



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

**HM PRISON KINGSTON
2011**

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STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Home Secretary from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to;

- (1) Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.**
- (2) Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.**
- (3) Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact that these have on those in its custody**

ROLE OF THE PRISON

HMP Kingston was built in 1877 to the Victorian radial design and is situated in the heart of the city of Portsmouth.

It was re-designated as a Category C Prison in April this year with the final Category B prisoner departing in the middle of March.

HMP Kingston holds only indeterminate sentence prisoners and has a current capacity for 199 prisoners. They are mainly accommodated in single cells with internal sanitation with 24 beds on E Wing in shared cells. The role of HMP Kingston is to provide those within its custody with the ability to be able to demonstrate their ability to reduce offending and gain skills to be able to lead law abiding and rewarding lives as they progress through the prison system. Whilst ensuring that prisoners are safe and living in a decent environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(a) Particular issues requiring a response

1. Lack of Chaplaincy team, the Chaplain is now on long term sick leave and an Imam has not been in place for a number of years as identified in earlier reports.
2. Lack of places on Healthy Relationship Programme courses which discourage prisoners as soon as they arrive at HMP Kingston.
3. There are 20 Category D prisoners at HMP Kingston which equates to 10% of the population and while this is not unique within the prison estate it leads to disquiet, in that, prisoners do not feel they are progressing and sometimes take a backward step as a result of this
4. An area of concern that also remains as identified in previous reports, is the increasing number of sophisticated systems within the prison which are dependant on specialist contractor support. A particular example of this being the climate management system in the workshop areas where the demise of the original contractor within 12 months of the system being set to work has led to considerable difficulty in maintaining and supporting this complex system.
5. The Board would like to be invited to participate in the Prison's Serious Incident Contingency Plan exercises.
6. The IMB still do not receive adequate clerical support as identified in earlier reports, however the new Governor is keen to address this problem.

(b) Other issues of concern or excellence not requiring a response

1. Staff have worked extremely hard in transferring prisoners in and out of Kingston during its re-categorisation.
2. The painting and decorating course which is held in the middle workshop, is excellent; the standard of work is outstanding and it is a real pleasure for the IMB to see prisoners with so much pride in their new found skill.
3. Towards the end of the reporting period there has been a change of Governor. This has seen an immediate improvement in morale and improvement of communication with the IMB
4. The Restorative Justice Sycamore Tree programme appears to be having a very positive impact.

(c) Overall judgement

It is the view of the IMB that HMP Kingston remains a decent prison, recognising all aspects of diversity. It strives through the excellence of the staff to manage the expectations of all within its custody. This has not been an easy year for the prison, for staff or prisoners with significant changes of re-categorising from Category B to C with prisoners being re-categorised and those not being Category C being moved on. There have been many movements not only of prisoners but also staff, with the Deputy Governor away on a secondment, the Governor moved to another prison, and the Chaplain remaining on long term sick leave.

Amenities

Among issues discussed at the Amenities Meetings were wages, middle work shop completion, Kitchen hygiene standards and the use of a practice room for music.

At the Prison Council meeting with the re role to Cat C a resettlement centre was suggested by residents to prepare prisoners for life in the outside world. A Prison Council Notice Board was requested for standard information to be displayed on the centre and in future it was requested that the number of initiatives completed should be displayed and recorded to show the effectiveness of the council. The council was informed that the current FREEFLOW exercise arrangements would be extended to include access to the sports field and workshops after the installation of lock-backs on the access doors had been implemented. Following the approval of a protocol document a suitable supplier was to be found for 3 approved types of laptops. Representation of the Council at the Senior Management Team meetings had been put into action and the question of plans to implement the 40 hour week was raised by a member of the committee.

The Council was informed that the Sycamore Tree programme would be run at Kingston for four further occasions in the year 2012/13. It was also decided that Religion should no longer be represented on the Council and any issues or concerns that prisoners had should be raised via the DREAT prisoner representatives.

A lengthy discussion was held with the new Governor at the December meeting on the development of the council and with the resignation of the Chair of the Council it was suggested that it was an appropriate time for the committee to reflect on the council's progress and formulate a plan for the future and he asked members to report back to him with their agreed ideas.

