



HMP and YOI PORTLAND

INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR TO
31st MARCH 2013

Section 1

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 Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

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

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

Section 2

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Section 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.1 HMP/YOI Portland was built in 1848 on its eponymous island, as a convict prison. It subsequently became a Borstal in 1921 and a YOI in 1988. In 2012 it started accepting adult prisoners. Its operational capacity is now 530 (up from 504). The current age breakdown is, roughly: 271 aged under 21, 120 aged between 21 and 25 and 109 aged over 25; there are currently 10 prisoners aged over 50. 67% are white British, 32% BME and 1% Irish. The vast majority of prisoners now come from the South West, a significant change from two years ago. There are currently 34 foreign nationals – as against the previous norm of about 86-88, 26 travellers and 31 racist offenders, which is up from 4-5 previously.

3.2 Accommodation consists of seven wings with a free-standing Care and Control Unit. One of the wings is dedicated to Induction of newly arrived prisoners, one exclusively to adults and one to those judged suitable for potential work on the outside. There is now no wing devoted to prisoners who need help with life skills. To cope with the higher roll, there are now 75 double cells, 20 of these are still the single cells converted to doubles that were objected to last year.

3.3 Education including some vocational training is undertaken by a new contractor, Weston College. The prison also operates some workshops directly.

3.4 Charitable organisations working in the prison are:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Cocaine Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Samaritans
- The Horse Course
- The Airborne Initiative
- Shannon Trust
- Shelter Debt Advice
- Footprints Mentoring
- Dorset Dialogue Resettlement support via Dialogue
- Oasis Advocacy Family Links and support Hampshire
- Prince's Trust Mentoring, team programme, post release training
- NACRO Housing
- Peninsula Initiative Mentoring general through gates support
- Through the Gate Through the gate alcohol rehabilitation support
- Amber Project Housing with life skills support
- Vision of Hope Housing project with Therapeutic rehabilitation

- BCHA Housing and support on release
- 2nd Chance Sports related training to employment
- World Wide Volunteering post release supportive activity
- Independent People (Future For Me) Accommodation and multi pathway support

3.5 in the reporting period Healthcare was operated by NHS Dorset Community Healthcare Services.

Section 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

General

4.1.1 Overall, the Board has been impressed by HMP/YOI Portland's resilience in a period of change in the categorization of the prison (introduction of adults), financial stringency and disruption due to major works on the site.

4.1.2 However the Board is very concerned about the impact of the change of categorization, which has meant that nearly half the population are now adults. This has led to an influx of drugs, and other associated illegal objects, with an accompanying rise of substance trading, debt and pressure on susceptible prisoners - making the prison significantly more complicated to run safely.

4.1.3 The Board is also worried by the effect of the high number of prisoners on short term sentences on the good order of the prison and by the lack of progress in the provision of education despite the arrival of a new provider.

4.1.4 The Board has been grateful for the attendance of the Governor or his Deputy for part of every monthly meeting, for the written reports he has provided for us beforehand, and for his constructive frankness in answering questions at the time. The Senior Management Team continues to provide a monthly summary of what the current preoccupations and activities of all the main prison departments are, which has been much appreciated and forms a useful tool.

4.1.5 This Report is compiled within the policy of the Board, which is not to include in the Annual Report any issue or item which has not first appeared in a weekly Rota Report, or periodic Wing or Departmental Report, compiled by an IMB member during the year. The contents of this Annual Report, therefore, are born of Board members' first hand observations during the regular monitoring process which forms our role and responsibility at Portland.

Commendations and Concerns

4.2.1 The Board would particularly like to commend the prison in a number of areas:

- 1) It is our experience that the CCU is well managed, with committed staff and that Adjudications and Reviews are carried out fairly and correctly. (5.7.1)

- 2) We applaud the creation of a new and better Induction regime.(6.2.1)
- 3) All prisoners are assessed for mental and physical health within 24 hours of arrival.(5.3.1)
- 4) The ACCT system appears to be working efficiently at Portland. However, there was a noticeable rise in the numbers self-harming and on ACCT books. (5.6.2.; 5.6.3)
- 5) There have been continuing attempts to improve time spent on purposeful activity, including a number of new initiatives. (5.4.5)
- 6) Time at the gym has increased by a quarter. (5.4.8)
- 7) Resettlement KTPs have been maintained or improved despite the more complicated make-up of the prison, short term prisoners and the reduction in personnel.

