at the latter end of the last reporting year and now provides much needed activities. In addition to providing space for recreation and leisure it also provides space for light employment, education and gym facilities. A gym instructor is provided 3 mornings a week with exercise regimes tailored to individual needs. Galloways Society for the Blind provides support for prisoners with sight impairment and Age UK attend twice a week to run activities including 'chair aerobics'. The addition of these facilities has considerably improved the daily life of prisoners on I wing and the Board applauds this.

3.2.13 The employment of two care workers from mid-2009 has also been key in improving the daily lives of prisoners on I Wing. Prisoners have described to the Board the many ways in which these carers have helped them to meet and overcome the difficulties of age and disability and the Board is pleased to report this successful aspect of meeting the care needs of such prisoners. The care workers have produced individual care plans for each prisoner but unfortunately, due to staffing difficulties, Healthcare have not yet produced clinical care plans.

3.2.14 At the time of writing 118 prisoners in Wymott are over 60 years of age and of these 69 cannot be accommodated on the dedicated wing due to lack of space. Given that the number of prisoners over 60 years of age is growing throughout the prison population the Board urges the consideration of increasing elderly and disabled accommodation at Wymott.

3.2.15 When prisoners other than those housed on I Wing reach 60 years of age they are not automatically given a medical review. In addition, the elderly prisoners held on I Wing or elsewhere do not receive regular health monitoring. The Board urges the PCT to address these issues.

3.2.16 In its last annual report the Board called for specialist training to be given to I Wing officers to enhance the quality of care for elderly and disabled prisoners. The Board is pleased to report that in its Establishment Priorities for 2010 - 11 the Prison states its intention to train I Wing officers to support the healthcare needs of elderly prisoners.

(iii) Disability Equality

3.2.17 The Disability Equality Action Team (DEAT) met for the first time in early 2009 but to date there have been very few team meetings. The team includes prisoner representatives. The Disability Liaison Officer (DLO) is part-time and very enthusiastic but because of the large amount of work the Diversity Manager has had to cope with (see above), the DLO has worked on his own initiative. Nevertheless the Board considers that much has been achieved over the reporting year and the DLO has been active in solving the

problems of many individual prisoners. In 2009 the prison achieved a Disability Awareness Award from the Warrington Disability Partnership. A Disability Prisoner Representatives group has been set up and informs the DLO of issues.

3.2.18 The LIDS system showed that around 52% of the prisoner population of Wymott have a disability (using the broad range of disabilities defined within the Disability Discrimination Act). However the DLO reports that with P-NOMIS it is currently very difficult to obtain the current disability population figures and categories and hence they were not available at the time of writing.

3.2.19 Currently the DLO, using induction information, identifies new prisoners who have a possible disability and interviews each one. From this Prisoner Emergency Evacuation Procedures (PEEPS) are generated and other actions are taken as required. At the time of writing PEEPS have been completed for all disabled prisoners.

3.2.20 The Board has some concern that most of the workshops are not accessible to wheelchair prisoners primarily because of the width of access doors and this limits employment opportunities.

(iv) Foreign Nationals

3.2.21 At the end of the reporting year there were 59 foreign national prisoners held at Wymott. Of these 2 were lifers and 5 were on indeterminate sentences. Two were being held beyond their deportation date. An immigration surgery is held once per month at which an Immigration officer is in attendance to answer prisoners' questions and resolve problems.

3.2.22 Translation facilities are made available for foreign national prisoners, including a 3-way telephone and the 'Big Word' translation service. Some prisoner information has been translated into appropriate languages but the Prison needs to provide general signage translations, particularly those associated with health and safety,

c. Care and Separation Unit (Segregation)

3.3.1 The CSU has 31 cells including 2 safer cells, 2 special cells, 4 cells with cameras and one listener suite and together with the rest of the Unit constitute a bright and clean environment. A cleaner orderly is employed throughout the working day and the Unit and its cells are kept to a good standard of cleanliness.

3.3.2 Prisoners are offered showers and exercise daily and these events are correctly recorded. The Board is pleased to note that exercise is offered not just at 8.30 am but a various times during the mornings, the time varying depending on circumstances within the Unit. The split exercise yards, although small, allow for two prisoners to exercise separately at any one time.

3.3.3 The special cells have been used on very few occasions and on every occasion the Board Chairman was informed. Officers make use of these cells to provide a cooling off period for those prisoners who are disruptive when initially brought to the Unit. Prisoners are relocated from these cells into a normal cell as soon as it is considered safe. The use of force within the Unit is a rare occurrence and on each occasion the Board Chairman was informed. On some occasions during the reporting year it has been necessary to house prisoners on open ACCT (Care in Custody) documents in the camera cells

3.3.4 A small supply of library books is available within the Unit, usually limited to novels. The Board considers that the literature provided does not encourage wider or more educational reading and thinks it would be beneficial if the librarian were to become more involved in supplying the Unit.

3.3.5 For some time Board members have been concerned that prisoners on the Unit spend an inordinate amount of time inactive, mostly sleeping. The Board considers that offering some form of cell work and/or other activities to occupy prisoners would be a positive step in preventing this waste of time and help prepare them for return to normal location.

3.3.6 During the reporting year there was only one prisoner application from the Unit to see a member of the Board and there were no 'confidential access' applications received. This low level of applications from prisoners held in the Unit is not unusual, possibly because a Board member speaks to every prisoner as part of the weekly Board rota and also before each Rule 45 review, resolving problems as they arise. It is also likely to reflect the good quality of care provided by the officers on the Unit.

3.3.7 In the past prisoners have attempted to use the CSU as a transfer passport to another prison and this led to an increasing occupancy. A determinedly enforced policy to change this perception has yielded results such that average occupancy during most of the reporting year has been very low. Nevertheless the Board is given to understand that the attempt by prisoners to engineer a transfer is still behind a high proportion of offences that lead to segregation.

