



**HMP and YOI PORTLAND**  
INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
FOR THE YEAR TO  
31ST MARCH 2014

## SECTION 1

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### **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 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.

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

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.1 From 1921 to 1983 the institution at Portland was a Borstal. It was then a youth custody centre and became a Young Offender Institution in 1989. In April 2011, both Adults and Young Offenders were accepted at the establishment, based on the following criteria:

- Young Offenders: with sentences under 10 years. This excludes Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (ISPP) prisoners. ISPP prisoners may be accepted through prior arrangement with the Offender Management Unit (OMU).
- Adults: category C prisoners with sentences no longer than 8 years and not less than 6 months, who are local to the South West Region. Again, adult prisoners who are subject to ISPP will only be accepted through prior arrangement with the OMU.

While Portland YOI is for Category C prisoners, it is run with many attributes of a Category B institution, in terms of manning, security levels and capability.

Portland YOI's operational capacity or maximum total accommodation is 580 prisoners. Certified normal accommodation (the number of prisoners possible if all cells were single) is 463. 135 cells are either doubles or 'doubled up' (available for two prisoners, whether the cell had previously been for single occupancy or not). At the time of writing: 47 double cells on Beaufort Wing, 43 double cells on Raleigh Wing, 39 cells on Benbow Wing and 6 double cells on Drake Wing.

As of latest census, conducted monthly, Portland had 576 prisoners:

- 306 prisoners (54%) between 18-24
- 98 prisoners (17%) between 25-30
- 99 prisoners (17%) between 31-40
- 47 prisoners (8%) between 41-50
- 14 prisoners (3%) between 51-60
- And three prisoners (1%) between the ages of 61-71, (61,62,67,71)

6% of the population were Foreign Nationals, 2 prisoners were on an IS91 (Immigration Warrant). Only two prisoners have informed the relevant department regarding their sexual orientation. Posters are displayed on all notice boards and prisoners are asked to declare on induction.

9% of the prison population describe themselves as racists.

There are 22 prisoners registered as GRT

There are 256 prisoners (45%) registered as having a disability

In terms of ethnicity, there are 69% White and 31% BME.

3.2 Accommodation consists of seven wings with a free-standing Care and Control Unit. Collingwood wing is dedicated to Induction of newly arrived prisoners, one wing is exclusive to adults and one wing for those judged suitable for potential work outside.

3.3 Education 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 Parelli Horse Course - an equine-assisted behaviour programme delivered in prisons and other settings in the UK
- The Airborne Initiative – a mentoring course on Dartmoor to develop team building skills and address challenging behaviour.
- Toe-by-Toe (Shannon Trust) –a peer mentoring programme which encourages and supports prisoners who can read to give one-to-one tuition to prisoners who struggle to read.
- 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

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1.1 The Board greatly regrets the Death in Custody which occurred at Portland and regards the Ombudsman's report as containing some worrying comments about how well officers are trained to manage and monitor those who are habitual self-harmers. It also notes from the Ombudsman's report comments on the dangers of boredom among under-occupied inmates with mental health problems.

4.1.2 The Board finds is deeply concerned that so large a proportion of prisoners typically remain behind their door virtually all day, without meaningful activities provided for them or without them being reliably allocated activities or education. [5.2.1/2/3. 5.5.5. 5.4.1.] The Board also notes with concern that the prison, with a capacity of 580, is now running on a day team of 55 officers.

4.1.3 Overall, the Board has again been impressed by HMP/YOI Portland's resilience in a period of rapid and significant changes. These include the continuation of the changeover to becoming a local and resettlement prison, the introduction of adults, the change to New Ways of Working and the Core Day as well as financial stringency and a period of disruption due to major works on the site. The prison also lost a well-respected and dynamic Governor at a crucial moment, while other senior managers were often 'lent out' to other prisons in the region. The ability of the senior management team, and in particular the Acting Governor, to maintain overall stability and the cooperation of officers and other staff was praiseworthy.