4.3.1 However, there are matters of concern:

- 1) The increase in the number of adults has led to a very significant Increase in drugs and related illegal objects coming into the prison, with the attendant highly dangerous potential for bullying, debt and corruption. It has also led to more complicated medical demands and more demand for courses to address alcohol and drug addiction – not all of which can be offered or satisfactorily addressed by current staff numbers, despite the prison’s commendable effort to provide new courses. (5.3.5; 5.3.7)
- 2) The Board is very concerned that there has been a 50% rise in numbers self-harming and a significant rise in ACCT books opened. The Board is therefore, also worried that, in a period of financial stringency, keeping up the number of staff trained to deal with more vulnerable prisoners is at risk of becoming an issue. (5.6.1; 5.6.2; 5.6.3; 5.6.4; 5.6.8)
- 3) There are too many prisoners with serious mental health problems or personality disorders, some of whom end up on 24 hour watch for risk of self-harm. We would question whether this is the right environment for these men and there is a high cost in human, staff and financial terms. (5.6.4)
- 4) The provision of learning and skills training is a long standing and still very active concern at HMP/YOI Portland:
 - A new provider has not yet made inroads into the unsatisfactory number of prisoners behind their doors caused by the cancellation of classes and workshops due to staff absence. (5.2.2)

- It has not improved staff cover for absence. This has a detrimental effect on the prison's provision of time out of cell, of fresh air and exercise and of purposeful activity.
 - Individuals who are not fully literate are not being provided for adequately. (5.2.3)
 - Courses appear inflexible and curtailed. (5.2.5)
- 5) The problem of the non-provision of CSCS qualification for trained prisoners remains live. (5.2.6)
 - 6) Prisoners are still not getting enough fresh air and exercise in 24 hours, especially at weekends, though we welcome ongoing initiatives to improve this in the future. (5.4.5)
 - 7) The Board is concerned about the rise in cell smashing; short sentences and licence recall sentences cause problems on the Wings – the prison can do little remedial work with these prisoners who are bored and aware that, if they are on licence recall sentences, there is no serious punishment that can be imposed and culprits only get concurrent sentences.
 - 8) There are too many short term prisoners.
 - 9) It was regrettable that during the reporting period the prison seemed unable to provide working cameras or to use them to record incidents involving use of force. (5.7.3) (At the time of writing, this appeared to have been addressed.)
 - 10) Attendance at medical and dental appointments remains a problem. (5.3.3)
 - 11) The Board has concerns over the appropriateness of using some single cells for double occupancy. (5.8.2)
 - 12) The change of occupancy of Beaufort Wing is well intentioned, with its conversion to a wing for enhanced and ROTL-enabled prisoners. However the Board is worried about a) the potential for pressure to bring in illegal items and b) what is happening to the more vulnerable and less life-skilled prisoners who used to benefit from a dedicated regime there and are now scattered throughout the rest of the prison. (5.6.7)
 - 13) There was a new and worrying trend of complaints about food and food portions, albeit mainly from one particular area. (5.8.3)

4.3 Policy matters for ministers:

4.3.1 Financial cuts. The Board is concerned that if there are any more financial cuts, the very valuable work done in Resettlement and by staff throughout the prison will be lost. In the reporting year, Portland lost 80 members of staff and several voluntary organisations had their funding cut. The prison really could not sustain its good work if any more funds were removed. We are particularly concerned about the potential detrimental effect on safer custody and rehabilitation.

4.3.2 We urge the minister to reconsider the policy which denies trained prisoners access to CSCS qualification during their sentence.

4.3.3 Short sentences – HMP/YOI Portland gets sent too many men on short and licence recall sentences who do not engage with the prison regime. They are not in prison long enough to join courses or employment which might improve their prospects outside, they are therefore behind their doors and become dissatisfied and disruptive. In the reporting period there was a worrying increase in cell smashing and trouble-making among this cohort. This group has been responsible for a lot of damage and is not benefiting from rehabilitation policies. They know that there is no redress or punishment possible from the prison - beyond the awarding of concurrent days or loss of privilege. They are therefore effectively untouchable, extremely troublesome and very expensive. We urgently ask the minister to look at the policies around short sentences.