3.3.8 A good professional working relationship exists between members of the Board and officers on the Unit, with officers helpful in facilitating the work of the Board. The Board has also observed that officers have a respectful, supportive and understanding relationship with prisoners on the Unit whilst maintaining a professional approach. The Board considers that some training in mental health issues would be of value to the officers in helping them to cope more effectively with the demanding issues that some prisoners in their care generate and the Board welcomes the Prison's intent to provide this (see 3.1.14).

3.3.9 The Board is concerned that a Segregation Monitoring and Review Group (SMARG) does not meet but has learned that there is a quarterly meeting to review the CSU, of which the Board has not previously been made aware.

d. Learning and Skills

3.4.1 The Board considers that the prison is providing purposeful practical training in well-appointed workshops, making a valuable contribution towards prisoner resettlement. Over the reporting period the operational capacity of the prison increased and the Board is pleased to note that the Prison has also increased the number of available employment places.

3.4.2 The Prison management has continued to attach a high priority to developing learning and skills opportunities and the Board applauds this. Generally, participation in purposeful activity is good and skills learned are relevant to future job opportunities, although the Board has noted a lack of contract work in some workshops. However, effort has been made to bring in new contracts. The introduction of the DHL canteen packing facilities on site, have allowed further purposeful employment, and opportunities for NVQ qualifications.

3.4.3 Unfortunately the Board has observed throughout the reporting year, there have been occasions when prisoners have been allocated to workshops with little or no work to do. This is often due to the erratic nature of contract work or delays in delivery of raw materials but if these periods of inactivity are extensive or regular they may lead to boredom and may have a detrimental effect on prisoner motivation.

3.4.4 In its previous report the Board noted the very positive developments made by a number of workshops, with more prisoners being able to achieve accredited work-related qualifications. These developments have continued into the current reporting period with the opening of the purpose built Vocational Training Centre providing modular certificated training for 50 prisoners in the Brickwork, Painting and Decorating and Bench Joinery trades. The Board has observed that these prisoners are enthusiastic about the trades they are learning and link them closely with possible future employment.

3.4.5 Over the first two quarters of the reporting year 163 full qualifications were awarded, with a further 440 modules of accreditation towards full qualifications being completed. Given the poor level of literacy and numeracy within the prison population the Board applauds the Skills for Life initiative, generating 112 Literacy and Numeracy qualifications achieved over the last 6 months.

3.4.6 The Board notes that training time is often adversely affected, in some cases significantly, by delays in "movement to labour". These delays reduce time available in the workshops and consequently have a serious impact on course completions and the Board urges the prison to rectify this problem.

3.4.7 Issues have been raised with the Board regarding the number of classrooms available for courses. This limitation affects the flexibility of provision, particularly where additional classes would improve the completion rate of courses in the required time, especially those needed as part of sentence plans and Release and Resettlement.

e. Safer Custody

3.5.1 The Board considers that during the reporting period 2009-2010 the Prison continued to take the issue of safer custody very seriously and views it as a high priority. A number of strategies and policies have been introduced to deliver a safer environment for both prisoners and staff alike. It is reassuring to note that this greater emphasis on safety is to be continued and is clearly reflected in the 2010-2011 Establishment Priorities, where Safety has been upgraded to a priority along with Decency. Also, the Governor has highlighted the importance of this change of emphasis from 2009-10 in the introduction to the document: "*The previous Decency priority has been re-titled Decency and Safety to further highlight the important work we have to do with regards to Violence Reduction and Suicide and Self-Harm.*" This also reflects a more holistic approach towards policy delivery in this area that can only benefit prisoners.

3.5.2. During the later period of 2009 the Prison made a positive response to the HMCIP report's recommendations regarding safer custody. All the inspectors' recommendations were accepted and responded to. A review took place of the extant Violence Reduction strategy and this resulted in a revised version which reflects the HMCIP recommendation for a more succinct and accessible strategy. However, the dissemination of that strategy to staff has not been as successful as the Board would have hoped, particularly to the wings and the workshops. Prisoners are informed of this new strategy during the induction period.

3.5.3 A Violence Reduction Improvement Action Plan was also written during the year that has helped to improve the monitoring of safer custody issues within the Prison. The plan highlights several pertinent areas for monitoring. This includes the operation of the CSRA system, the identification of patterns and trends by the development of accurate violence reduction statistics, allowing an improved mitigation of risk, and the information regarding the location of Score 3 prisoners, ensuring where possible an even distribution across wings. One area of note has been the inclusion in the plan of a gang development tracking system. Close lateral working across involved prison departments to produce information and statistics for scrutiny and dissemination is a good example of some of the improved work done during the year. The plan is monitored at the monthly joint Violence Reduction, Suicide and Self-Harm meeting.

3.5.4 The joint Violence Reduction, Suicide and Self-Harm meeting continues to be held every month. In response to the recommendations of the HMCIP report a senior governor now chairs this meeting giving it a higher profile. At several meetings attended by the Board two senior managers have been present. This has demonstrated to staff the importance with which the issues raised at the meeting regarding safer custody are viewed by the senior management team. There has been greater stability with the increased continuity of senior staff chairing the meeting and fewer changes of time and place. Two prisoner-listeners are present at part of the meeting and their inputs are well received by participants and are responded to as appropriate. The Board is pleased to note that the prisoner representatives who participate are given support and treated with respect and dignity. Their input during 2009-2010 has been valuable and has been given validity.

3.5.5 The Board has to express its disappointment in several areas, however. Firstly, regarding attendance at the meeting, not all wings are represented. For example in January and February 2010 there was no representation from B, I, J or K wings. Although a member of the mental health in-reach team attends the meeting, healthcare is not always represented. Secondly, although a broad range of safer custody relevant information is now collected for the meeting, it is sometimes not discussed in sufficient depth to identify trends and determine priorities for wing and workshop staff in particular. Useful statistics are frustratingly left unused. Thirdly, feedback to the wings is poor in parts of the prison; "I tell them if they ask me" was the response from one officer when asked about informing other officers. The profile of the meeting on wings is still poor. It is heartening to note that the Governor has highlighted the need to address this issue in the Priorities document.

