

# Annual Report 2012



## Independent Monitoring Board

Haslar

Immigration Removal Centre



## **Section 1**

### **1.1 Statutory Role of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) at the Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) Haslar**

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 requires every Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Home Secretary from members of the community in which the Centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- 1) satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in Immigration Removal Centres
- 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 far the Immigration Removal Centre has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those held in the Centre

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every detainee, to every part of the Centre and to the Centre's records.

Appointed by the Home Office, Board members are unpaid and independent of both Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) and the United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA). IMB members are the only independent presence in the Centre on a day-to-day basis

### **1.2. Annual Report 2012**

This Annual Report is required by the Home Office to cover the period from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The purpose of the IMB Annual Report is to focus on matters of significant concern, rather than to provide a history of events during the year.

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### **Section 3: Description of the Immigration Removal Centre Haslar**

The Victorian buildings of IRC Haslar formerly served as Royal Naval barracks then as a naval prison and subsequently as a young offenders institution. Since 1989 Immigration Services, now the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) have used the site as an immigration removal centre. Her Majesty's Prison Services (HMPS) is contracted to manage the centre, holding up to 160 male detainees. In 2012 around 15% of the detainees were former foreign national offenders (FNOs); five years ago this figure was closer to 80%.

For the first quarter of the period covered by this report (1/12/11-30/11/12) the Centre was managed by the Acting Deputy Manager, who had but recently been seconded to the IRC from HMP Kingston. Only in March 2012 were the posts of Centre Manager and that of Deputy Manager substantively filled.

The accommodation is in six dormitory style areas, each of which, until recently, has been divided into cubicles with two or three beds in each cubicle. Over the past months, there have been some changes to the physical structure of IRC Haslar which reflect the custodial management's commitment to offer UKBA Detention Services a more comprehensive service.

In order to allow a greater diversity of intake, one of the six dormitory blocks has been converted to cellular accommodation for managing detainees deemed to be at, or of, higher than average risk, as well as those reluctant to comply with the regime. This accommodation can also serve as normal bed areas when not otherwise required.

A store room adjacent to the main gate was adapted as a visitors' reception area, available for use by those who arrive early for visits.

A further development was the construction of two large rooms, one with indoor games equipment, the other is available as a meetings room, a multi-faith facility and a workshop venue. Detainees have access to these activities on a rotational basis.

Catering services continued to be provided by HMPS, with three meals per day served in the dining room, and hot meals served in addition as required.

Gym and sports are led by a team of physical education instructors (PEIs) Laundry services are provided by centre staff. Maintenance is provided by the centre's on site team.

Educational services were provided for several years by Highbury College: in April 2012 the contract passed to the Pertemps People Development Group (PPDG).

Primary health care was provided by the Centre health care team under the auspices of Solent Primary Care Trust. In January 2012 health care at Haslar was expanded to allow for drug therapy although detainees on a detoxification programme cannot be catered for.

A dentist is available for emergency treatment.

A local general practitioner was employed by the Prison Service and attended the centre regularly for early morning surgery, with cover and standard out of hours services called for when required.

Transport to and from hospital and optician appointments, as well as bed watch services were provided by Reliance.

Legal advice sessions were held weekly by one of three, later only two legal firms.

A dedicated Welfare Officer liaised with agencies inside and outside the centre on behalf of detainees.

Faith provision is diverse in the Centre. A Christian minister co-ordinates a range of providers which include an appointed Imam and Hindu and Sikh religious leaders. The Salvation Army also has a regular presence.

Haslar Visitors Group arranges visits to detainees, Citizens Advice Bureau comes to the centre fortnightly, and Samaritan services are widely advertised, as is the service offered by the Red Cross in tracing missing persons.

## **Section 4. Executive Summary**

This report from the IMB is generally positive.

The Board welcomed the appointments of Centre Manager and Deputy Manager in March. The long delay in appointing a new centre manager, was brought about, the Board was told, by delays in forming an interview panel with representatives from both HMPS and UKBA.

