



IMB ANNUAL REPORT

HMP & YOI BRINSFORD

JULY 2011 - JUNE 2012

CONTENTS

	Page
1. STATUTORY ROLE	1
2. THE BOARD	2
3. THE ESTABLISHMENT	3
4. ISSUES REQUIRING A RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTER	4
5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
6. APPLICATION ANALYSIS	6
7. REGIMES AND RESIDENCES	7
8. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH	8
9. LEARNING AND SKILLS	9
10. SAFER PRISONS	11
11. SEGREGATION UNIT (IAU)	12
12. DIVERSITY AND RACE EQUALITY	13
13. SECURITY AND DRUGS	15
14. RESETTLEMENT	16
15. VISITS AND VISITORS CENTRE	17
16. KITCHEN	18
17. PHYSICAL EXERCISE	19

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The prison 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 based.

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 programs 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 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 the prisoner's records.

2. THE BOARD

Recommended complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	10
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3
Number of members resigning within the reporting period	2
Total number of Board Meetings held during the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the prison, including Board Meetings	452
Total number of applications received	91
Total number of segregation reviews held	106
Total number of segregation reviews attended	105

Board Meetings are held on a monthly basis and are attended in part by the Governing Governor, who provides the board with a written report and responds to any issues of concern in addition to the ones highlighted in the Rota reports.

The board at present is under-strength. During the reporting period, a recruitment program was completed with the appointment of three new members.

The coming months will see the board once again addressing this problem with the introduction of the 15 year tenure rule having an effect in 2013.

3. THE ESTABLISHMENT

HMP & YOI BRINSFORD is located in Staffordshire, north of Wolverhampton.

Operational Capacity:- 577

There are five two-story residential blocks.

OTHER FACILITIES

Healthcare.

IDTS Unit.

Kitchen.

Chapel and Multi-Faith building.

Education, classrooms and workshop facilities, staffed by The Manchester College.

Library, staffed by Staffordshire County Council.

Well-equipped gym and outside sports facilities, including an all weather sports pitch.

OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Probation

CARAT Team

JHP

CAB

NACRO

HAILO

Trailblazers

De Paul Trust

Samaritans

4. ISSUES REQUIRING A RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTER

1. Brinsford is a complex establishment housing 577 Young Adults, 18 - 21 years of age. Prisoners come direct from the courts, on remand, awaiting trial, convicted, un-sentenced and sentence, foreign nationals, and prisoners with both short and now longer sentences and prisoners awaiting deportation.

There is an average of 156 new receptions per month, which equates to approximately 27% of the population, but with the introduction of 'Fair and Sustainable', why was Brinsford classed as a Standard Prison.

2. With Boards finding it increasingly difficult and time consuming to recruit suitable new members why are we being forced, under the new 15 year rule, to loose our most knowledgeable and loyal members. These are members boards have relied upon and are most valuable in training new members.

5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HMP & YOI Brinsford is situated north of Wolverhampton and has an operational capacity of 577 Young Adults.

Brinsford is a complex site housing prisoners direct from the courts, on remand, awaiting trial, convicted, un-sentenced, sentenced, foreign nationals, and prisoners with both short and now longer sentences, and prisoners awaiting deportation.

With an average of 156 new receptions per month, during the reporting period, which is slightly higher than last year, this equates to approximately 27% of the total population. With prisoners, at times transferred in from other establishments, this makes for a highly volatile population.

With the age group of the Young Adults, 18 - 21 years of age, and such a varied population, the staffs are to be commended for doing an excellent job, especially in the present economical climate of continual cutbacks.

Education has been a concern of the Board with staff working hard to get prisoners to education but unfortunately, there have been problems with The Manchester College canceling classes due to their staffing problems etc. At the end of the reporting period, the educational contract is changing to Milton Keynes College and we look forward to an improvement in this area.

Farms & Gardens: In November 2011, a specially constructed memorial garden was opened, with the burial of a Time Capsule, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of HMPYOI Brinsford.

In May of this year, the BBC visited the establishment to film the work done by a member of this department, John Ensell, in helping the Young Adults. John was also invited to attend a Jubilee Lunch in London as part of the Nations Jubilee Celebrations.

Having previously reported, that due to financial restrictions, the computer had been removed from the IMB Office, we are pleased to report that after a period of twelve months this has now been returned.

With the recent announcement that Board Members can only serve a maximum of 15 years, we will lose a valued and experienced member at the end of next year, a great loss to the board that it is unnecessary.