3.5.6 The TAB Policy introduced into the Prison in 2008 has been improved during the year. The Safer Custody team have worked hard to ensure that the policy is applied with increased vigour and consistency across the prison, particularly on the wings. Unfortunately, they have not always been successful. It is pleasing to note that the Board's recommendation from 2008-2009 that management raise the profile of the TAB policy, particularly by increased training has been noted. Unfortunately, that training had to be suspended for several weeks because of other priorities. The Board has observed however, a more proactive approach towards bullying on the wings and in workshops. Officers increasingly accept the importance of accurate TAB documentation. Entries have improved but still lack detail. Most heartening is an increased awareness of the need to support bullied prisoners. There have been several excellent examples during the year of this kind of support witnessed by the Board.

3.5.7 The Board continues to acknowledge that Prison staff at all levels demonstrate a supportive approach towards many prisoners who experience difficulty coping with life in prison. On several occasions prisoners have spontaneously expressed to the IMB their gratitude for such support from Prison staff when they have faced difficult situations - for example the death of a loved one. The Prison continues to develop and support the effective Listener support team, which in turn continues to develop with the admirable support of the Samaritans.

3.5.8 Following the recommendations of the HMCIP report there has been improved monitoring of the whole ACCT system. Detailed input is required from each wing on the current circumstances of prisoners on ACCTs at the monthly Suicide and Self-Harm meeting. Any rise in ACCT numbers is noted and investigated. The Board considers that care and support plans should be focussed more on prisoner need. An apparent and increasing frustration expressed by some wing staff is that some prisoners abuse the ACCT system and the Board considers that this needs to be monitored.

3.5.9 The Board still considers that the current Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) policy is not being applied consistently across the Prison, although the policy itself has been reviewed and updated. Although IEP boards on the wings meet monthly to monitor the application of the scheme, variations in standards across the wings are still not identifiable. The Board considers that the training for IEP co-

ordinators needs a change of emphasis since the current half-day programme tends to stress the completion of paperwork rather than the application of the system as a motivational force in the prison.

3.5.10 A recent audit of the Violence Reduction area in 2009 produced a score of 72%. A similar audit in 2008 produced 71%. The Board feels this is a disappointing score and does not represent the whole picture for this area since the Board considers this is a more improved one than the audit score suggests. This may reflect the Board's acknowledgement of improvements in the quality of care as opposed to the audit emphasis on compliance with procedure.

Section 4 Reports on Other Areas of the Prison

a. Catering

4.1.1 The Board considers that the Kitchen continues to provide a well-balanced and varied menu that is sensitive to the needs of individual prisoners' diets and also to ethnic and religious requirements. Meals are regularly sampled by the Board and are generally found to be good. The Kitchen is to be applauded in providing a good standard of meals on the national daily average per prisoner of £2.10. Only 5 of the 311 applications to the Board during the reporting year concerned food.

4.1.2 The kitchen is currently well staffed and provides useful and skill-transferable, employment for around 20 prisoners. Prisoners are encouraged to work towards the acquisition of NVQ Level 2 in 'Food Preparation and Cooking' or the British Institute of Cleaning Sciences 'Food Premises Certificate'. Additionally all prisoners working in the kitchen must successfully gain a Basic Food Hygiene Certificate. Training is also provided in the procedures relating to religious food requirements such as the prevention of cross-contamination of Halal foods.

4.1.3 The menu is rotated on a five-week basis to ensure a varied diet but within that is flexible enough to cater for religious events and holidays. A well-designed menu sheet is provided to prisoners allowing them to select from across a wide menu catering for a range of tastes and cultures. Additionally, for prisoners who have difficulty reading or for whom English is not their first language, an innovative pictorial presentation is used on the menu sheet. In addition a themed menu meets diversity requirements including various fasting days. The Cultural and Religious Practices and Guidelines Policy continues to ensure an appropriate diet.

4.1.4 Prisoners are involved as much as possible with the design of the menu and with the preparation for religious or other cultural festivals and holidays such as Eid and Ramadan, with representatives working closely with kitchen staff. The Board applauds this involvement. During the reporting year a Food Focus Group was set up involving prisoners' representatives meeting with kitchen staff to resolve food-related issues that have been raised on the wings and recorded in food comments books. Additionally a Food Focus Survey was undertaken enabling catering staff to identify problems and to measure prisoner satisfaction with the food. A Twix bar was the reward for each prisoner who handed in a completed survey form. In

order to improve the authenticity of cultural dishes, the kitchen invited prisoners with expertise in cultural cooking to give demonstrations in the kitchen. Unfortunately this invitation was not well responded to.

b. Resettlement

4.2.1 Prisoners continue to be received into the Prison with respect and decency. Prison staff in Reception work hard to ensure that prisoners are welcomed with good humour and care, and that prisoners' individual problems and needs are acknowledged and solutions sought. Staff are flexible, occasionally working through their lunch hour to ensure that prisoners do not have to wait in the transport van for unreasonable periods of time.

4.2.2 Reception deals with an average of 20 prisoners per day, but numbers vary: for example on one Friday the section dealt with 40 prisoners, including 14 new arrivals, 12 of whom arrived after 1400 hours, when staffing levels are usually reduced. Staffing levels are also reduced when staff are allocated to other duties identified by management as having a higher priority. The situation in Reception is thus one that demands flexibility and adjustment from staff. It is to staff credit that prisoners generally receive a good standard of service. Nevertheless, at times prisoners have to wait longer than is appropriate. Some prisoners do not receive their property for 24-36 hours after arrival and concern has been expressed at the Safer Custody meeting that the CSRA system is not being applied as rigorously as it could be. Some prisoners abuse the system in order to avoid sharing a cell and accurate information is not always being collected from arrivals. The HMCIP report recommended that sufficient staff needed to be available in Reception when large groups of prisoners are received. The Board hopes that the Prison's senior management will review their response to this recommendation. Although sufficient staff may be profiled for a normal level of activity, the flexibility of allocation necessary may not be operating successfully. The Board will monitor the impact on prisoners of the 25% reduction in holding rooms.