The task facing the new manager of an establishment is never easy. Where staff morale is low (c.f. the Board's report of 2011 which describes staff unease in the summer of that year when the Centre experienced an unexplained fluctuation in usage), and where there are substantial cuts to be made in funding, there will be tensions to be dealt with. It should be noted too, that HMPS introduced its own restructuring programme during this period.

The Centre Manager, Mr. Paul Millett, has introduced a programme designed to mitigate the undesirable consequences of detention while encouraging a culture where good practice is encouraged and recognised. Such aspirations mirror IMB expectations and are a focus of Board monitoring.

### **4.1 Issues for response**

*Please note that issues raised are referenced to the relevant section of the report.*

#### **4.1. By the Minister**

**1.** The newly configured Health Partnership Board has, since June 2012, blocked the Independent Monitoring Board's access to Partnership meetings at Haslar IRC, such that the IMB can no longer give any assurance regarding aspects of healthcare at Haslar.

The IMB is concerned that even in the current climate the Partnership Board seeks to operate in camera and requests the Minister's support in assuring the Monitoring Board's unfettered access so that it may carry out its duties effectively.  
*(See section 6.3 para.1 'Healthcare: the monitoring process' page 15)*

**2 .** The Minister is asked to enquire about the extent to which all incidents of contaminated food supplied to HMPS are reported to the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and that the FSA is required by the Secretary of State for the Department of Food and Rural Affairs to report in full to HMPS the names and addresses of the companies involved in the supply chain for its products.  
*(See section 6.8 sub section1 'Residential services: food & catering," page 18)*

**3.** The Minister is asked if he is confident that a sufficient number of legal firms offering immigration advice will be able to continue business under the current remuneration system, such that the distressing experiences of 2010 and 2011 when significant legal advice providers could not survive the imposition of long periods awaiting payment. may be avoided.

*(See section 5.3 'Access to legal advice', page 10)*

#### **4.2 By UKBA**

**1.** UKBA is urged to consider whether long periods of immigration detention are consistent with a policy of removal within a reasonable time scale.

*(See section 5.1 'Long stay detainees', page 9)*

**2.** UKBA is asked to take into consideration all available relevant factors when assessing the need to detain and to ensure that reports to detainees reflect this, clearly showing that any errors or new facts revealed since the previous report have been considered.

*(See section 5.2 'The quality of UKBA's reports to detainees', page 9)*

**3.** UKBA is requested to adequately resource their responsibility to conduct the counter terrorist checks (CTCs) as required to allow Members of the IMB to exercise their monitoring functions in IRCs.

*(See section 7 'Work of the IMB at Haslar' opening paragraph, page 20)*

#### **4.3 By UKBA and HMPS**

**1.** UKBA and HMPS are invited to consider whether the blanket restrictions on internet access in prisons should apply to an establishment such as Haslar which is not holding anyone currently serving a sentence for any criminal offence.

*(See section 5.8 'Internet Restrictions', page 12)*

**2.** The Board asks Centre Management to acknowledge the Service Level Agreement (SLA) of 2012 between UKBA and the IMB'S National Council (NC) allowing for a constructive overview by the IMB of any future tendering process.

*(See section 6.2 'Education and skills', page 14)*

#### **4.4 Issues from previous report where a response is requested from UKBA**

**1.** Detainees arriving with incomplete documentation from other centres

Last year, as every year since 2006 the Board reported its concern that detainees continued to arrive from other IRCs with incomplete documentation; the situation is not yet resolved.

*(see section 5.6 'Detainee documentation and other transfer issues', page 11)*

## 2. Detainees' property

Detainees' property remains at risk during detainee transfer from other establishments.

*(see section 5.6 'Detainee documentation and other transfer issues including loss of property' and section 5.8 'Internet restrictions', pages 11 and 12)*

## 3. Persistent smoking in shared accommodation

The centre management continued to address the issue of smoking illegally throughout 2012 using anti social behavioural sanctions to dissuade persistent offenders.