Applications

Total applications received this year have reduced to 20 which, while slightly higher than previous years, is significantly lower than last year which had peaked at 38. This is more the level that HMP Kingston is used to and is particularly good as it was a year of great change. No particular trends or areas of particular concern have been raised.

Code	Subject	2010	2011
A	Adjudications	1	2
B	Education/employment/training	14	5
C	Family visits	1	
D	Food/kitchen related	1	3
E	Health related	4	2
F	Property	2	5
G	Staff/prisoner related	2	2
H	Transfers	1	

J	Miscellaneous	11	1

Chaplaincy

After refurbishment the Chapel was operational by the end of February.

The Chaplaincy continues to provide a valuable service for all prisoners irrespective of their denomination.

Bible Study and Discussion groups have been part of spiritual aid on offer to inmates.

This year has been a tricky one for co-ordinating the needs of all Faiths because of the absence of the Chaplain who remains unwell.

Clergy are coming in to cover services. Here is the breakdown of a normal week when there is cover for services and groups which are affiliated to the Chaplaincy:

Roman Catholic Mass – 21

Sunday Worship – 38

Jehovah Witness - 2

Muslim Devotion – 24

Restorative Justice – 60

AA – 16

Buddhist Group – 5

Sikh group – 8

Quaker group – 13

Christian Fellowship Group – 6

Pentecostal Group - 5

A high success rate has been achieved following the introduction of the accredited Restorative Justice course Sycamore Tree. Four courses with 7 weekly sessions involving 20 prisoners on each course with volunteers and a tutor have been run in the year. Comments from prisoners have indicated that it has been the most powerful course they have attended whilst in Prison, highlighting self awareness and identifying weaknesses. Although over 1000 courses have taken place in the Prison Service, HMP Kingston is the first prison that has introduced a shared meal for relatives and prisoners at the completion of the course, enabling discussion and reflection.

The prison hosted a two day Prison Fellowship Conference in October, in which prisoners were involved in some part of the day

A Memorial Service was held in June for a prisoner who had recently died whilst in custody and was attended by 11 residents.

The Baptist Minister resigned from the Chaplaincy Team due to involvement with a Youth project in Portsmouth.

A local Church choir, projected images on a large screen whilst singing traditional carols and this made the Carol Service very enjoyable.

Members of the Board – and indeed Governor grades – are concerned that there is still no regular IMAM for the Muslim community, but Friday prayers are still taking place.

The IMAM from Haslar has been coming over to supervise what is to be said at Muslim prayers. However, neither he nor any one else in authority is in the room with the Muslims during their worship. Efforts are still being made to find a full-time IMAM.

Equality

(a) Disability

63 individual adjustments were made during the reporting period to assist any prisoner with a disability. Older or disabled prisoners are matched with a suitable volunteer who assists with the collection of meals, laundry, canteen etc and will assist with paperwork. Menus and notices are printed in large print and a new lift has been fitted in the education block. If requested by Healthcare special mattresses have been provided.

(b) Foreign Nationals

HMP Kingston received 7 visits from the UKLA last year, saw one prisoner deported and made contact with 3 consulates. There were 20 foreign nationals within the prison during the reporting period. These prisoners are given the opportunity of a 10 minute phone call home each month. And are also allocated a “buddy” to assist with language difficulties. The kitchen provides cultural food throughout the year.

Several events were held which included cricket matches between prisoners and the Portsmouth Caribbean Island Association, Black History Month Quiz and films shown celebrating Black History

The Equality Officer at HMP Kingston was awarded the Area Award of Prison Officer of the year for his work in this area

Education

The educational programme continues to be a key priority at HMP Kingston and an essential ingredient of the programmes for prisoners to prepare for full social reintegration. The changes at the establishment during the year, including the consequent turnover of prisoners, has resulted in some significant changes of participants on courses. This has coincided with fundamental redefinition of the educational services delivery contract, the range of learning provided and the resources required, including staffing arrangements. The

result has been a less than smooth episode of provision which has encouragingly begun to stabilise towards the end of the year.

Provision includes core curriculum of essential skills (such as literacy and numeracy) as well as a range of vocational education. There continues to be a move towards greater amounts of accredited qualifications. The range on offer includes horticultural training which has seen an increase in participation, NVQs in catering and the skills acquired in painting and decorating have been particularly successful. There is increasingly good and closer integration of the education and training opportunities with the workshop and the wider range of work programme activities.