4.2.3 A new First Night Centre has been in operation on F wing since September 2009. Feedback from prisoners about the service offered by the Centre is positive. Any criticisms focus on property availability, but the Board considers that this is often not the fault of Wymott, but the failure of systems at the sending prisons. The Listener service is available for all new arrivals on F wing. The Board applauds the development of this Centre and its service to new arrivals.

4.2.4 The Induction programme has been developed further during 2009-2010. The programme is well-organised and prisoner centred. Feedback from participants is very positive. The programme offers prisoners the opportunity to plan their time in prison and focus on completing their sentence plans and their reducing offending programmes. Prisoners have benefited from an enhanced programme helping them to address their individual issues. These include gambling, debt and alcohol problems. More voluntary organisations are being encouraged to work within the prison to the benefit of prisoners. A senior manager has been given responsibility for this work. At a time when budget stringencies are being applied the Board is pleased that resources have been allocated to sustain the induction programme's delivery, including improved accommodation.

4.2.5 The Board is pleased to note that the Prison's senior management team has identified and recognised the need to improve the operation of the Personal Officer Scheme within the Establishment Priorities 2010-2011 document. Although a review of the scheme was instigated in 2009, there appears to have been little improvement in the operation of the scheme at wing level. There is evidence of very good practice and some prisoners are receiving a good service from their personal officer. However, the individual needs of prisoners are not always being identified and addressed. This is particularly so on the main location side of the Prison. However the scheme appears to operate more successfully on the V.P. side. The need for training and support for personal officers identified by the Board in its last report has still not been addressed. Arrangements to cover the work of personal officers who are absent because of long-term sickness need to be reviewed. The announcement by the prison of a 3 month post-induction Offender Management and Public Protection Assessment involving the prisoner, his personal officer and his offender supervisor which is scheduled to be introduced by the end of 2010 is noted by the Board. The link between the offender supervisor and the personal officer and the development of a more holistic form of working is particularly welcome to the Board, as the need to clarify the interface between the two roles has become evident to the Board from prisoners' applications and comments.

4.2.6 The development of the OMU during 2009-2010 has brought benefits to prisoners. Assessment and subsequent sentence planning begins during the induction period. As part of the induction week all inductees take part in a Resettlement and Intervention Board. Offender Supervisors are supposed to see prisoners within 5 working days of arriving at Wymott, but this standard is not always met. Prisoners with early release dates and IPP prisoners are given priority and at times this can lead to delays for other prisoners. Some prisoners are not always aware of their offending targets - information at times gets lost between the personal officer and the offender supervisor. Awareness raising on the wings and in workshops about the work of the OMU would benefit prisoners. Some prisoners' applications have highlighted delays in the provision of information between the different areas. Prisoners continue to experience delays in gaining access to some of their identified training programmes, particularly if this entails a transfer to another prison. The Board welcomes the increased emphasis on supporting and challenging those prisoners who continue to deny their offence or refuse to address their offending behaviour and supports the introduction of staff training pertinent to this area.

4.2.7 The services available to prisoners to facilitate their imminent release have improved during 2009-2010. Prisoners generally express satisfaction with the service they receive. The Help Centre based in the library continues to extend the advice available to prisoners. For example Job Centre Plus are looking to provide a job brokering service into the Prison and are hoping to start a job surgery. Prisoners report that they find the centre helpful. The Board welcomes the announcement by the Prison of the development of a new systematic discharge and planning arrangement with emphasis on Custody to Work and Accommodation issues to be introduced for all prisoners 6 months prior to release by the end of August 2010. The Board will monitor this development.

c. Decency

4.3.1 During the reporting year the Prison's management has made 'Decency' a key focus for development. In general the Board has noted positive treatment of prisoners by staff, which is based on appropriate relationships.

4.3.2 One of the key indicators of decent treatment noted by the Board is the level of appropriate personal interaction between staff and prisoners. This is particularly apparent in one to one situations and in the extent to which staff engage in 'normal' conversations with prisoners as they move around the prison. The Board has also observed similar good practice during wing-based association periods although there is at times a tendency for staff to cluster with the loss of an opportunity for further development of relationships.

4.3.3 Treatment of prisoners' families has also been a focus of attention during the year with encouraging results. There has been an emphasis not simply on developing the physical facilities for visits (see 4.5.1 below) but also on improving the quality of the experience for families. By the end of the reporting year there was an increased availability of extended family visits, some of which are linked to parenting courses. Plans were in place to extend this facility to VP prisoners by August 2010. It has been pleasing to note the positive contribution being made by a wide range of staff and volunteers in order to ensure that these visits are positive events for both prisoners and their families.

4.3.4 In a number of areas, mostly outside the direct control of the Prison's management, the treatment of prisoners fails to meet an appropriate standard of decency. The Board has previously raised concerns about the numbers of prisoners being held in double cells that are barely adequate for single occupancy. The Board has noted previous Ministerial responses, the operational pressures on the prison estate and the system of formal cell certification. The Board is not persuaded, however, that a cell of seven square metres with non-existent or inadequate screening of integral sanitation is decent accommodation for two men, particularly in view of the multiple use of cells as spaces for sleeping, eating and living. The new double cells brought into use during the year on C, D, and E wings do provide more space and more appropriate screening of toilet facilities.

4.3.5 Some work has been undertaken to refurbish facilities on A and B wings but there is a need for significant capital repairs in order to bring the buildings back to a decent standard, particularly with regard to the shower blocks and the external glazing. The Board has written separately to the Minister on this subject in the hope that NOMS will use the opportunity of any new building programme at HMP Wymott to undertake the necessary work on these wings.