The Board was disappointed by the UKBA response to its 2011 Report, which was that the issue of smoking is behavioural (which it is) but which left aside the legality aspect in the Haslar environment.

## **4.5 Issue from a previous report where a response is requested from Centre Management**

### 1. Use of handcuffs

Haslar IRC individual risk assessments invariably result in every detainee being handcuffed when escorted to medical and other appointments. This being so the Board recommends that the assessment process be re-evaluated.

*(See section 5.7 'Risk Assessment', page 12)*

## **4.6 Issues raised by the IMB: resolved**

1. In February 2012 following IMB concerns over delays in delivery of detainee mail, Centre Management reviewed its processes and procedures.

The IMB are satisfied that mail is now reliably delivered in a timely fashion.

*(See section 5.5 'Delays in delivery of detainee mail redressed', page 11)*

2. The board has long complained of the disruptive tannoy address system and in May reported hearing its transmission outside the establishment. Members are pleased that a texting system has now largely replaced the tannoy.

## **Section 5. Significant Issues from 2012**

### **5.1. Long stay detainees**

Haslar Board has long held concerns regarding the time some detainees are held in detention while acknowledging the difficulties that can arise in obtaining travel documents.

A detainee came to the attention of the Board because of concern about his long stay in Haslar where he has been detained since late 2010 when, the Board understood, he had personally drafted an application for a judicial review.

As of mid-October 2012 the UKBA recorded this detainee as "still awaiting outcome from court submission".

***The Board wishes to record its concern that the basis or progress of this application is unclear but the result is that the detainee has continued in detention for what seems an excessively lengthy period .***

### **5.2 The quality of UKBA monthly reports to detainees**

The quality of communication from case workers to detainees remains a concern. Detainees frequently share with the IMB reports from case workers which show no change from one month to another, giving no indication that any effort is being made to resolve their case.

***The Board seeks assurance that UKBA case workers systematically and carefully consider an individual' s circumstances when detention is considered. Where the decision is taken to detain, all communication with the detainee should make it clear that any interim information, as well as any pertinent facts received have informed the decision arrived at.***

During the reporting year the board were pleased to see a decrease in long stay detention within Haslar. A number of detainees anxious to return home and long awaiting travel documents from their mother country, benefitted, the IMB understands, by "high level " intervention.

### **5.3 Access to legal advice**

In view of the short time that some detainees spend in detention before being given Removal Directions (RDs), members of the IMB at Haslar have concerns regarding the frequency, once per week, of legal advice sessions at Haslar.

The Welfare Officer believes that one advice session per week normally answers demand although he has himself made arrangements for a telephone legal advice when it has been brought to his notice that RDs have been served before advice could be sought.

At the start of the reporting year there were three companies willing to offer advice to Haslar detainees: this had reduced to only two before the end of 2012.

***With diminishing numbers of legal representatives willing to take on immigration work the Board is concerned that a real crisis could face Haslar detainees as when Refugee and Migrant Justice folded.***

Appointments have to be made to attend a session of the detention duty advice scheme, run on a rota basis by one of the companies willing to take on Haslar clients. During 2012 these sessions were held on Fridays. A detainee arrested and brought into detention on a Thursday with removal directions set for the following Wednesday would have to be organized indeed to get onto the list for advice and even then would need to pass the criteria for representation.

### **5.4 Delay in appointing Centre Manager**

During the first three months of the reporting year Haslar IMB became concerned about the lapse of time before leadership matters were resolved, and in February formally raised the issue with both HMPS and UKBA. Substantive management appointments were announced shortly after.

In November 2011, three months after appointment, the centre manager took up another post. The recently arrived Acting Deputy Manager was promoted to Acting Manager; no one was appointed to fill the position of Deputy Manager, even temporarily. Indeed from that time through to March there was not one member of the Senior Management Team (SMT) substantively in post in Haslar IRC. Of these only one had experience of an IRC.

