



The Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board 2010

Her Majesty's Prison Liverpool

**Chairman of the Board
Stanley R Mayne JP**

**Vice Chairman
Jim Hall**

CONTENTS		PAGE
SECTION 1	Statutory Role of the Board	3
SECTION 2	Description of the prison	4
SECTION 3	Executive Summary	5
a.	Issues Requiring a Response from The Minister	5
i.	Mental Health Issues	5
ii.	Staffing Levels	5
iii.	Cells	5
iv.	Transfers from other region and associated problems	5
b.	Other Areas of Concern or Excellence not Requiring a Response	6
i.	Drugs, Bullying and Mobile Phones.	6
ii.	Care Suites	6
iii.	Timpson's Workshop	6
iv.	Kitchen	6
v.	Staff	6
c.	The Board's Overall Judgement	6
SECTION 4:		7
a)	Healthcare	7
b)	Separation & Care Unit	8
c)	Chaplaincy	8
d)	Safer Custody & Suicide Prevention	9
e)	Race Relations	9
SECTION 5:		10
a)	Foreign Nationals	10
b)	Learning & Skills/Education	10
c)	Probation	10
d)	Reception	11
e)	Drug Strategy	11
SECTION 6:		13
Work of the Board		13
Appendix (i) Applications to the Board (Analysis)		
Appendix (ii) Analysis of the Board's Work		

SECTION 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

The Prison Act of 1952 and The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and I.R.C. (Immigration and Removal Centre) to be monitored by an Independent Monitoring Board appointed by the Justice Minister from members of the community in which the prison or I.R.C. is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

1. Satisfy itself as to the humane treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing themselves for release.
2. To inform promptly the Secretary of State or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate any concern it has.
3. Report annually to The Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.
4. To enable The Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have the right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also prisoner's records.

SECTION 2

DESCRIPTION ON THE PRISON

- (i) Liverpool Prison is a Category B Local Prison
- (ii) The prison has averaged housing 1256 with a maximum capacity of 1436
- (iii) Liverpool Prison is a Victorian Prison and consequently faces ongoing problems with the infrastructure of the main body of the prison which houses cells, showers and the kitchen. This part of the prison has suffered due to lack of capital investment in the past. The cells vary in size from single occupancy to dormitory cells holding up to six prisoners. Many of these cells suffer from poor facilities and have constant problems with dampness as a result of faulty showers situated above cells on wings. The dampness will hopefully be resolved in the coming years as current work on new showers and water supply over the next 1½ years come on stream. This does not detract, however, from the poor state of cells in general.
- (iv) The prison is split into 8 wings A, B, F, G, H, I, J and K with some wings providing specific roles within the prison:
 - A Wing - Drug Support Wing
 - B Wing - First Night Remand
 - K Wing - Vulnerable Prisoners
 - J Wing - Re-settlement
- (v) The following contractors deliver services in Liverpool Prison:
 - a) Healthcare - North Liverpool Primary Care Trust
 - b) Learning & Skills - The Manchester College
 - c) Education - The Manchester College
 - d) (N.A.C.R.O.) - National Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders

SECTION 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a. Issues Requiring a Response from The Minister

(i) Mental Health Problems

The Board has real concerns about Mental Health/Personality disorder prisoners being housed in the Separation and Care Unit (B1). The Board does not consider the environment conducive to the welfare of prisoners and staff. Mental Health provisions within the prison are inadequate. The Board has had serious reservations over prisoners that have been sectioned but have been forced to remain within HMP Liverpool. The Board accepts that there are severe strains placed upon the Mental Health Estate but the length of time being taken to the removal of the prisoner puts a considerable strain on the prison staff and Health Care workers. Prisoners are not receiving the appropriate care and medications, which results in frustrations. Cells are continually being damaged both on the wings and within Healthcare, and cease to be operational for substantial periods due to financial constraints.

The Board accepts that this issue concerns relatively few numbers of prisoners but the impact on HMP Liverpool is considerable.

The Board would like to commend the professionalism of both the prison staff and healthcare personnel who work in this area, and the Head Psychologist and her staff. They all do an excellent job in often difficult circumstances.