Resources have been provided to enable training in motor-cycle maintenance and bicycle repair although it has taken time during the year to get these popular activities started. Facilities have been added to provide barbering and the education courses in this area are a notable achievement.

There continue to be a number of prisoners who undertake a range of distance-learning options such as Open University study. The Library is a crucial strength of HMP Kingston for the whole range of education and learning programmes being undertaken.

At the end of the year the education programmes and delivery contract have begun to settle down again and show positive signs of moving forward on a new basis to become re-established as a corner-stone of prisoner activity and personal development.

Gardens

The Gardens have been well maintained during the year by 'The Green Team'. Summer bedding plants produced a colourful display and with an increase in the planting of perennials and shrubs, a variation in colour and texture have created interest throughout the year. A pond was made in the wild area encouraging wild life, including a family of ducks.

An enthusiastic Horticultural Instructor has developed student's practical skills for gaining qualifications in Horticulture. NVQ 1 and NVQ 2 have been achieved by students; the theory part for these courses took place in the Educational Department. It is hoped an electrical supply will be available for propagation in the future which will benefit course work as well as plants for the general use in Gardens.

The astro turf has been replaced by 8 allotments which have had a tremendous amount of topsoil added before they were ready for use. Much manure is now needed to add humus to the soil and encourage growth of crops. We look forward to the year when results from all the hard work of completing the project will be in evidence.

Health Care

The prison continues to benefit from an excellent Health Care service and the Board is reassured to know that prisoners in Kingston receive the same quality of primary health care services as they would from a GP practice in the community, including a wide range of health surveillance and chronic disease management programmes. However, it is disappointing that prisoners over 60 still appear to be unable to access the national Bowel Screening Programme.

The number of complaints about Health Care received by the Board from prisoners is no more than might be expected, and generally prisoners appear satisfied and speak well of the service. When concerns are expressed, they relate mainly to medication changes and referrals to local NHS hospitals. These two issues are commonly raised by prisoners following transfer to Kingston from another establishment, because of concerns about possible adverse impact on ongoing treatment started at their previous establishment. The Board has been reassured by the Health Care Unit that these concerns, although understandable, are usually unjustified. Where necessary, prisoners have been advised how to pursue matters through the NHS Trusts own complaints process.

This service is provided by Solent Health Care

Industries and Workshops

There are three floor levels of workshops at Kingston which offer work for approximately 150 prisoners.

The Top Floor is a Technical Drawing Department which offers good accredited training and skills to many prisoners. Some of this work is on Drawing Boards and others work on Computer aided Design System computers. This area always appears to be very productive and the prisoners gain much work satisfaction.

The Middle Floor now has a thriving Painting and Decorating Section which has gone from strength to strength over the past year. The IMB feel that this is due to the excellent instructor and the enthusiasm the prisoners have shown towards this accredited course which will be of assistance to them upon their release.

Also on this floor is the Motorcycle and Bicycle Refurbishment Section which has also proved to be a very popular accredited course and is supported by Tutors from a local college as well as in house instructor.

The Ground Floor is the Printing Workshop which is well attended by prisoners. Over the past year skill levels have been extended in the Print Shop which will give prisoners greater scope for learning and obtaining new skills which they can use in the future upon their release.

Prisoners worked an average of 26 1/2 hours a week in the workshops with some light assembly contract work and work commissioned by prison industries

Kitchen

The kitchen service at HMP Kingston is a universally recognised strength. The opportunities for work are always popular and the results regularly from the service provided are noted to be good. The

area is well managed by all accounts, with low levels of complaints and high standards are met according to inspection regimes. Health and safety, cleanliness and nutritional expectations appear to be more than adequately achieved. The provision is regularly visited by IMB and few issues are encountered. The range of offer and diversity of requirements that are met is commendable, with minority needs generally well satisfied.

Library

Up until very recently our Library has flourished. It has been a centre of innovation for prisoners with a Book Club inviting guest speakers which has gone down particularly well. CDs and DVDs remain popular and new titles have been accessed for prisoners with ease.

It is widely felt that this year the library has encouraged prisoners to think about reading and learning about the world in a way which a Cat C prison like ours should be doing with the prisoners' futures in mind.

Portsmouth Libraries have assisted by accessing books for prisoners – particularly where they are needed for educational purposes.