It is to the credit of that team of people and to Haslar IRC staff throughout the centre that operations continued without apparent detriment to the detainee community.

## **5.5 Delays in delivery of detainee mail redressed**

In February 2012 the Board raised its concerns with both UKBA and centre management regarding delays in the delivery of mail and faxes to detainees. In the worst instances and repeatedly mail was “returned” by Centre staff to the UKBA local office on the mistaken premise that the addressee was no longer in the centre. Even faxes from solicitors were passed to UKBA, who rightly cannot be party to such information.

The IMB’s concern was addressed and the situation improved.

## **5.6 Detainee documentation and other transfer Issues including loss of property**

The Board continues to be concerned by the number of detainees arriving from other IRCs without the necessary basic of information in their detainee transferable documents. The Board finds it difficult to understand how it is that UKBA allows this very unsatisfactory situation to persist.

On 12th March ten detainees arrived at Haslar from two different IRCs. with their Personal Escort records (PERS) almost blank. The Board hopes there will be an improvement following the issue in October of the Detention Service Order on Personal Escort Records (PERs).

Requests for transfer to another location are frequently the subject of applications to the board. These are usually so that family members will be closer to the place of detention.

***A notice affixed in the centre reception area, states that requests for transfer can only be made every seven days. The IMB understand that this is not the case across the detention estate and recommends this be reviewed.***

Applications to the board show that the risk of loss of property during detainee transfer is heightened. The majority of missing property issues which come to the Board’s attention occur outside of Haslar IRC. Although funneled through the UKBA complaints procedure to the relevant third party, the outcome, if any, is not followed or recorded by UKBA. When in February the IMB raised this, UKBA responded that there was no funding for this service.

***Mindful that detainees are hampered by diverse circumstances as well as detention and threat of removal, the Board recommends that UKBA reassess its duty of care to those who have been separated from their own property as a result of being held in immigration detention.\****

*\*Just prior to publication of this report UKBA announced a series of planned measures designed to minimize loss of detainee property. The Board welcomes this initiative.*

## 5.7 Risk assessment

Routinely handcuffing men for hospital and other appointments can give rise to a detainee refusing treatment in order to avoid the indignity of being treated as a criminal. The incivility of the practice was highlighted on 24th April 2012, when Reliance transport arrived an hour and a half late for a detainee's hospital appointment. By the time the detainee was returned to Haslar the original escort had handed over to another Reliance team who could not unlock the handcuffs. The man had to be released by the Fire Brigade.

At the beginning of March a scheme was introduced whereby visitors are tagged with a wrist band lest substitution with a detainee take place. ***The imperative of adopting this prison based procedure is not clear to the Board.***

The Board has in the past regretted that HMPS and escort contractors found it necessary for both agencies, one after the other and in sight of each other, to each conduct a search of individual detainees leaving the centre. That this search is now conducted solely by the escorting agency is welcomed by the Board.

## 5.8 Internet restrictions

Haslar introduced internet facilities for detainees later than any other IRC. In 2012 Haslar still allowed no access to personal e-mail systems.

On 3rd October a student at a local university was detained when he visited the local police station to sign in according to the restrictions on him. When he came to the attention of the Board Removal Directions had already been served on him for Wednesday 10th October.

Neither Dorset police nor Immigration agents had allowed him to go home to get his belongings. He had no contact details on him - phone, computer, project work from the University were all at the house he shared with others, whom he did not know well. He wrote a letter to one of them but unsurprisingly had not received a reply. Custody officers and UKBA and others at the Centre had tried to help him to access his personal information from his computer but HMPS restrictions did not allow access to his e-mail account.

*The Poole Immigration Head wrote that UKBA do not assist with the retrieval of belongings when an immigrant is detained. The official notepaper bore the legend: 'Building a fair, tolerant and just society'.*

***It could be regarded as the antithesis of 'fair and just' to deny a detained man the means to collect his belongings before enforcing his departure.***

## **5.9 Rule 35**

The IMB at Haslar raised with UKBA and with the centre manager its concern that the new Detention Service Order (DSO) of October 2012 fails to provide a mechanism to alert the Detention Centre manager when a case worker, for whatever reason, decides to order continued detention despite a doctor warning that in their opinion the “detainee’s health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued detention or any conditions of detention”.