With the continuing national reduction in funding and the introducing of 'Fair & Sustainable', with Brinsford being classed as Standard, there are considerable staff changes. The management to date, have done an excellent job in implementing these changes, but the Board does have concerns regarding the complexity of the establishment and the continual cuts and changes being imposed having an impact on prisoners.

The board is monitoring this area closely.

It is felt that Brinsford continues to move forward with the management and staff maintaining a positive and caring environment for prisoners, treating them all with respect, and for the majority the discipline of the regime is a positive influence.

6. APPLICATION ANALYSIS

APPLICATIONS	JULY 2007 JUNE 2008	JULY 2008 JUNE 2009	JULY 2009 JUNE 2010	JUNE 2010 JULY 2011	JULY 2011 JUNE 2012
ASSOCIATION	-	-	-	4	-
CANTEEN FOOD	-	16	9	8	9
CELL CONDITIONS	1	2	1	6	-
COMPLAINTS - STAFF	2	1	6	10	16
DISCIPLINARY CONCERNS	1	4	8	12	5
EDUCATION & LIBRARY	3	13	9	8	-
HAIRCUTS	-	-	-	-	-
IEP	1	2	1	4	4
LACK OF GYM	1	7	1	4	1
MISCELLANEOUS	18	26	65	58	19
MISSING MAIL & PROPERTY	15	27	20	19	14
PERSONAL HEALTH	6	5	7	6	1
RACE/RELIGION PROBLEMS	-	2	-	1	-
RELOCATION REQUESTS	-	11	2	5	2
RECEPTION	-	-	-	-	-
TELEPHONE	2	1	3	7	2
TRANSFERS OUT	6	8	9	16	8
UNFAIR TREATMENT	6	-	7	3	3
VISITS & VISITORS	2	10	15	9	-
EMPLOYMENT ISSUES	2	2	1	9	3
TOTAL	66	137	164	189	87
OF TOTAL:- NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS					4

Applications are made by either placing requests in any one of the eight application boxes, which are situated throughout the establishment, or verbally when prisoners see a member of the board.

7. REGIMES AND RESIDENCES

Brinsford has an operational capacity of 577 Young Adults, 18 - 21 years of age, housed in 5 residential house blocks. Units 1 to 4 are the original House Blocks, built just over 20 years ago, and are identical in construction and layout. House Block 5 is approximately four and half years old and offers better facilities, i.e. showers and toilets in each cell, prisoners have keys to their own cells and a more relaxed regime.

House Block 5 operates as an enhanced unit where prisoners from the other four house blocks can be transferred as a reward for good behavior. The relationship between staff and prisoners is of a high standard, as prisoners know that misbehaving is not tolerated, the deterrent being immediate transfer back to normal location, as there is a waiting list of prisoners eligible to move onto this unit.

Although relatively new, there are concerns regarding the fragile fabric used in the construction.

House Blocks 1 - 4 offer identical facilities with prisoners living in both single and double cells. Throughout the reporting period, work has continued in an effort to improve the living standards, but with the restrictions on expenditure, this has been limited.

For several years, there have been a large number of cells where a doorway has been constructed into the next room with the intention that a shower and toilet would be installed. This would improve the dignity of prisoners, especially in double cells, where they live, eat, and use washing and toilet facilities in a confined area.

Gang Culture within the prison is minimal and is not tolerated.

Red Bands- During the second half of the reporting period a concerted effort has been made in increasing the number of Red Band, trusted prisoners, who work both inside and outside the establishment. One prisoner, who the Board hope is the first of many, is released daily on ROTL working in the outside community.

Although Brinsford is handling the budgetary cutbacks to the best of its ability, the board has concerns regarding staffing having an effect on the regime of prisoners and prisoner activities.

The majority of the windows at Brinsford are in urgent need of replacement, with only a small number being replaced each year due to financial restraints

8. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

South Staffordshire & Stoke-On-Trent NHS Partnership Trust provides healthcare services at Brinsford.

A nurse in Reception sees every Young Adult on arrival at Brinsford. This initial assessment is followed up by a full assessment the next day.

General Practitioner services are provided on a contract basis and there is a second contract for GP coverage during out of hours, with a nurse always on duty. Other services include - Dental Clinic, Optician, Psychiatrist & Psychologist, Physiotherapist, Sexual Health, with specialist nurses brought in as and when required.