It is with regret that we have heard that the Librarian has left the Prison. Portsmouth Libraries will be able to assist in the short term and a new Librarian is being sought.

Offender Management and Resettlement

The re-categorisation of Kingston from Category B to Category C during the year has inevitably meant a significant impact on the Offender Management and Resettlement functions. However, the Board has remained confident that the sentence planning and management processes have been undertaken efficiently and effectively, and that no unjustified delays have occurred. Review boards are held on a regular basis, and IMB attendance at these is encouraged. The assessment of individual prisoners involves contributions from a wide range of staff, and prisoners also appear to be offered active engagement in the process.

The Board's main concern about the sentence planning process relates to the fact that sometimes prisoners transferring to Kingston discover that the targets set in their sentence plans are not actually achievable in the prison – for example, attendance on a particular course is not available. It is hoped that the Prison Service will address this problem.

Psychology

The psychology department at Kingston has always been very go ahead but often hampered by not enough money to run the courses they need. As a Board we are watching this carefully since the prison became Cat C.

When the category change happened we heard that prisoners had arrived at Kingston eager to do courses to speed up their progression to Cat D. Unfortunately there was not the funding for everyone that needed courses, nor the Cat D places available anyway. Prisoners kicking their heels is never good for anyone.

The Department have only been commissioned to do one Healthy Relationship Programme high intensity per year (maximum 8 spaces). In 2011/12 they managed to pilot the new Building Better Relationships course which gave them an extra 9 places.

Next year two Healthy Relationship Programmes are planned.

However the bad news is they are not getting any extra resources. This means that they are unable to run two high intensity programmes (too long to squeeze two into a year) so they will have to do a high and a moderate. The trouble is that the need of most Kingston men is high intensity. So in an ideal world they are looking for two extra facilitators. Discussions are ongoing and even with the recruitment freeze we would hope an exception can be made to facilitate their needs.

The next High Intensity course will be in June 2012 and they are not happy with having to make the decision of how to allocate the eight places.

They still have several men requiring assessment who are likely to need HRP. They say they are fairly able to offer places to those over tariff but this will not keep up with newcomers or those who need to work up to doing HRP.

There is an individual programme (IDAM) which they hope to roll out in a couple of months. It will not replace or be as good as HRP but it likely to help those with IQ or language problems or those who need to work up to doing HRP.

Sex Offending Treatment programmes are still run on the Isle of Wight. Two cases are being assessed for this at the present time.

The team is functioning much as they were last year and say they are a generally happy bunch. But it is worth noting they are visiting Winchester and the Isle of Wight more and hope some services do not suffer because of this.

Reception and Induction

The re-categorisation of Kingston last year produced significant increase in transfers in and out. That these were successfully dealt with, without significant additional resource, reflects considerable credit on the staff. A reorganisation and cosmetic overhaul of the Reception Area both improved efficiency and, importantly, first impressions of entry to the Establishment. IMB are not formally part of the Induction Process, but can act as observers and reports have generally been positive. The most common concern being that prisoners transferred often arrive with an unrealistic impression of the resources available at Kingston to support their progress.

Safer Custody Incorporating Suicide Prevention & Violence Reduction

HMP Kingston continues to follow National Offender Management Service procedures wherever physical, emotional or psychological violence is identified and this includes a wide range of behaviours from name calling to physical violence. Comprehensive policies, extensive staff training, prisoner input and liaison with the local branch of the Samaritans contribute to ensuring that Kingston remains a safe place for prisoners.

Monthly Safer Custody Meetings are chaired by the Head of Offender Management with representatives from the Violence Reduction and Safety Custody staff, Healthcare, Carats, Race Equality Action Team, Residential and Security staff, Development Manager, Education, Psychology and the Chaplain attending. The Samaritans also attend and the Safer Custody Representatives are invited to attend the second half of the meetings, where they make a valuable contribution to issues such as anti-bullying, self harm prevention and suicide awareness. An IMB member attended the majority of these meetings.

The Safer Custody Co-ordinator was absent on long-term sick leave during the latter part of 2011 and some of the staff Assessment in Care, Custody and Teamwork training was deferred to 2012. HMP Kingston has four Violence Reduction representatives and nine trained Listeners who continue to carry out a very worthwhile role and also liaise with the Samaritans when necessary. More Listeners were recruited during 2011 and have all completed their Awareness Training and a First Aid Training Course.