***The Board requests that this DSO be reviewed.***

## **5.10 Night staffing levels**

The Board has for many years expressed concern over low night staffing levels. Nothing has changed in this respect. The counter argument that the ratio of staff to those locked up is better in Haslar than in many establishments does not make the situation satisfactory.

## **Section 6. Reports on particular areas**

### **6.1 Equality and Inclusion**

The 2010 Equalities Act is at the heart of Haslar's policy document which informs activities across the Centre.

The Head of Residence, in his role as Head of Equalities, convened the Equality Working group bi-monthly. Departments across the centre, are represented and Community organisations invited to attend. Detainee representatives present any equality issues which may have emerged from the weekly Detainee Consultative Committee (DCC) meetings.

In the relaxed atmosphere of DCC meetings detainee representatives from each dormitory are encouraged to speak freely on behalf of their fellow detainees. Points raised are usually resolved within the week. Opportunity is given to indicate any racist or religious intolerance, bullying or intimidation.

Information for detainees is printed and readily available in a number of languages. The use of the telephone translation service is actively encouraged and readily available.

### **6.2 Education and skills**

The early part of the period covered by this report saw the frustration of the Board's attempt to monitor the tender process leading to the awarding of a new education contract. The process was opaque; neither the Education staff nor the IMB were informed on process or progress.

For over thirteen years the education contract was held by Highbury College who had offered an admirable standard and range of education and skills training for detainees.

Following Pertemps People Development Group (PPDG) taking up the contract the IMB were not aware of any concerns regarding the delivery of the education programme which differs little from that offered successfully over past years.

Analysis of take up by the detainees is shown to depend in part on the expectations of different nationalities. Centre staff work with Education staff to point up the relevance of courses and the certification available.

As in previous years education was delivered not only in the classrooms but also by kitchen staff and by Physical Education Instructors; training was offered to detainees engaged in the induction of new arrivals.

Time and experience do not always coincide. Support and materials have been provided by the two experienced librarians but their time constraints mean that training for detainees in library duties was held up during the final months of 2012.

***The Centre Manager Paul Millett has put in train an extension of hours for education activities and library facilities. This will be appreciated especially over weekends and holiday periods when in the past the the Board has noted a dearth of activity in the centre.***

### **6.3 Healthcare**

#### **1. The monitoring process**

In 2011 the Board's own protocol for comprehensive monitoring of Healthcare provision included attendance by an IMB member at regular meetings of the Healthcare Partnership. The following months, which coincided with changes in NHS structure, saw a full year after the May 2011 meeting without a further meeting of the Health Partnership. The IMB, present at the June 2012 meeting received neither minutes nor agenda for the remainder of the reporting year despite support from the Centre manager.

***The Partnership Board maintained its opposition to an independent monitoring presence during its deliberations on healthcare provision for Haslar detainees. Consequently for 2012 the Board can give no assurance regarding the development of NHS Healthcare policy for Haslar IRC.***

#### **2. Health Needs Analysis**

A revised Haslar Health Needs Analysis was produced in July 2012 by the Public Health Manager, a function of NHS Hampshire, which will shift to Hampshire County Council in April 2013.

### 3. Dental health

In 2012 IMB members received few complaints about healthcare in the centre, and of those, three (i.e .50%) related to dental problems.

In November 2010, just prior to the start of the period covered by this report dental service provision at Haslar was transferred to Solent NHS trust and provision for dental clinics at Haslar was cut by 50% to a fortnightly clinic with capacity to see four patients, an “emergency only service”. The IMB has repeatedly asked that long stay detainees be offered dental care checks. In March UKBA agreed this, limited to those held for two years in detention. This is in line with the 2012 (reviewed) National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines.