4.3.4 Mental Health problems – we receive people who have serious mental health problems and/or personality disorders. These range from attention seeking activities to life threatening self-harming, or the potential for worse. The prison mental health in-reach team, with the support of wing staff, works hard to alleviate these prisoners' problems. The wing staff do so while retaining their designated role as custodial officers. The Board understands that these men and YOs are in prison because they have committed crimes. However it believes many of them should not be in prison. Their care is costly in terms of staff time, financial support (for example being sent to the local hospital with the staff members every time they claim or do in fact swallow foreign bodies; 24 hour watch shifts etc.) and it does little if anything to help them or prevent them re-offending or harming themselves and others.

4.4 Matters for the Prison Service

4.4.1 The Board is far from satisfied that the current policy of mixing YOs and Adult prisoners, which accelerated during the reporting year, is beneficial, especially to YOs. There has been a dramatic increase in drug finds and finds of other illegal substances and objects in the period immediately following the reporting period which the Board regards as an ominous sign. It is the Board's view that these matters of concern should not be blamed on individuals but on the change of categorization; the reduction in staff numbers consequent to financial cuts must also be expected to have an impact. At present, with the exception of Drake wing, YOs and adults share wings. We

would suggest that a clear physical separation of YO's and adults on the site would be an improvement.

4.4.2 Learning and Skills – The new provider started work last August. Since then, there have been fewer prisoners involved in learning and skills or workshops because many courses were cancelled at short notice – meaning that more prisoners remained in their cells for long hours. The undertaking urgently to provide much improved staff cover for sickness has not materialized.

4.4 Previous Years concerns

4.4.1 The Safer Custody team was reduced in size. *By the end of the 2012/13 reporting period, a Safety Custody Officer and a Violence Reduction Officer had been appointed.*

4.4.2 Violence amongst prisoners and against staff increased. *C&R was used on 174 occasions compared with 165 in the previous year.*

4.4.3 The time taken for new arriving prisoners with mental health problems to obtain a full appraisal of their needs became longer. *All prisoners are now assessed for mental and physical health within 24 hours of arrival.*

4.4.4 Many workshops and education hours were not delivered by the education contractors. We highlighted this concern to the Minister. *This has not improved, despite the arrival of a new provider in August 2012.*

4.4.5 The state of the Old Education building remained unfit for purpose. *A replacement is due to open imminently.*

4.4.6 The prison is still being sent too many short stay prisoners. *This has got worse, however there are no statistics enabling a comparison. Some prisoners come from HMP Bristol or other prisons with as little as 3 days left before release back to Bristol. This involves huge quantities of paperwork and adversely affects the resettlement statistics.*

4.4.7 The 20 single cells that have been converted as doubles do not have adequate space. *These have not been improved.*

Section 5

5.1 Equality and Inclusion, Diversity and Race Relations

5.1.1. Monthly meetings, chaired by a governor or senior staff, have taken place to maintain and update the Action Plan. A monthly review of collected statistics shows that compliance is usually within expected parameters, though ethnic diversity compliance within the staffing body is impossible to achieve because of the nature of the area from which the staff are recruited. Attendance numbers are down because of pressure of time and availability of staff and reports from some areas of the prison fail to appear.

5.1.2 Apart from Ramadan and Christmas, special activities and meals for religious festivals are curtailed. The good practice, introduced in a previous year, particularly in the matter of ensuring a hot meal for those Muslims fasting long after the normal serving times, continue.

5.1.4 A significant number of prisoners define themselves as having a disability, but it is not clear how this breaks down; many may be associated with learning difficulties and mental health issues. It is to be hoped that the prison will investigate further to see what implications this is having for diversity and equality.

5.1.5 There are now only a handful of foreign national prisoners awaiting deportation. Their interests are decently looked after by the Foreign National Officer. The Board, in company with other IMBs, feels that the process of removing prisoners from the UK should start much earlier, possibly immediately after sentence, to eliminate the holding of prisoners in prisons – and the consequent blocking of bed spaces needed for prisoners within sentence.