4.3.6 Curtailment of prison regime has an impact on the decency of treatment. There continue to be too many occasions on which exercise in the open air is cancelled or curtailed because of a shortage of staff or other operational needs. This has a particular impact on the VP wings that bear the brunt of the variation to regime, particularly at weekends. Whilst systems for recording exercise have been introduced these do not appear to be completed systematically and there does not appear to be a standard practice across wings in the way in which the information

is monitored. It remains standard practice that exercise in the open air is not available on the evening when canteen is administered.

d. Drugs Strategy

4.4.1 The drug rehabilitation strategy comprises three main strands: the Therapeutic Community (TC), the Integrated Drug Treatment Service (IDTS) and Counselling, assessment, Referral, Advice and Through Care (CARATs). The programmes work alongside and complement each other. The Board considers that these strands provide a positive and successful drug strategy within the Prison.

4.4.2 At the beginning of the reporting period there were problems in the operation of the TC and for one week the programme was closed whilst solutions were sought. Since then the community has recovered and is now working well, with prisoner and staff attitudes considerably more positive. The work of the TC has been widely broadcast to staff and to prisoners during induction and there is generally a more positive attitude towards the purpose of this wing (K Wing) across the whole prison.

4.4.3 The Board considers that 'Phoenix Futures' provides excellent teaching and support within the TC programme. The Board also considers that officers responsible for the running of this wing also provide a high level of support for their prisoners.

4.4.4 The programme has now settled with no de-selections (prisoners leaving the Programme) from the TC programme over the past three months and with numbers being consistent throughout the reporting year. A successful Open Day was held on K Wing allowing support workers to visit and gain a better understanding of the programme.

4.4.5 The Board was concerned that the sports pitch associated with K Wing could not be used for a large proportion of the reporting year, thus disadvantaging prisoners. This pitch has recently been risk assessed and is now being well used.

4.4.6 'Hope Metro', a Christian organisation visits the wing weekly and as a result four prisoners have left Wymott to take part in their 'Restore' programme and are now engaged in delivering talks to local schools and are very positive about their futures.

4.4.7 Referrals to the TC are made via CARATs, from IDTS and also from TC staff and TC prisoners who inform new prisoners during induction. I.D.T.S. Prisoners are further prompted to participate in the TC by monthly visits/information sessions from participants and staff of the TC and the CARATs team who also engage in counselling. The CARATs team is concerned that there is insufficient information available outside of the Prison about its work. The Board welcomes the initiative that has resulted in members of the Probation Service visiting the prison to gain information and also to encourage them to consider the addition of this programme into sentence plans.

4.4.8 The aim of IDTS is to increase the personal effectiveness of individuals by supporting their physical dependency on drugs through controlled methadone treatment. This enables them, whilst in Prison, to function better on a personal level, engage in education and work, be less disruptive and learn how to manage themselves more efficiently. The introduction of IDTS in September 2009 has been very successful and numbers have gradually increased to the extent that there will shortly be a whole wing dedicated to this treatment. After initial concerns a new room has been provided in order to increase security and privacy in the dispensing of methadone medication.

4.4.9 The Board considers that prisoners on the IDTS programme are well supported through clinics, group work and, where staffing permits, one-to-one counselling. Dependency reduction is promoted and this year has seen nearly 30% of prisoners reducing the amount of Methadone prescribed to them.

4.4.10 There has been a lack of opportunity for prisoners who have completed their programme in the TC and are almost ready to be re-integrated into to the mainstream prison. This is beginning to be addressed by the addition of mainstream prisoners into the TC gardens team and the inclusion of TC prisoners in main prison education sessions.

4.4.11 During the reporting year three prisoners successfully left the IDTS programme having managed to come off Methadone altogether and have transferred to the TC.

4.4.12 Over the year the IDTS manager and staff have worked hard to improve communications and links with outside agencies. The aim is that no prisoner should leave prison without a prescription and a worker available to him, the intent being to reduce the risk of overdosing or re-offending.

4.4.13 The Board acknowledges the positive work of all staff engaged in drug initiatives in the Prison and acknowledges their efforts. However the Board has concerns around the following issues:

4.4.14 There appears to be a lack of communications between 'Phoenix Futures' staff and the officers responsible for the day to day running of the TC. The Board urges the prison to address this.

4.4.15 The occasional placement of induction prisoners and others on the TC as 'lodgers' due to pressure to maintain capacity leads to misconceptions by these prisoners that TC is 'easy jail' (the wing is new and has in cell shower facilities). This can lead to problems when these prisoners, not understanding the aims of the wing, have conflict with TC prisoners. The Board urges the Prison to continue to consider this and for NOMS to carefully consider not only the numbers placed in the prison each week but the availability of suitable places for such prisoners.

4.4.16 There is insufficient work for prisoners on the TC and this can lead to problems that can arise when prisoners have too much undirected time. The Board considers that whilst it is important for prisoners to learn to spend leisure time productively it is equally important that they learn the personal success that

positive application to work engenders and the Board urges the prison to address this.

4.4.17 The TC is housed in a new accommodation block (K Wing) that is based on a two storey cross shape producing spurs and discrete areas that are difficult for officers to observe and where prisoners may gather unseen. This does not help the regime to operate effectively, especially since an important element of the TC programme is that prisoners have a major input into organising the community. The Board hopes that NOMS will take note of the shortcomings of such a building layout.

4.4.18 The Board notes that problems have been occurring with K Wing throughout the reporting year due to design faults. Heating systems have remained faulty, causing extremes of temperature in summer and winter in certain cells and long delays have occurred in the repair of toilets due to the necessity to order replacement parts from Germany.

4.4.19 The Board is concerned that the national reduction in the number of drug tests taken may foster the impression that prisoners are safe from detection as they are less likely to be tested for an increased period of time.