Facilities for outpatients are rather more user-friendly than in previous years. The refurbishment and remodelling, with help from the Kings Fund, has been maintained in its more welcoming condition with very little vandalism or disruption expected to arise from its less formal appearance.

As mentioned in previous reports, the area most in need of updating remains the staff kitchen.

There have been problems in the past with prisoners not turning up for pre-arranged appointments. This has been addressed by the use of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme (IEP) .This has resulted in a considerable improvement.

There is often a need for in-patient to be put on a 'constant watch'. This involves a member of staff (usually a Prison Officer) sitting for many hours at a time in front of the barred gate of a cell. This is expensive use of staff time and there has been some disagreement as to who should pay for this necessary function.

As is usual in prisons, many of the in-patients have mental rather than physical needs. Several of the permanent Healthcare staff are trained Psychiatric Nurses with much experience in this field. However, prison is not suitable for all these patients and there has been a great improvement in the time taken to assess mental health and to move prisoners with these issues to more appropriate secure units outside the prison system.

The Healthcare Centre in Brinsford is well run by caring and capable staff, with staff sickness running at well below 1%. During the reporting period, staffs have been loaned out to HMP Featherstone when they were experiencing shortages. A scheme was then put in place where staff would spend time at HMP Featherstone on familiarisation, in case this need should arise again.

9. LEARNING AND SKILLS

Manchester College (TMC) has delivered education in HMP Brinsford during the last 2 years under contract, JHP deliver the Careers Information Advice Service and Staffordshire County Council delivers library facility.

The Contract was subject to open competition during the reporting period and despite a good OFSTED report, Manchester College failed to win the bid with the result that Education service delivery at Brinsford will be provided by Milton Keynes College, commencing later this year.

Now, Milton Keynes College has had little input into the provision of service but it is apparent that they are determined to provide a good standard of educational opportunities for the prisoners and have indicated that they wish to work alongside the educational and prison staff to expand upon the current service and educational provision.

During the reporting period, there have been a number of initiatives to improve prisoner attendance; the educational staff have worked closely with senior prison staff to implement a full range of education programmes. These include academic as well as vocational courses.

Despite the significant hard work and enthusiasm of education staff and prison officers, there continues to be considerable difficulty in persuading the prisoners to commit themselves to the education programmes available to them. In many cases where remand and sentenced prisoners have signed up to education at their induction programme, they subsequently refused to attend, the only penalty that can be imposed by the prison staff is on the IEP (Incentives and Earned Privileges) system resulting in downgrading to Basic and loss of privileges. It is believed that on occasions, despite this refusal to attend education, some wing officers allow prisoners access to the gym, which has created some disquiet amongst other prisoners who are compliant with the education and training programme.

In 2011 a new gymnasium allocation system was introduced. Attendees on part time courses were allocated one session per week, with full time course attendees received two gym sessions. Considerable work was undertaken by both education and gymnasium personnel to make a success of this process however considerable difficulties were experienced both by gymnasium and education staff with the result that this process was abandoned during the middle part of the reporting period.

It has become increasingly apparent that there has to be some alternative method of introducing education to prisoners in this age group. Previous processes were becoming difficult to implement and manage with the result that careful reconfiguration of the process of entry to education had to be considered. TMC have introduced a new and revised plan of introduction to basic skills, i.e. literacy and numeracy, that each prisoner has to achieve before being able to access vocational and higher educational programmes.

Historically, TMC commenced 2012 with an adequate if not somewhat stretched number of Tutors. Unfortunately, as the year progressed the number of Tutors reduced with the inevitable outcome that many classes were cancelled until the shortfall could be improved, which has proved to very difficult.

The continuing difficulty in encouraging Young Offenders to attend education is a real and significant challenge. The acceptable level of attendance is 80% and whilst there has been significant attempts to reach and maintain this level it requires a very proactive approach to ensuring that attendance is improved and maintained. In recent months, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the allocation of prisoners to education is not being met, despite the willingness of some prisoners to attend. The promotional booklets provided by TMC to prisoners on their induction programme, shows a wide range of educational courses available, which it would be hoped would assist prisoners in obtaining employment upon their release from prison.

A number of courses were introduced which were innovative, these included computer skills and computer animation. Regrettably, the uptake has not been as successful as first expected with the outcome that many of these classes are being reconsidered since they no longer viable to operate.