5.2 Education, Learning and Skills

5.2.1. The main provider changed during the course of the past year, with the new contract coming on stream in September 2012. The new provider is Weston College. Weston College now provide most of the courses, with a couple being under the prison's own auspices, one provided by Tribal and one by a charity. There are approximately 25 courses leading to qualifications listed by Education.

5.2.2 Despite contractual undertakings by the provider, there are still serious concerns, recorded repeatedly in rota reports, that there is a failure to provide staff cover for absence, leading to the cancellation of courses - in both education and skills training - and therefore, leaving too many prisoners behind their doors.

Out of a potential approximately 30 rota reports produced since September 2012, 14 mention concerns about unacceptable numbers of prisoners behind doors on at least one day of their rota duty because of cancelled classes - usually 3,4 or 5 classes would be cancelled at any one time. Wing reports usually only report snapshot figures but they show a similar pattern.

5.2.3 There is also concern within the IMB that the changes to the literacy course provision under OLASS 4 is inflexible and does not give enough time to prisoners with reading difficulties - especially as it has been mentioned (e.g. with regard to Kitchens) that this disadvantages prisoners when they come to take their qualifications. The course is 3 weeks long, and there is no option to repeat it as there was under OLASS 3. Weston say that the new course has to be in line with delivery in education departments whatever the establishment, and is more focused (attendance at every session is crucial) than the old arrangement and produces better results over the same timescale.

5.2.4 Additional help with literacy is provided by peer mentors and the Shannon Trust (once known as Toe by Toe). However there is a high turnover of peer mentors due to prisoners leaving, and the success of the scheme is dependent on how much engagement there is with it by wing staff. This varies from wing to wing so provision seems patchy. The presence of a Toe by Toe mentor/orderly on the induction wing is very welcome.

5.2.5 Many other courses provided under OLASS 4 seem to be short (again contributing to more prisoners being behind doors, when their course is finished) and inflexible, with prisoners unable to miss classes in order for example to attend health appointments or prevention of reoffending activities, for fear of missing out on their qualification. Some prisoners find that their probation officer/sentence plan recommends that they do a particular course (e.g. "Healthy Relationships") or indeed that the completion of the course is a condition of their consideration for parole, and then find that the course is not available at Portland. They then have the frustration of waiting for a transfer before they can fulfil this requirement.

5.2.6 Another grave concern for the IMB is the government's current policy of refusing to provide funding for acquiring CSCS cards. These cards are a necessity for employment on release in most of the areas in which the prisoners are trained to gain qualifications. This is a significant obstacle for a section of the population which is less likely than some to be considered for employment, but for whom employment is a vital part of rehabilitation. We urge the government to revisit this policy.

5.3 Healthcare & Mental Health

5.3.1 All prisoners are assessed within 24 hours of reception. The health staff screen for mental health problems and all are physically assessed. Discussion takes place about current conditions and medication. If prisoners arrive on a Friday occasionally there have been difficulties in providing correct prescriptions over the weekend, as there is no in house pharmacy.

5.3.2 Health Care, particularly the Mental Health practitioners, are involved in assisting habitually self-harming prisoners to cope in the long term with their needs. Wing staff receive advice in the managing of this area of care but there has been an increase in the numbers and severity of incidents requiring treatment at an outside hospital. This is stressful and demanding on overstretched wing staff.

5.3.3 There have been problems throughout the reporting year with attendance at medical and dental appointments, despite the prison providing movements officers. There are several reasons for this, poor communication with the wings, prisoners refusing to attend having requested an appointment, preferring gym, and lately the largest problem has been the prison failing to agree the roll. From August 2012 to January 2013, 2265 appointments were lost, and the situation has got worse since then. The most expensive of these were 607 dental appointments at a cost of £18,076.

5.3.4 Behaviour in the holding cells is a perennial problem, with prisoners complaining about the amount of time they have to wait in them, which can be over 2 hours. Some of those with mental health issues say that they feel vulnerable, while the more vociferous show their frustration with graffiti or violence. In January there was no heating due to prisoners damaging the radiators.