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 an invaluable monthly summary of the current preoccupations and activities of all the main prison departments. This is a much appreciated and very useful tool.

4.1.5 It is to be commended that Portland has become a Resettlement prison. However, paradoxically, Portland is not the resettlement prison for Dorset but for Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire; prisoners from Dorset will be going to Channings Wood, Exeter and Winchester. This appears to be illogical from a practical point of view as well as counter-productive as far as the Government's stated policies about the primacy of rehabilitation are concerned.

4.1.6 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. These are compiled by IMB members during the course of 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, rather than from information provided for us from elsewhere.

#### **4.2.1 The Board commends the prison in a number of areas:**

1. We find the CCU to be well managed by committed staff and that Adjudications and Reviews are overwhelmingly carried out fairly and correctly. [See 5.7.1.]
2. We applaud the creation of a new and better Induction regime and congratulate the staff of Collingwood Wing, who run an efficient and humane system. [5.8.9.]
3. We also commend the Reception staff who cope calmly with increased numbers in a shorter day. [5.8.8.]
4. We welcome the increased use of the Hub exercise area. [5.8.5.]
5. We welcome the appointment of an Allocations clerk to improve management of the provision of activities and education. [5.2.4.]
6. Resettlement KTPs have been maintained or improved despite the more complicated make-up of the prison. [5.5.1.]
7. The Board notes that cell smashing has declined following the introduction of financial penalties. [4.4.1.]
8. The prison has provided more drug and alcohol interventions. [5.3.8]

#### **4.2.2 However, there are a number of serious concerns:**

1. The Board remains worried about the impact of the change of categorization, which has meant that more than half the population are now adults, many of them sophisticated criminals mixing with young offenders. This has led to:

- an influx of drugs, tradable 'legal' substances and other associated illegal objects; [See 4.4.1/4.4.11.]
- The trading of these substances inside the prison which leads to debt and pressure on susceptible prisoners; [4.4.11/5.6.3.]
- a direct and detrimental effect on ROTL at Portland which is now at a minimal level, as ROTL prisoners became a conduit for smuggling illegal objects; [4.4.11/5.8.7.]
- an increased number of complaints about missing property when prisoners arrive from other local prisons, when Reception is also dealing with higher numbers and a shorter working day; [5.8.7/5.8.8.]
- an increase in complaints from adults that they are being discriminated against by being on a mixed wing, and having to conform to a YO regime. [5.8.2]

2. The Board continues to be very concerned by the number of prisoners with serious mental health problems.

3. There remains a worryingly high number of self-harmers and new ACCT books (238 during the year). Although the prison is compliant with its required training, we question whether enough members of staff have sufficient training to deal with this problem. [5.6.5/5.6.6/5.6.7.]

4. The Board is still concerned that too many prisoners with severe mental health problems are kept in the CCU, and that others are there for their own protection or because they are believed by Security to be adversely influencing others on the wing. [5.7.2.]

5. The Board is dismayed that the provision of learning and skills training has not improved at Portland during the reporting period. The provider appears unable to recruit

or retain an adequate number of staff. [5.2.3.] Cohort learning (a key element of this contract) is fraught with difficulties in a prison with a large number of short-term prisoners because when learners drop off a course their place cannot be filled [5.2.5.]. Difficulties with allocating prisoners to courses and the cancellations of sessions has meant that up to half of the men and YO's at Portland are regularly in their cells almost all day. [4.2.6./5.2.4.]

6. The IMB has long criticised the failure of the system to reward those who have completed courses and obtained qualifications by means of providing them with certificates to prove it. It has therefore been a major disappointment that on two separate occasions in the year, large quantities of these undistributed certificates have been discovered within the prison, sometimes too late to be given to prisoners who have already been released or transferred. We still await the promised explanation following the previous Governor's investigation as to how this has occurred. It is still not clear that certificates are being distributed reliably. [5.2.5.]

7. The Board notes that the OMU is significantly behind in the vital task of completing OASys forms and the Board receives regular complaints about Offender Managers being unavailable to their clients [5.5.2/3.]