4.4.20 Provision of Methadone to VPs is a concern of the Board. It is not possible for prisoners from the VP side of the Prison to attend at the methadone distribution times on the Cat C side. Consequently Methadone must be distributed to these prisoners in a separate operation and in circumstances less suited to purpose. The Board notes that the numbers of VPs on Methadone have remained small.

e. Family Links

4.5.1 A new Visitors Centre was opened during the reporting year providing much improved facilities. This Centre is run by the organisation 'Partners of Prisoners' with assistance from volunteers with Barnardos. The Centre provides a welcoming atmosphere with access to light snacks and drinks and a children's play area.

4.5.2 The Prison operates a Family Forum every 3 months to which a speaker is invited and also runs family days at various times in the year for Cat C and VP prisoners. Enhanced family visits are to be operated which are much more relaxed occasions

4.5.3 The pastoral care provided by the Chaplaincy is greatly appreciated by families and prisoners alike

f. Lifers and IPP prisoners

4.6.1 At the time when this report was compiled Wymott held 68 life-sentenced prisoners and 95 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP). The latter group has seen a significant increase during the reporting year, reflecting the increase in this category of prisoner across the prison estate.

4.6.2 Prisoners on IPP sentences are managed in the Offender Management Unit 'pods' alongside determinate sentenced prisoners whilst life sentenced prisoners are currently managed by a lifer manager. The Board has concerns with regard to

the sentence progression of some IPP prisoners. Those concerns relate to central Prison Service policy and not to management policy at HMP Wymott. The Board has observed, and OMU staff have commented, that in a number of cases IPP prisoners allocated to HMP Wymott by Population Management arrive with specific sentence plan targets which include offending behaviour programmes that are not offered at Wymott. Examples include prisoners arriving in order to undertake the CALM programme, Extended SOTP and Healthy Sexual Functioning, none of which is available at the prison. Prisoners then find it difficult to move on to prisons which do offer the programmes identified in their sentence plan with the resultant risk that they are less likely to complete identified work before tariff expiry. Whilst recognising that from time to time such transfers may be the result of operational necessity the Board is concerned at the apparent breakdown of the offender management process and the unsettling effect on individual prisoners.

4.6.3 The prison continues to support the maintenance of family links for life sentenced prisoners through lifer family days.

Section 5

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

5.1 During the reporting period there were some changes to the Board. One member resigned due to family issues. A new member successfully completed her probationary year and took up duties. One existing member had to temporarily withdraw from duties due to ill health but at the time of writing has taken them up again. The number of members is now below that which the Board considers is necessary to perform its monitoring function without placing undue stress on existing members and as a consequence is pursuing a strategy to find new members.

5.2 The principal method used by the Board to meet its primary function of monitoring fairness and respect for those in custody is the weekly rota visit. The Board has been able to meet its commitment to weekly monitoring visits and, through the use of effective documentation, has been able to efficiently report on issues of concern and good practice identified at each of those visits. Prior to each Board meeting the Chair presents these issues to the Governor. The Governor has been active in promptly addressing the issues raised and reporting back to the Board. The Board is appreciative of this. The Board has also developed mechanisms for recording formally any issues of concern that may arise from members' frequent informal visits to the prison. The Board recognises the need to ensure that issues are not simply logged and forgotten and over the reporting year the worth of its 'Key issues log' in pursuing important issues has been proven.

5.3 During the reporting period the Board carried out a Team Performance Review followed by an extraordinary meeting to discuss the outcomes and formulated an action plan to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in monitoring the Prison. The theme of this meeting centred on a discussion of Board independence.

5.4 Board meetings are generally well attended, reflecting the level of commitment of current members. The Governor always attends the meetings to update members on current issues and developments and provides feedback on issues raised by the Board following Rota visits.

5.5 Each member of the Board is allocated to at least one specialist monitoring area thus improving the Board's overall knowledge and depth of monitoring. This Board development is supported by regular pre-Board meeting talks by members of Prison staff on key aspects of the Prison and its operation. Two members of the Board attended the launch of the Prison's Establishment Service Level Agreement for 2010-11, copies of which were provided to all members. During the reporting year one member of the Board attended the Foundation Course, two attended Continuing Development courses and two attended the IMB Annual Conference.

5.6 During the reporting year the Board, after discussion, updated its Constitution and, following a special meeting, has updated its serious incident policy and procedures. The Board has taken part in Serious Incident training in conjunction with the Prison.

5.7 The Board makes every effort to attend all Rule 45 reviews and is kept well informed by CSU staff when these are to occur. The Board maintains its own record of individual reviews and is thus able to maintain an overview of each prisoner held under Rule 45. There have been a few occasions however when the Board has not been notified within the first 24 hours of incidents which have resulted in prisoners being held under Rule 45. In such cases the Board interviews prisoners as soon as it is notified. The Board also attends a sample of internal and independent adjudications.

5.8 The Board regularly attends the induction programme for new prisoners and also the induction of new staff in order to explain the work of the Board and how prisoners may make Applications. That work is undertaken through a rota of four members. During the year the Board has also attended, as observers, a range of prison meetings in order to provide a depth of monitoring.

5.9 Table 1 below gives a detailed analysis of the work of the Board during the reporting year:

Table 1: The work of the Board

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	10
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	9
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving within reporting period	1
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during the reporting period	8
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	41
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	622
Total number of applications received	311
Total number of segregation review sessions held (Rule 45)	96
Total number of segregation review sessions attended (Rule 45)	96

Section 6

Applications to the Board

6.1 The number of applications the Board received from prisoners during the reporting period is broadly similar to the number received during 2008/9 and shows an increase of nearly 6%. Those received in 2007/8 were unusually high. The following table 2 gives an analysis of the issues raised by prisoners in their applications to the Board in the categories required nationally.