5.3.5 The introduction of over 200 adults with more complicated medical requirements has increased the workload for staff, and produced a rise in the illegal trading of prescription drugs. The level of drugs within the prison has also increased. The Mandatory Drug Tests (MDT's) when Portland only had Young Offenders was always under 1% but it has now risen to 3%. There has also been an increase in those receiving methadone or alternative prescriptions (IDTS) from a maximum of 12 last year to a high of 27 in the current one.

5.3.6 The prison has provided more interventions to deal with the challenging population, which is to be commended. 4 Alcohol Related Violence (ARV) courses with 10 participants in each took place, with 33 prisoners completing the programme. There were also 7 Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) courses of 10, with 55 completing. However, the current waiting list for this course is 58.

5.3.7 The caseload for the CARAT's (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice, Throughcare) team has also increased with an average of one third of the new admissions wishing to engage with them. With the introduction of adults there has been an increase in those wanting help with alcohol and opiate use. Another result has been an increase in the illicit use of steroids and subutex.

5.4 Purposeful Activity (including work)

5.4.1 Provision of vocational training changed during the year when Weston College took over the contract from Strode College after a number of years. Regrettably, the following extract from our Annual Report last year has not been borne out: “Externally, the news broke that our main Provider in future will no longer be Strode College, aspects of whose role here have been regularly criticised by the IMB, but Weston College, based in Somerset. The changeover has not yet taken place, but it is to be hoped that lessons from the past will have been learned in the renegotiated contract, and that, in particular, staffing attendances will improve as a result of replacing more quickly those who leave, and providing cover for those on leave for any reason, whether planned or unforeseen.”

5.4.2 Tutor attendance (by mostly the same people as before) continues to be poor under the new regime, with the lack of cover for planned absences (retirements, leave, etc.) particularly regrettable. If it is true that the contract provides for a 96% staff attendance rate – which we admit is probably a slightly unrealistic target - then the shortfall can only be described as dire. This really should be seriously addressed between the Prison Service and the new providers for the future.

5.4.3 So it is a familiar experience for IMB Members to find that workshops are closed temporarily or on a longer term basis on our visits to the prison.

5.4.4 Of the six qualifying building skills, all are potentially on offer at Portland: bricklaying, carpentry, decorating, hard landscaping, multi-skills and forklift driving. Courses essential for Job Ready on Release are forklift driving, street works, the railtrack course we have commended often before, and CSCS. Only the railtrack course is operating here at present, and the lack of the others is to the detriment of the prisoners. Most serious is the failure somewhere in the system to ensure that the CSCS qualifications are obtainable by those who qualify. Our Chairman has written to the Minister making representations about this, which we hope will bear fruit.

5.4.5 There have been further improvements in the sports and gym departments, including:

- During the year the delivery of the work of Gym staff and the education provider has been blended to increase participation by a quarter;
- Links have been made to the RFU to support a Rugby Academy and the Football academy is now delivering Level 1 qualification in sports fitness, alongside softer skills of peer support and running small groups;
- Ten YOs on ROTL participated in a local 7s tournament;
- Dulverton Trust has continued to fund training for groups of young offenders at the UK sailing Academy based in Cowes. Over the year 28 young men took part and were awarded Level 1 dingy and kayak qualification.

As a result 2 prisoners have been earmarked to do an instructors' training course on release;

- The use of the HUB area for exercise has increased. There has been a focus on promoting team sports and a move away from weight lifting.

5.4.6 The Airborne Initiative has continued to develop well. A good relationship has been built between Dorset Probation and the prison, with referrals increasing. The Amber project from Exeter has also become involved resulting in the latest course helping 17 young men to develop their skills on Dartmoor. Work is progressing towards those who excel on the course securing employment on Duchy of Cornwall land.

5.4.7 Over all we feel there were more positive than negative changes in the provision of purposeful activity outside the main basic curriculum.

5.5 Resettlement

5.5.1 The introduction of adults to the prison has significantly complicated the work of Resettlement, which has had a consistently good record over the past few years. Despite the difficulties, the unit maintained a high level of commitment and provision and its KPTs were achieved or exceeded.

- 30% went into employment (target 28%);
- 95% went into sustainable housing (target 90%).

5.5.2 Dad's Days are offered monthly and are well attended. This is again becoming an increasingly difficult achievement due to the number of short term prisoners who are fathers, up to 27%, as against 20% last year.