68 cases were opened by the Violence Reduction Team during 2011. The number is slightly higher than the previous year but several related to one prisoner who took some time to settle in to the establishment and raised a number of relatively minor complaints. The IMB were fully aware of these and closely monitored the situation. The majority of cases occurred on A and E wings and in the kitchen area. The issues were minor, centring on rumours, verbal threats, and name calling. All the cases involved white males as being both perpetrators and victims. The small ethnic minorities were not targeted.

18 Assessments in Care, Custody and Teamwork plans were opened – of these, only one case resulted in self harm (an attempted suicide) which resulted in a full investigation being carried out and recommendations made and implemented.

Segregation

The utilisation of the unit has remained at a fairly constant low level with only 16 prisoners going through the unit, despite the increased levels of disruption caused by the re-categorisation. The IMB closely monitors the welfare of prisoners in the unit and it is pleasing to report that not only has there been no significant cause for concern; but also that the prisoner-staff relations within the unit are invariably observed to be positive and supportive.

Serious Incident Procedure

The Board's Serious Incident Procedure was reviewed and updated during 2011, and the revised documentation was agreed with the Governor. Laminated action cards have now been provided for each member to assist in the event of attendance at a serious incident. The Board's emergency equipment items (tabards, hard hats, grab bags etc) were also replaced. A training session for members was provided, but there remains a need for the IMB to be included in planned contingency exercises held by the prison. Requests for such involvement have been made in the past, but sadly exercises have still been held without a prior invitation to the Board to participate. It is hoped that the new Governor will remedy this.

Visits

Visits are held in a light, pleasant spacious area with 15 seating sections. Visits take place on a Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. During the Year an evening visit was introduced but this failed to attract visitors and was replaced by a Wednesday morning visit. Afternoon visit times were changed to 2.15-4.15 maximising time with relatives and friends. A refreshment area run by a visits orderly has been a welcome addition and snacks and drinks are available from the vending machine which is maintained by Bunzl who hold the contract. It has been reported that change in the machine is not always available.

In 2011 there were four family visits and four all day visits. The all day visits were not very popular, with visitors sometimes not returning for the afternoon session.

HMP Kingston has been able to provide some very successful family days where fathers have had the opportunity for interaction with their children. The Visit Days have included a barbeque provided by the prison, "hands on" activities for Halloween, and during the Christmas Visit, gifts, chosen by their Father, were given to each child.

The security screening procedure has impressed our members in its sympathetic approach especially with children with staff taking great care to make them feel at ease without compromising security. It has been suggested that brightly coloured track suits and trainers for staff would help make a more informal approach to the day especially as staff participate in games with children of all ages.

Visitors Centre

There is a warm welcome at the Centre which is adjacent to the Gate house for all visiting prisoners. The co-ordinator from the charity Spurgeons, together with the team, have provided an exceptional service, giving support, where needed, in a relaxed and friendly surrounding atmosphere. The Centre is well decorated comfortable with good facilities providing visitors with a choice of hot and cold snacks. Appreciation for these services has been expressed by visitor's comments. Invisible Walls, a scheme for supporting families in their own area, is well advertised with contact cards available to allow for follow up by the visitors home area.

The Centre is also used by other organisations including Portsmouth City Council Minority Groups and The Mothers Union who provide a crèche during week end visits

Works and Maintenance

In general improvements have been noted in the overall state of the Establishment despite significant downward pressure on budget and staff members. A major achievement has been the installation of the General and Fire alarm system throughout the prison. This was a complex contract, which required high levels of co-operation between contractors, staff and additional Operational Support Grade Staff.

The end result has been achieved albeit with significant time scale overrun and the testing and defect rectification in progressing satisfactorily. There have also been a number of minor works projects associated with the provision of enhanced facilities within the workshops areas and these have been well received.

Work of the Independent Monitoring Board

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	10
Number of Board Members at start of reporting period	11
Number of Board Members at end of reporting period	10
Number of new members joining within reporting period	0
Number of members leaving during reporting period	1
Total number of Board Meetings during period	11
Average number of attendances at Board Meetings during period	10
Number of attendances at other meetings	23
Total number of visits to prison (including meetings)	234
Total number of applications received	20
Total number of segregation reviews attended	13