It has also become apparent that some courses have been successfully introduced up to Level II and whilst there is enthusiasm to progress these courses to level III there is no ability to do so since the course content and programme does not allow for this, which has obviously resulted in disappointment for both prisoners and TMC.

TMC have consistently attempted to identify employment opportunities in the local area to ensure that the courses available improve the prisoner's employment potential. The Barrister Coffee Course has been very successful and there has been active attempts to work in partnership with local Brewery firms and a well-known Hospitality Organisation (i.e. Starbucks and Costa Coffee) This would enable the prisoner involved with the training programme to gain experience in Barrister and hospitality areas as part of a ROTL programme.

Toe by Toe (TBT) the reading plan run by the Shannon Trust continues to be delivered via an unofficial arrangement with TMC. Regrettably, no funding has been provided for this service by TMC, which is proving difficult for TBT to continue. Notwithstanding this, the service continues and has been significantly successful for some 40 prisoners, 15 of whom have been retained as mentors.

Regrettably, without proactive support of the Education provider and the continued involvement of Library services this facility will be lost with the result that many prisoners who have significant difficulty in reading would be unable to obtain employment upon their release

With the financial restraints being imposed at Brinsford it is proving difficult at times to provide an officer to escort prisoners to the library.

The Management reorganisation was extended to include Catering, Gardens and Waste Management and there was a successful bid for a new recycling building in 2011, which has now been completed and is in production. This will give increased opportunities for training and it is anticipated that it will increase the potential for some prisoners in finding employment when they are released from prison.

10. SAFER PRISONS

This unit incorporates Safety and Suicide Prevention and includes the monitoring of ACCT Documents and incidents of self-harm.

There has been considerable improvement in the monitoring of ACCT Documents during the reporting period and in the contents as ongoing training has made officers more aware of the importance of this document.

The average number of open ACCT Documents during the reporting period has fallen slightly, however the number of self-harm incidents remains the same.

Meetings, which are well attended, are held monthly and include a report from the newly formed Listeners Group which comprises ten of trained prisoners.

Listeners, who work closely with the Samaritans, working on a Rota, can be called upon at any time, day or night, to offer support and help to any prisoner.
Both staff and prisoners appreciate the newly designed Listeners Suite.

The Board continues to be impressed by the caring and dedicated attitude of all the staff involved, but is concerned by the cutbacks being imposed, an example being restorative justice, which in past years has been very successful

11. SEGREGATION UNIT (IAU)

Brinsford's Intervention & assessment unit comprises of 16 single cells and 2 special accommodation cells (quiet rooms) only 11 of which are equipped with in cell electrics. The living conditions are reasonable and efforts are made to maintain them, but due to the various difficult prisoners housed on the unit, they are abused and are looking tired and worn.

Each time a prisoner is located on the unit, the chair of the board is notified, and to comply with PSO1700 a board member will see the prisoner within 72 hours. At all times board members, where safe to do so, are able to speak freely and in confidence, with all prisoners.

Good Order or Discipline Reviews are carried out twice a week and chaired by a governor. Reviews are always attended by the IMB, Healthcare and Education when available. Advice from the residential wings is sort, but is not available on a regular basis from either the wing officer or their personal officer.

Adjudications, which have increased during the reporting period, are carried out daily and the visits from the outside judge have increased from monthly to every three weeks.

Assaults and fighting offenses are referred to the Judge to demonstrate how serious managers view these offenses.

The number of incidents necessitating the use of force has increased over the reporting period; however, there is a significant increase in the number of incidents being resolved by alternative, improved de-escalation techniques.

Mediation and Restorative Justice are used regularly with a high success rate.

Re-integration of prisoners to normal location is developing, but problems remain with some prisoners refusing to conform, remaining in their comfort zone in the IAU with little to occupy their minds for long periods.

The unit is profiled to be staffed by a dedicated team of officers, but due to staffing cutbacks, especially at the S.O. grade, this is not always possible, although all staff are respectful and caring. There is also a tendency for inconsistencies with Governors working in this unit who are not familiar with individual cases.

The unit has two outside exercise areas, but for some considerable time only one has been in use. With the staff cutbacks, the board feels more use could be made of this facility, as one officer could supervise both areas, thus increasing the outside association time available to prisoners on the unit.

The first SMARG,(Segregation Monitoring and Review Group), meeting for some considerable time was held in November 2011. With the intention of holding them monthly for a short period and then moving to a quarterly meeting, but unfortunately no meetings have been held since November 2011.