(ii) Staffing Levels

HMP Liverpool encountered many changes during 2010. Governor Brown retired on 31st March 2010 and was replaced by Governor Illingsworth on the 1st April 2010. The change of government had an immediate effect as a cut of £1 million (where provisions had been prepared for) was increased to £1.75 million. Restructuring of staffing levels has been inevitable and whilst all avenues have been explored to make this as painless as possible, The Board has concerns regarding the officer/prisoner ratios. The ratios are in the Board's opinion inadequate. Prisoners are spending more time in their cells and Board Members have noted in their rota reports the feeling of tensions on some of the larger working wings. The Board has serious concerns that should unrest manifest itself whether the staffing levels could cope with it.

(iii) Cells

The cell accommodations within HMP Liverpool are not of a good standard and urgently require refurbishment. The Board has highlighted this issue in previous reports. The infrastructure is Victorian and has long seen a lack of capital investment. The Board recommends urgent consideration be given to rectify the situation.

(iv) Transfers from Other Regions and Associated Problems

HMP Liverpool is a large, adult, local prison but in recent years has had a significant influx of prisoners from outside the region predominantly from the Midlands. This issue was highlighted in last year's report. Problems regarding the transfer of monies and property remain, which leads to prisoners incurring "debt" which leads to serious situations. The distance for visits is also of concern and can lead to frustration, which

manifest itself in many ways (See Section 6 Appendix 1- Work of the Board and the number of applications concerning prisoners monies, property and visits). (Code B, D and G)

b. Other Areas of Concern or Excellence not Requiring a Response

(i) Drugs, Bullying & Mobile Phones

These issues remain a consistent concern of the Board. The Management and in particular the Security and prison officers strive constantly to combat these problems but the problems never go away. The Board appreciates all the efforts put into to curtail the issues but would recommend further resources be allocated to this area.

(ii) Care Suites

The Board consider these to have been a huge success and hope to see them fully utilised in the future.

(iii) The Timpson Workshop

The Board consider this to have been a great success, and are encouraged with the results of several prisoners gaining employment and not re offending, Naturally not every prisoner involved has been a success but the majority have been and the Timpson Company are to be congratulated at their efforts to bring in meaningful work, and opportunities for prisoners when released.

(iv) Kitchen

The Board is pleased to report that the new kitchen opened in November 2010 and is a much better facility for the prison. There were teething problems at the start but all of these have been ironed out.

(v) Staff

The Board continues to admire the professionalism of the Governor, Management, Officers and staff of HMP Liverpool. The Board would like to thank them for their help to Board Members as they strive to do their duties.

c. The Boards Overall Judgement

The overall judgement of The Independent Monitoring Board at Liverpool Prison is that the Management, officers and staff provide a generally high standard of professionalism and care for prisoners in sometimes difficult circumstances given the infrastructure of many parts of the prison which is Victorian and in desperate need of capital investment (See Section 3 a (iii) Cells) whilst these two areas have been highlighted in this report many other areas of the prison would benefit from modernisation e.g. Workshops, Separation and Care Unit.

The Board also has serious concerns with regard to bullying, drugs and the presence of mobile phones amongst the prison population. The Board acknowledges the work undertaken by Management, officers and staff in this area but that greater resources should be directed to this area to assist in stopping the supply and in combating the addiction of many prisoners.

The Board acknowledges the work undertaken by Management, officers and staff in the continuous process of improvement and modernisation during 2010. The Board would also wish to place on record its thanks to Management, officers and staff for their co-operation in attempting to resolve prisoner problems presented to The Board through the Applications system.

Major Concerns

- 1 Mental Health/Personality Disorders (Section 3 a (i))
- 2 Staffing Levels (Section 3 a (ii))
- 3 Cells (Section 3 a (iii))
- 4 Drugs, Bullying and Mobile Phones (Section 3 b (i))

SECTION 4

a. Healthcare Facility at HMP Liverpool 2010

Healthcare Service Review.

The recommendations from a full service review held late 2009 and early 2010 are currently being implemented. A service review implementation group meets on a monthly basis to ensure work is carried out. Some of the work streams have smaller working groups and in some cases tasked individuals, below are some examples of work currently under way.

- i Full Health needs assessment of men held in prison has been completed.
- ii A 3 person crisis intervention team will be up and running towards the end of the year.
- iii Development of a more structured Mental Health pathway, mental health working group set to explore issues and look at the referral pathway.
- iv 1 full time GP now working at HMP Liverpool but advertised for a further 2 posts.
- v Day care centre to be developed for prisoners/patients with complex needs.
- vi Development and improvement of dental provision.

Inpatient Unit.

Operating at 96% for most part of the year, although several cells have been out of action due to damage by disruptive patients/prisoners.