5.5.3 One general complaint from the 2012 Prisoner Survey is a feeling that the OMU is not responsive to prisoners needs. The Board will monitor this as the work of Offender Managers is so important to resettlement.

5.5.5 One wing, Beaufort, is now predominantly dedicated to Enhanced prisoners available for ROTL. This in itself is to be applauded, and is, according to the prison, an example of where older men and young offenders can mix in a satisfactory way. However, there are two issues at least which mitigate this. Firstly, with the increase of drugs coming into the prison (and consequent bullying and debt), the potential for pressure on ROTL prisoners is significant and great vigilance is needed to prevent the 'wrong' sort of prisoners managing to access this wing.

5.6 Safer Custody

5.6.1 The prison management appears to the Board to be conscious of the need to provide a safe environment. In this context, it is interesting to note that when the prison carried out a prisoner satisfaction survey in late 2012, 89% of those who responded (45% of the total population.) said they felt safe. However, that does leave about half who didn't comment. Also, the 50% increase in self-harm at Portland last year is of great concern.

5.6.2 Two hundred and fifty ACCT books were opened in the reporting year, an increase of forty five on the previous year.

5.6.3 One hundred and forty three prisoners self-harmed in this period, as opposed to ninety seven the year before.

5.6.4 The Board was pleased to see the appointment of a Violence Reduction Officer and Safer Custody Officer at the end of the period, following a number of months without these officers in place.

5.6.5 It remains to be seen whether the abolition of the 'Bully books' and the introduction of a more informal system will have a good or bad effect on safety.

5.6.6 All prisoners whether on an open ACCT book or not, are assessed on reception into the prison, as is their cell-share risk assessment. Reviews are regular and timely and SC officers monitor the quality of the conversations with at-risk prisoners. Almost all staff are now trained in the use of ACCT books and procedure, though the time has come for the training to be refreshed. If a prisoner on an open ACCT book is particularly troubled and needing constant watch, a gated cell in the First Night centre is used. Staff can observe and engage with the prisoner, who can also interact with others if he wishes.

5.6.7 The Board is concerned that the change of use of Beaufort wing and the dispersal of more vulnerable prisoners throughout the prison may have a detrimental effect on the mental health and safety of those who used to benefit from the particular regime designed to help them.

5.6.8 Safer Custody work is overseen by a quarterly team meeting. According to the statistics and Action Plan, reviewed at each meeting, the prison is meeting requirements but the feeling amongst specialist staff is that this is some of the most vital work undertaken here and that there can be no complacency. A point has been reached where the training which staff undertook some years ago is out of date and needs refreshing. Some trained staff cannot be used to assess and review prisoners at risk because of operational duties so that an ever decreasing pool of trained people is called on more frequently.

5.6.9 During the period the number of Listeners was reduced because of turnover, release of trained prisoners and a dearth of trained prisoners to replace them; the lack of service was keenly felt, especially by night staff. The Listeners are also increasingly being sought out informally during association and on freeflow for their help. Their contribution, often unknown and unsung because undocumented, is vital to keeping this prison a safe and unthreatening place.

5.7 Segregation, Care and Separation, Close Supervision Unit

5.7.1 It is the Board's experience that at Portland this important unit – known locally as the CCU – is well managed, with prisoners treated fairly and a dedicated, interested group of officers working there. The Board has been kept informed of arrivals. Adjudications and Reviews were carried out with care and it is a positive development that where two prisoners are involved in a fight, serious attempts are made to use restorative justice techniques. Frequently this brings the two alleged fighters together in the same room to discuss what happened. All this the Board feels is to be commended.

5.7.2 In the reporting period, there was, however, an increase in the number of 'difficult' long-stay prisoners in the unit, which the Board think may in part be aimed at removing trouble-makers. We will continue to monitor this.

5.7.3 There was an on-going problem with non-working cameras in the CCU (and in Visits and during incidents more generally) which we have regularly raised. This had potentially serious implications for accurate reporting on incidents involving use of force, so it is to be hoped that the recent (post the reporting year) use of the camera will become habitual.