***Haslar Board would like to see written assurance that NICE guidelines will be adhered to, as well as a clear policy dealing with the provision or repair of dentures.***

### 4. Mental health

Two of the nursing staff are qualified in mental health issues. Where required referrals are made to outside agencies.

***The Board regrets that funding for Portsmouth Counselling Services ran out during the reporting period. In the past this service has been much appreciated by some of the most vulnerable in the detainee community.***

### 6.4 Purposeful activity

There are opportunities for work in a limited number of areas. Applications for paid jobs are monitored to ensure equality of opportunity.

The Board would like assurance that any risk assessment be completed prior to allocating work. One young man who had been detained for many months was seriously upset by losing a job he had successfully held in the kitchen, on a delayed risk assessment, a job which had been a badge of success in the mind of himself and of others.

The long heralded bike repair shop, for which staff training had been undertaken, tools purchased and parts collected was it seems quietly abandoned early in 2012. Nothing replaced the venture.

Gardening and boat building, both activities offered in the past have not been replaced. Horticultural activities were again mooted but not developed.

## **6.5 Resettlement**

Resettlement is clearly not a simple target in a detention centre where detention itself is for no fixed period, where people are moved on with very little notice and where the possible geographical areas of resettlement are diverse and uncertain. The aim remains to provide useful training and qualifications for the future.

Short term courses are planned or in place for safe food handling, manual handling, and a certificated industrial cleaning course. There are plans too to train detainees to run a library service, such as that planned to complement the Centre's principal library.

## **6.6 Safer Community**

Board members agree that Haslar is a safer community than in past years. However anxiety levels for many detainees remain very high and all those with a role in the centre, including many detainees are aware of Assessment, Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT), which is used to identify those at risk of self harm or suicide.

Throughout 2012 one of a number of trained assessors was identified as duty assessor each day.

The Board is satisfied that the system is comprehensive and that those identified as at risk are closely monitored according to an individual plan.

The Safer Community committee is convened on a bi monthly basis and its composition is wide ranging, although 2012 meetings were not well attended.

During 2012 Haslar's Safer Community policy was updated. Training was given to assessors in mental health issues and new assessors trained. New emphasis was placed on including 'next of kin' information in ACDT documentation.

## **6.7 Segregation, Care & Separation, Close Supervision**

This area has as its hub the Special Accommodation Unit (SAU), a discrete area comprising a three bedded care suite, a cell with murals but ligature free, and a further cell which remains stark, plans to relieve this never having been developed. In addition to the SAU the newly configured Hermes accommodation is available for detainees needing to be closely managed for any reason, for all or part of the day or night.

The care suite was in use on six occasions during the reporting period, never for more than 24 hours, usually for illness and once as accommodation for a young man whose age was in dispute, pending his transfer to the care of the local authority.

Where a detainee is at risk of self harm or suicide they would usually be held under observation in the safer cell . Those detainees deemed to be a threat to the order of the establishment or to others would also be locked up. The SAU, other than the care suite was in use on 18 occasions.

All instances of separation are documented to comply with Detention Centre Rules both for the protection of the detainee and for those implementing the plan for his care under separation.

The IMB is routinely informed when anyone is placed in the SAU and would expect to visit the detainee within 24 hours, attending the 24 hour review if possible.

In August 2012 the Board expressed its concern to senior management when the regulatory period for advising the IMB of food refusal was exceeded.

## **6.8 Residential services**

### **1. Food and catering**

Board members regularly eat with detainees and report on the food and its presentation. This is helpful when detainees complain about the food, as a number did in 2012. It is not easy to please everyone from very different backgrounds on a very limited budget but the meals are varied, tasty and nutritious. A repeated complaint however is that the teatime meal is served so early that it leaves a long empty evening.

At the time of drafting this report there is widespread concern about the contamination of meat including meat procured for prisons.