Primary Care.

The plan to end "lunchtime treatments" is still high on agenda. H Wing and one other will be the only treatment room open at lunchtime.

Primary care staff shift patterns have changed to accommodate different ways of working by the prison since re profile.

GP clinics have moved back to surgeries, prisoners have more access to nurses who can prescribe resulting in some of the prisoners not having to wait and see a GP before receiving medication.

Patient survey carried out (322 prisoners took part). Findings have yet to be evaluated and published.

Outpatients.

Attendance is improving. The targets of 70%+ attendance are been achieved on some days.

Liverpool Community Health Nursing Team based at HMP Liverpool received the Team of the Year Award for 2009/2010. This was a huge achievement and acknowledged all the hard work that the staff have put in to develop services.

b. Separation & Care Unit - 2010

Prisoners held in this unit receive humane and fair treatment. The Governor, a member of the medical team and the Chaplaincy visit daily to speak with prisoners and staff. Prisoners are reviewed after 72 hours and again after 14 days at which IMB members attend. Efforts are made for their reintroduction into the main prison.

Prisoners with mental health issues remain a concern.

Separation, Monitoring and Review Group (SMARG) meetings are held regularly, at which IMB members attend, to enable discussions regarding difficulties of running the unit and management of difficult prisoners at which IMB members attend. Adequate number of radios for the unit is an ongoing concern and has been highlighted in previous reports. Library books are available. A small exercise yard is available for use on a daily basis.

The Board considers this unit to be well run with experienced, dedicated and professional staff. The Governor and his senior staff do try to get transfers (where applicable) of some prisoners to other establishments thus ensuring the welfare of prisoners in this unit.

c. Chaplaincy – 2010

It is sad to report that David White died in April 2010. He had been a valuable member of the Chaplaincy Team since April 1999 and was well respected by both staff and prisoners alike.

In April 2010 Kenneth McCabe joined the team as Full Time Payband 2 Roman Catholic Chaplain.

Regarding staffing: - 2 full time Chaplaincy vacancies remain unfilled. The Governor has commissioned a full review of Chaplaincy staffing and resources with views of 25% reductions in staffing, which is in line with current Government spending cuts. The outcome of this has not been evaluated and published.

The upcoming implementation of the new specifications for Chaplaincy, which is not dissimilar to the current PSO 4550 Religion (This is a prison service order which outlines what Chaplaincy is expected to deliver and with the correct protocol of what it

should use). Some areas are not being covered due to staff shortage but will have to be addressed on completion of the staffing review.

d. Safer Custody & Suicide Prevention - 2010

HMP Liverpool continues to provide and operate a positive Suicide Prevention Policy

During 2010 HMP Liverpool had 3 deaths in custody (2 suicides by hanging – 1 medical complications). None were on ACCT (Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork) documentation. There were 149 reported incidents of self-harm during the year 2010, of which 19 were referred to outside hospitals. 381 ACCTS documents were opened.

The view of The Independent Monitoring Board is that the prison takes this part of its work very seriously and the Management, officers and staff work in a vigilant and professional manner.

e. Race Relations-2010

A total of 146 racist incidents were reported from 1/1/2010 to 31/12/2010. This compares with a total of 117 incidents for the corresponding period in 2009.

The incidents were as follows:

Prisoner on prisoner - 73
Prisoner on staff - 25
Staff on staff - 1
Staff on prisoner - 36
Other – 11

The data has been analysed to look for areas of concern, repeated patterns or racist offenders. Action has been taken against those for whom racist offence has been proven. Additionally, procedures have been put in place by the REAT (Race Equality Action Team) to protect those making a racist complaint, and /or the victim of a racist incident. These procedures are displayed throughout the establishment and are also available via the intranet.

Racist incident report forms (RIRFs) are readily available throughout the prison, and prisoners have free and confidential access to them. They are also available in a variety of languages to cater for those prisoners for whom English is not their first language.

Monthly meetings are held with the Governor and his senior staff together with wing representatives, staff, Chaplaincy, and the IMB.

The Board is confident that racist issues are dealt with in a fair and just manner within HMP Liverpool. The staff involved with these issues are very professional and passionate about the subject.

SECTION 5

a. Foreign Nationals - 2010

The number of foreign nationals has dropped (a number of prisoners being either deported or moved to another establishment - normally HMP Risley which is the hub prison for the NW) from last years average figure of 140-159 to 75. The numbers held varies on a day to day basis. Shown below is an average figure per month.