5.8 Residential Services

5.8.1 The large majority of prisoners were on the Standard level of the IEP scheme and the majority live in single occupancy cells. A survey of prisoners in December 2012 (completed by 45%) showed a fair level of satisfaction, including with Association provision and time for using the phone, but with complaints around access to fresh air and exercise – which the prison has undertaken to address.

5.8.2 There are now 75 double cells, of which 20 are converted single cells. These last the Board considers do not provide a proper standard of privacy or comfort. Apart from the sanitary issues, it is impossible properly to see the TV from either of the bunks. Some prisoners do like to share, but the conditions should be adequate for two in reasonable comfort.

5.8.3 During the year satisfaction with the food has declined from a high point. The kitchens must provide food on a budget of £1.97 per prisoner per day which is proving increasingly difficult, despite the very real efforts of the kitchen manager including his involvement in a large vegetable garden which is commendable. Prisoners, especially on the exclusively adult wing, were claiming they are hungry and saying so. The decline in the number of foreign national and Muslim prisoners does mean the expense of special meals has fallen a little. The introduction of a full working day, expected in autumn 2013, with an accompanying hot evening meal may address some of the problems.

5.8.4 The state of the accommodation is generally gradually improving across the Establishment. Although there are still some bad corners, particularly dirty showers in some places. However the fact that the disgraceful Old Education building has still not been replaced is quite shocking and there was concern about the physical conditions in the Healthcare unit, including over its cleanliness!

Section 6

6.1 Visits

6.1.1 The building where prisoners' families and friends wait for Visits is sub-standard and shabby. The Board continues to be concerned about its location on a dangerous corner. There needs to be a very clear 'Slow' sign or similar.

6.2 Reception and Induction

6.2.1 During the reporting period, there was a change of induction procedure, with all new arrivals now spending two or three days in intensive induction on one wing instead of two weeks. There is an open door policy and prisoners mix easily all day. This appears to be working well, with prisoners reporting they like this system. Wing staff are committed to it. One important off-shoot of this process is that prisoner orderlies on the wing are able to help spot those with particular problems, for example literacy problems. There is one less fortunate effect, ie that some prisoners go from this regime to a double cell regime, with someone they have never met, which is not ideal.

Elisabeth Sacher (on behalf of the Board)
Chair IMB Portland

6th July 2013

Section 7

7.1 Board Statistics

Recommended Complement of Board Members	17 (max)
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	13
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	14
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	2
Number of members leaving within reporting period	1
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishment	347 (excl. Bd mtgs)
Total number of segregation reviews held	<i>The prison does not keep this statistic.</i>
Total number of segregation reviews attended	*
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	09.01.13

* Segregation reviews were attended as often as possible – especially when held at pre-arranged times. However, with (usually) only a small number of inmates in the CCU, reviews were often carried out at short notice at times better suited to Governors, CCU staff, Healthcare, etc., so there was not always an IMB presence in those cases. It would be unreasonable for us to criticise the prison's understandable practice in this regard.

7.2 Application Statistics

Code	Subject	2013	Year	Year	Year
A	Accommodation	1			
B	Adjudications	5			
C	Equality & Diversity (inc religion)	0			
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	36			
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	5			
E 2	Finance/pay	2			
F	Food/kitchen related	1			
G	Health related	9			
H 1	Property (within current establishment)	10			
H 2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	12			
H 3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	1			
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc)	14			
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	19			
K	Transfers	28			
L	Miscellaneous	37			
	Total number of IMB applications	180			
	Of total: Confidential Access	25			

GLOSSARY OF PRISON-RELATED ABBREVIATIONS USED

ACCT	Assessment, Care and Control, Teamwork
ARV	Alcohol Related Violence
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CARA TS	Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice & Throughcare Services relating to drugs
CCU	Care and Control Unit
CSCS	Construction Skills Certificate Scheme
HMP	Her Majesty's Prison
IDTS	Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy in prisons
IEP	Incentives and Earned Privileges – Prisoners can be on Basic, Standard or Enhanced
IMB	Independent Monitoring Board
IRC	Immigration Removal Centre
MDT	Mandatory Drugs Testing
OLAS S	Offender Learning and Skills Service
OMU	Offender Management Unit
ROTL	Release On Temporary Licence
SC	Safer Custody
SCG	Safer Custody Group
TSP	Thinking Skills Programme
YOI	Young Offender Institution