***The Board wishes to remind the Minister that it raised a very serious concern in its 2011 report about a contaminated consignment of diced lamb delivered to Haslar and served to detainees. The Board was not impressed by the reaction of HMPS to this incident, and considers that greater vigilance is needed in relation to the quality of products supplied to HMPS – especially meat products.***

### **2. Accommodation and environment**

Accommodation, although much improved in the past four years, remains basic.

Board members often take the opportunity to ask detainees leaving the centre how they feel they have been treated. During 2012 the response was usually positive, with officers described as helpful, although there have been exceptions.

Shortcomings in heating, plumbing or cleanliness were soon attended to. Detainees are encouraged to report these directly to dormitory officers or to the DCC meetings through their representatives.

The Head of Residence is firmly in control of his brief as reports show. The atmosphere was stable and fairly relaxed throughout 2012. HMPS officers are well trained and confident and most display an admirable ability to diffuse tension.

Complaints are dealt with quickly and the Head of Residence has taken all issues, including property issues, seriously, as have reception staff when property has been reported on arrival as missing.

The Welfare Officer continued to assist detainees with a variety of issues throughout the year. Two other officers were trained in 2012 as additions to the Welfare Officer and existing deputy to cover absence. Gaps in provision remained however.

Special arrangements as always were put in place for Ramadan and hot meals provided for detainees arriving outside mealtimes, although kitchen staff were often hard pressed being down in numbers through much of 2012 .

Special mention should be made of the Gym staff who, could be relied on to provide the opportunity for sport or training during holiday closures when education and library were closed.

There is a kiosk style shop where a variety of purchases can be made. If a new item is requested by a sufficient number of detainees it may be ordered. A frequent complaint was that the shop was closed all day Sunday as well as Saturday afternoons. Staffing issues were advanced as the reason.

The latter end of the year saw an extension by half an hour of free association time, before detainees are locked in their designated areas when television and card games are the main activity of the evenings.

The Board was pleased that 2012 saw greater involvement with the community than in the preceding year. The autumn Community day was well attended , as was the Carol service. Music in Detention established links between the Centre and two Gosport schools; four days of drama was an innovation. The Mayor of Gosport visited twice, as well as a student group. The 'Suits' project with donations from local people continued throughout the year.

## **Section 7. Work of independent Monitoring Board at Haslar**

From July 2011 until March 2012 Haslar Board strived to monitor all areas with only 5 members. That appointments for four new members took on average nine months to come through was largely due to the long delays for Counter Terrorist Clearance (CTC). Responsibility for this had been transferred to UKBA in 2011.

***In the opinion of the Board UKBA did not deploy adequate resources to deal with this new responsibility in a timely manner.***

### **7.1 Board statistics**

- Recommended complement of Board members: 12
- Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period: 5
- Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period: 9
- Number of Board members joining within the reporting period: 5
- Number of Board members leaving within the reporting period: 1
- Total number of Board meetings within the reporting period: 12
- Total number of visits to the establishment: 219
- Date of annual Team Performance Review: 7th November 2012

### **7.3 Applications by category to IMB during the reporting period**

- Accommodation matters: 0
- Access to legal advice: 5
- Equality & diversity: 0
- Education, training and work: 1
- Welfare, (inc. visits & communications): 2
- Catering / food: 21
- Healthcare: 6
- Property (within the establishment): 2
- Property (during transfer/ in another establishment): 6
- Shop (inc. range of goods): 0
- Immigration matters: 23
- Detainee / staff relations : 11
- Transfer requests: 15
- Miscellaneous: 9
- Total number of applications: 101

At least once a week of the reporting period, Haslar IRC was visited by an IMB member. At the close of each duty week a report was written and responded to by the Centre manager and by the onsite UKBA manager.

Both managers regularly attend the monthly meetings of the Board as well as presenting their own written report and taking questions.

The open and informative attitude of management and staff greatly assisted Haslar Board members in carrying out their monitoring role during the period from 1st December 2011 to 30th November 2012, with which this report is concerned.

Joan Bateman,  
Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board,  
Haslar Immigration Removal Centre.

February 2013