Table 2: Analysis of applications under key headings

Subject	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Accommodation	4	5	1
Adjudications	7	1	6
Correspondence	16	16	11
Diversity related	0	0	2
Education/employment/training	21	22	21
Family/visits	19	7	18
Food/kitchen related	2	2	5
Health related	23	40	30
Property	47	37	62
Release/resettlement	35	24	21
Request/complaint procedure	6	4	2
Sentence related	28	33	23
Staff/prisoner/detainee related	5	6	7
Transfers	45	27	44
Miscellaneous*	111	70	58
Total number of applications	365	294	311

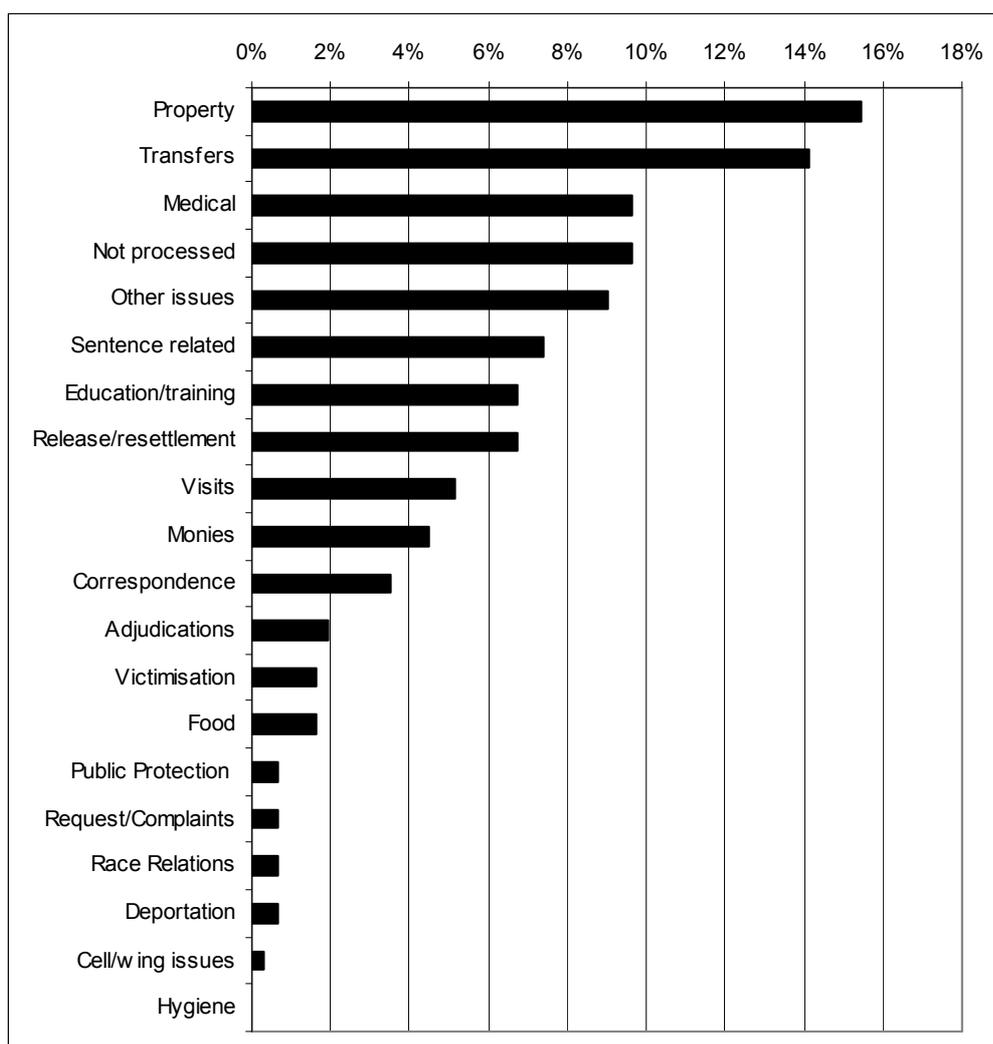
**The miscellaneous category includes applications that do not fit into national key headings or were resolved without further action by the Board*

6.2 There is still concern regarding the number of Health related applications to the Board despite Healthcare having its own complaints system. The majority of these applications related to general medical healthcare. Despite the very long dental waiting list for routine appointments, only 6 applications were concerning this.

6.3 There has been a sharp increase in the number of applications regarding property lost or delayed, particularly on transfer. This problem continues to be of significant concern to the Board and a major concern of prisoners and may be due to pressures on the Prison Service to accommodate an increasing number of prisoners. The sharp increase in applications for transfer out of Wymott may also be directly related to this.

6.4 The Board at Wymott records applications using a wider, but similar set of categories to the national key ones. Figure 1, below shows applications for the reporting year by percentage.

Figure 1: Application categories by percentage of total



N.B. 'Not processed' includes those already resolved, withdrawn, prisoner did not attend or was transferred, duplicates and those not yet resolved.

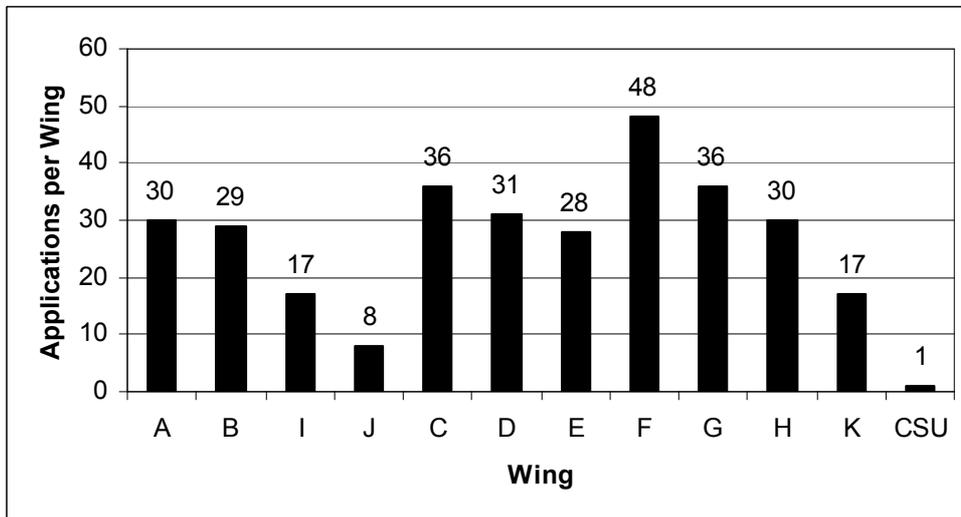
6.5 'Other issues' include those applications that do not fall into any of the categories of table 2 but nevertheless are important to prisoners. Some of these are listed below in table 3 to illustrate their diversity:

Table 3: 'Other' Issues

IDTS	Catalogue orders
Cell Heating	Compensation claim
Change of religion	Gym
Disability	Ombudsman's address
Mandatory drug test	Letter from mother
Mental health	Video phone link
Decency	

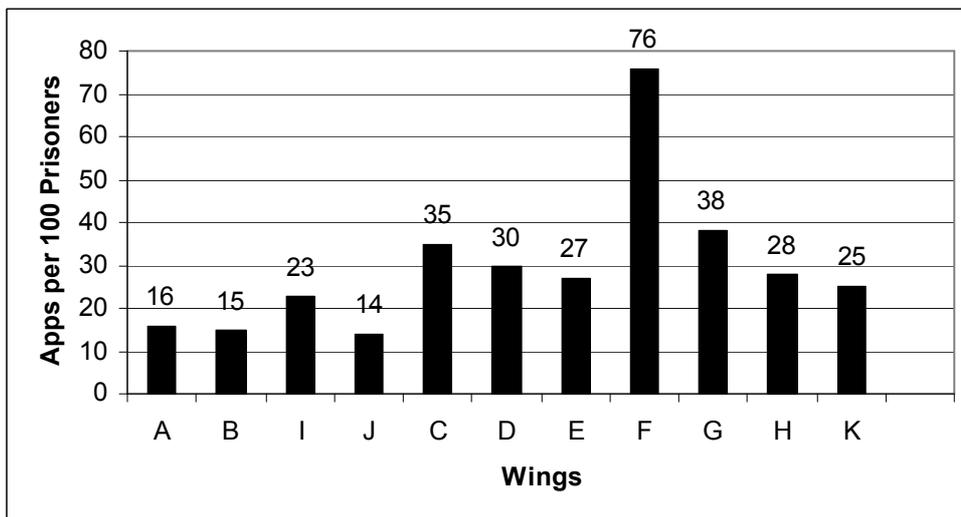
6.7 The Board collects applications data by wing as well as category in order to observe any trends. There were a total of 311 applications made to the Board during this reporting period compared with 294 over the 2008/09 period. Figure 2 shows the applications from each wing over the current reporting period.

Figure 2: Number of Applications per Wing



6.8 Each wing does not house the same number of prisoner and in order to allow valid comparisons to be made, the data above has been modified to show in figure 3 the number of applications per wing per 100 prisoners (CSU excluded).

Figure 3: Number of Applications Per 100 Prisoners



6.9 There has been a further significant increase in the number of applications from F Wing compared to the last reporting year and their quantity when compared with other wings. This further increase may reflect the fact that 2009-2010 was the wing's first full year of operation as the prison's induction wing. The Board will continue to monitor carefully applications from this wing in order to ensure that the issues arising on transfer to HMP Wymott, particularly property issues, are properly addressed.

6.10 There are few applications from J Wing because this is a small unit of carefully selected enhanced prisoners. The number of applications from K Wing (Therapeutic Community) is comparatively low but has doubled since the last reporting year. Analysis of these applications does not reveal any particular issues. Applications from A and B Wings have reduced since the last reporting period, possibly indicating that issues are being dealt with more effectively on the Wing.

Section 7

Abbreviations Used in the Report

ACCT	Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork
BME	Black and Ethnic Minorities
CARATS	Counselling, assessment, referral, Advice and Throughcare (related to drugs)
CAT C	Security categorisation of prisoners (Cat A highest, Cat D lowest)
CNA	Certified Normal Accommodation (number of prisoners who can be accommodated without overcrowding)
CSRA	Cell Sharing Risk Assessment
CSU	Care and Separation Unit (usually known as Segregation)
DEAT	Disability Equality Action Team
DLO	Disability Liaison Officer
HMCIP	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons
IDTS	Integrated Drug Treatment Service (Methadone maintenance)
IEP	Incentives and Earned Privileges
IMB	Independent Monitoring Board
IPP	Imprisonment for Public Protection (indeterminate sentence)
MDT	Mandatory Drug Tests
MPQL	Measuring the Quality of Prisoners' Lives (Prisoner survey)
NACRO	National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
OASys	Offender Assessment System
OLASS	Offender Learning and Skills Service
OMU	Offender Management Unit
PCT	Primary Care Trust (Central Lancashire)
PCMHT	Primary Care Mental Health Team
PEEPS	Prisoner Emergency Evacuation Procedures
REAT	Race Equality Action Team
REO	Race Equality Officer
Rule 45	Removal from association either for own interest/own protection or in interests of good order or discipline
RIRF	Racist Incident Reporting Forms
Score 3's	Score 3 is a Prison Service mechanism for identifying prisoners who may be more likely to commit disciplinary offences or become involved in disturbances. It uses 3 criteria - age of the offender, length of sentence and type of offence - and is defined in Prison Service Order PSO 1810
SMART	Systematic Monitoring and Analysing of Race Equality Template

SMARG	CSU (Segregation) Monitoring and Review Group
TAB	'Tackling Anti-Bullying' (Prison name given to anti-bullying policy and its documentation)
TC	Therapeutic Community (drug rehabilitation)
VP	Vulnerable prisoner