12. DIVERSITY AND RACE EQUALITY

“The Diversity and Race Relations team is made up of interested parties, those of an ethnic minority and prisoners from residential units, who are also of an ethnic mix. They meet regularly each month with a mixed agenda, covering all diversity issues, including gay marriage, disability by way of education, trans-gender and language barriers.

There is monthly feedback on the monitoring information for Diversity, Disability and Racial Equality. This includes the systematic monitoring and analysis of race equality (SMART) data and action planning. A monthly Racial Incidents Complaints log is presented detailing racial complaints and action taken. Forthcoming promotional information is a regular item on the agenda and this includes cultural awareness theme days and events, community engagements and a variety of ideas to promote good relations.

There is a robust and clear method of and dealing with racial complaints. Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRFs) are readily available to prisoners and staff alike; numbers are averaging at 2 per week.

Training strategies are reported upon frequently and Training Awareness days and Workshops for staff and prisoners are undertaken.

New arrivals at Brinsford YOI are seen by Healthcare and at that time can disclose details of any disabilities although protocol does not allow Healthcare to pass on any medical information. During the prisoner induction process new arrivals complete a self-assessment questionnaire which gives them the opportunity to confirm details of any disabilities, dyslexia, learning difficulties and any special needs. This information is then passed to the DLO who meets with all of the disabled prisoners. Currently we do not have any physically disabled prisoners although some are temporarily disabled through injuries. Prisoners with learning difficulties are seen by Education staff.

Since the introduction of LDD (Learning Disabilities and Difficulties), I am pleased to report that Brinsford has set up systems which are to be advertised in other establishments as ‘Best Practice’. The ‘Way of Working’ is fully adopted within our establishment.

The latest numbers of Ethnic mix within this establishment are:-

White British 292 or 55.7%	White Irish 1 or 0.2%	Any other background 19 or 3.6%	
Mixed white & Black Carribean 38 or 7.1%	Mixed White & black African 3 or 0.6%	Mixed white & Asian 7 or 1.3%	Any other mixed 7 or 1.3%
Asian Indian 16 or 3.0%	Asian Pakistani 33 or 6.2%	Asian Bangladeshi 4 or 0.7%	Any other Asian 13 or 2.4%
Black Carribean 49 or 9.2%	Black African 22 or 4.1%	Any other background 5 or 0.9%	
Chinese	Any other ethnic group 12 or 2.2%	Not stated 13 or 2.4%	

The Board is satisfied that Brinsford has satisfactory procedures and policies in place and that all complaints in this area were properly investigated during the reporting year. The Board considers that there were no major areas for concern during the reporting period.”

13. SECURITY AND DRUGS

This is one of the most important departments of a prison, where not only the officers working in this department, but all personal working within the prison must be committed.

It has proved difficult, as one might expect to get all operational and civilian staff to conform during the whole of the reporting period, which did result in a problem regarding tools, and shadow boards in education. This took a considerable amount of valuable time to solve and had rules been adhered to this would never have happened.

Cell Searching procedures and searching cycles tend to focus towards the meeting of targets, in the majority of cases wing officers are carrying out this task. The Board feels that more time should be allocated to this duty, profiling staff who have been specially trained in carrying out this work.

Volumetric control with prisoners having an excess amount of canteen has been a long term concern of the Board and hampers searching of cells. This is now being robustly addressed and a protocol introduced revising the volumetric control policy.

SIR's. have again increased dramatically during the reporting period, which is encouraging. The principals of dynamic security are in place and good prisoner - officer relationships help to promote this. Officers are now more confident in reporting minor issues, which can be part of a larger picture.

CCTV coverage has now been extended to the Chapel and most of the Education areas. This has been a considerable asset in adjudications.

Fire Safety training for all officers was completed during the reporting period. With the age group at Brinsford they do not appreciate the high risk involved to themselves and others by starting fires which happen on a regular basis, up to 4 a month, with the fire service regularly being called out. The Board were heartened to learn that an offense of arson within the prison was viewed very seriously by Crown Court, with the judge imposing a sentence of 11 years. As arson is a common trend in Brinsford a notice was circulated to all prisoners notifying them of this sentence in the hope that a lesson would be learnt.

Mobile Phones are a constant concern, with packages, in various disguises constantly being thrown over the perimeter fence as one form of entry. It has been known for these packages to contain up to 4 mobile phones with charges etc.