Month	Average Figure
January	140
February	122
March	117
April	113
May	119
June	116
July	101
August	106
September	85
October	93
November	76
December	75

b. Learning & Skills/Education - 2010

There were healthy increases in learning numbers after some months of decline. ESOL

(English as a Second Language) learners still showing small numbers. Introduction of BIO Hazardous Cleaning Programme to be started in February 2011. Entry level media studies programme planned for March 2011.

Preparation for a virtual campus learning information model planned for February 2011.

Building preparation problems have been slowing down the opening of practical painting and decoration, plumbing, floor laying in workshop 12.

c. Probation -2010

The Probation Department at HMP Liverpool has a staffing level of:

1 Senior Probation Officer
6 Probation Officers
4 Probation Service Officers
1 Bails Officer

As with many departments within the prison Probation find that they are often left short staffed when officers are deployed to other duties to provide cover for staff shortages.

The department works very hard and are constantly looking for ways to include both inside and outside agencies in order to provide an even more comprehensive service to prisoners.

The prison has several "Lifer" prisoners, but is unable to run appropriate programmes in order to progress them through the system.

At present the only programmes running are F.O.R (Focus on Resettlement) and S.D.P. (Short Duration Programme) in conjunction with CARATS (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare Relating to Drugs) department.

Offender Management - 2010

This department has looked closely at ways of improving their systems. Healthcare now attends meetings and MerseyCare have offered support for prisoners with moderate learning difficulties.

The Probation Department has also attempted to resume programmes; previously run by the disbanded Psychology Department in particular P.A.S.R.O. (Prisoners Addressing Substance Related Offending) but at present has only succeeded in revising the F.O.R (Focus on Resettlement) programme.

d. Reception - 2010

Reception continues to process some 50 prisoners per day. The Body Orifice Scanner (BOSS) chair installed during 2009 continues to be successful at detecting concealed metal objects.

Rota visits indicate that, in spite of this being a very busy part of the prison, prisoners are dealt with efficiently both upon reception when being transferred out and discharged.

HMP Liverpool has a maximum capacity of 1436 and during the year housed an average of 1256 prisoners.

e. Drug Strategy -2010

It was disappointing to note that prisoner attendance at IDTS (Integrated Drug Treatment System) groups was low for much of the year but it is hoped that rescheduled timing of the sessions will bring higher attendance this year.

In spite of being short staffed for most of the year, CARATS (Counselling Assessment, Referral Advice and Throughcare relating to drugs) have introduced CARAT representatives i.e. prisoners who offer advice and guidance to others on substance use and drug related services.

We welcome the forthcoming introduction of a programme for those suffering alcohol addiction and look forward to positive results from two changes introduced during the year:-

- i Clearer and firmer adjudication awards for drug misuse inside the prison.
- ii The Short Duration Programme provides an intensive four-week course for those on remand or serving a sentence of up to 12 months; 60 prisoners successfully completed the course in 2010.

SECTION 6

Appendices – The Work of the Board

i. Appendix 1 Applications to the Board

CODE	SUBJECT	2008	2009	2010
A	Medical	30	48	56
B	Property	60	70	84
C	Transfers	70	66	36
D	Visits	38	45	56
E	HDC	63	45	55
F	Parole	10	3	17
G	Prisoners Monies	36	63	75
H	Immigration	34	31	11
I	Release Date	17	44	61
J	Assaults	6	3	25
K	Workshops	16	2	25
L	Categorisation	16	20	45
M	Pin Phones	27	42	52
N	Education	5	3	17
O	Canteen	3	22	18
P	Adjudications	1	-	-
Q	Food	4	6	15
R	Drugs	1	2	2
S	Early Release Scheme	-	-	-
T	Mail	-	36	44
U	Miscellaneous	140	56	57
	TOTAL	577	607	751

Application forms (now following guidelines and using the revised application forms per the National Council/Secretariat) are available to all prisoners on the seven wings of the prison and the Healthcare facility. These are situated on the sides of sealed 'posting facilities' which are distinctly coloured blue and clearly marked IMB. These are opened weekly by IMB members and applications dealt with in a timely manner.

ii. Appendix 2 Analysis of The Board's Work

i.	Board Meetings	12
ii.	Rota Visits	52
iii.	Visits for Applications	52
iv.	IMB National Conference	2 delegates
v.	Training Sessions	4
vi.	National Courses	5 delegates
vii.	Review visits	52