Serious Incident exercises have taken place with lessons to be learnt each time. The Board has expressed concern at each exercise in the failure to be called to enable members to train and practice their roll. This failure was brought to the attention of management after the first exercise, but was repeated at the subsequent exercise, although four Board Members were on standby within the establishment. This is disappointing as our profile within the prison is good.

14. RESETTLEMENT

Brinsford is a complex prison, which is reflected in this area, due to prisoner's age, education and lack of employment skills, but it is acknowledged by management to be of considerable importance in assisting in reducing re-offending.

During the reporting period, there have been a number of management changes, which have affected the running of the department and meetings. Despite this in the second part of the reporting period the prison has moved forward with more prisoners obtaining Red Band and R.O.T.L. status and one prisoner released daily to work in Wolverhampton. Applications for H.D.C. are now, after many months are processed on time.

Employment training remains to be a major problem with lack of workshop facilities, although this is gradually being addressed in trying to find business partners.

Partner agencies are now working well:-

NACRO Are achieving the housing target.

Job Center All prisoners upon release have an appointment within 2 working days.

CAB Are providing help with many problems prior to a prisoner being released.

Trailblazers are increasing the number of mentors, with 25 new members being trained.

Health Services & CARAT Are sending all prisoners out with letters for doctors or appointments, where needed plus medication.

15. VISITS AND VISITS CENTRE

Visitors arriving at Brinsford are processed quickly and efficiently by the staff in the visits centre, who are all working on a voluntary basis for HAILO, and then called over to the main building in small groups.

The visits hall can accommodate approx. 55 prisoners with their families, and operates five days per week with a visit lasting up to two hours. Refreshments are available but unfortunately, due to planned alterations there are no crèche facilities. As these alterations are on hold, due to budgetary cutbacks, it is felt that the crèche facilities should be reintroduced.

A team specially trained officers man the area but unfortunately, for the majority of the reporting period, the CCTV system has not been operational, and drug detection dogs are not being used on a regular basis, due to staffing problems. The Board feels that more use should be made of these facilities especially when prisoners are returning to the wings, as this must be one of the main routes for drugs and mobile phones to enter the premises.

Family all day visits have continued, with healthcare and various agencies from both inside and outside Brinsford attending, to give advice and help where required. Although a very popular day attendances on occasions have not been as high as one would have liked.

16. KITCHEN

Brinsford is working on a budget of £2.08. per prisoner per day, slightly below the national benchmark of £2.10. Working within this budget the staff continue to provide good nourishing meals, meeting the needs of all prisoners, including those with special dietary requirements.

Prisoners working in the kitchen alongside civilian staff are being trained for an NVQ level 11 qualifications, which it is hoped will assist them in gaining employment upon their release.

There is concern, as previously recorded, with some of the equipment, which due to its age is not as reliable as one would expect. Extractor Fans are one item of concern, which can leave both staff and prisoners working in a difficult environment with large amounts of steam, increased temperatures, and slippery floors.

At present, as the MOJ adheres to a national contract, with a percentage of products purchased from foreign producers. As a result, there is no opportunity to purchase products locally, which is felt would be more beneficial. The Board also feels that with the greenhouses and large areas available within the grounds of Brinsford, it is in an ideal position for prisoners to assist in the growing of a number of products for its own consumption.

As with all establishments, Brinsford, complies with the national purchasing contract, but the Board feels more use could be made of the large areas available, including large greenhouses, and its own prisoner workforce, to assist in the growing of more products for its own consumption.

17. PHYSICAL EXERCISE

Brinsford has comprehensive facilities within both the prison buildings and the outside area. All of these excellent facilities are available to all prisoners but the uptake during the reporting period, as in previous years is only about 60% with weights continuing to be the most popular. Key-work skills and training take place with 196 prisons participating out of a target of 200

The staffing level for the PEO has remained the same with one S.O. During the reporting period, there have been management changes and restructuring, plans were put in place to reduce staff under the Fair and Sustainable Policy. Although excellent work was done in the department, all of this has obviously had an effect on moral, all of which will be monitored during the coming year in the hope that it does not reduce the regime available.

The availability of kit continues to be a problem, as it is not always returned from the external laundry on time and there is no funding to purchase new kit.

The ongoing problem with the gym flooring was finally sorted out in February but there is a continuing problem with the Astra Turf, all weather pitch. This is in very poor condition because of lack of maintenance, which was a result of budgetary restraints and staff shortages.

All staff have free use of all these excellent facilities when not being used by prisoners.