8. We still regard many of the double cells as problematic on decency grounds, especially on Raleigh and Benbow wings. [5.8.1.]

9. Provision of fresh air and mild exercise has been improved by the use of the Hub, but prisoners are still not getting enough fresh air and exercise, especially at weekends. 5.8.5. We regret the cessation of the very successful Sports Academies due to a stalemate in negotiations over who should supervise prisoners [5.4.7.]

10. The problem of the non-provision of CSCS qualification for trained prisoners remains live. [5.2.6.]

11. The paucity of working cameras for use in and around the prison remains an absurd restriction on evidence gathering for proper recording of incidents. [5.3.4.]

#### **4.3. Policy matters for ministers:**

1. The Board would question whether the prison could continue to function humanely and efficiently at even the most basic level, if there are further financial cuts.

2. Do Ministers accept the paradox whereby Dorset resettlement prisoners are allocated to Channings Wood, Exeter and Winchester instead of to Portland and will they instruct the prison service to address the matter? [4.1.4.]

3. Will the Minister reconsider the government's policy on CSCS cards? [5.5.6]

4. Will the Minister urgently discuss with his opposite number in charge of the National Health Service the deplorable number of prisoners being sent to Portland with serious mental health issues, and in particular the inappropriateness of sending or retaining sectioned prisoners to the CCU for periods of time? [5.7.2]

## 4.4 Matters for the Prison Service

1. Will the prison service reconsider the policy of mixing YO's with adult prisoners, which has not proved itself at Portland and in particular has led to:

- A decline in numbers on ROTL [5.8.7/ 5.5.5/ 5.1.4.]
- The presence of sophisticated and dangerous professional criminals on mixed Wings, with YO's, which creates discontent [5.6.3/ 5.6.4./5.8.2.]
- More drugs and other dangerous substances, trading and bullying [5.6.3/ 5.8.7.]?

2. How will the prison service ensure that sufficient teaching staff are recruited and the provision of education is improved? How can the prison reduce the number of YO's left behind their doors and on the wings all day, with nothing to do and with their educational needs not attended to? How can the use of cohort learning be reconciled with the need to maximise the number of prisoners engaged in appropriate education? How can the number of cancellations be reduced? What can be done to clarify the respective responsibilities and improve collaboration between the education provider and the prison service? [Section 5.2.]

3. How will the prison ensure education certificates are delivered? [5.2.4.]

4. Will the prison service reconsider the counter-productive policy of Dorset prisoners being sent to Exeter, Channings Wood and Winchester, while Avon and Somerset, Wilts and Gloucestershire prisoners are coming to Portland for resettlement? [4.1.4.]

5. How will the prison service ensure that Toe By Toe runs regularly at Portland? [5.2.7.]

6. How will the prison service improve the performance of the OMU which – particularly after the unexpected spike in the roll of 91 extra prisoners in mid year - has deteriorated during the year? [5.5.2/ 5.5.3./ 5.5.5.] Is the OMU understaffed?

## 4.5 Previous Year's concerns

4.5.1 *Effects of the increase in numbers of adults:* The Board has not seen any decrease in matters of concern raised as a result of this – including continued inappropriate conditions of doubling up on Raleigh and Benbow, decline in ROTL, prevalence of tradable substances on Wings, leading to bullying and debt.

4.5.2 *Too high numbers of Self-harming and ACCT books:* This continues to be a preoccupation – with 238 ACCT books opened in this year.

4.5.3 *Prisoners with serious mental health problems who should not be in a prison:* This continued to an alarming degree. At one time there were two sectioned prisoners in the secure unit for a number of days and in one case several weeks. This problem is not confined to Portland and needs a solution at national level.

4.5.4 *Inadequate and patchy provision of learning and skills:* The performance of the provider has not improved and the number of inmates in cell for most of the day is unacceptable; there are not enough appropriate courses and there are not enough

teaching staff to cover. We welcome the provision of an allocations clerk by the prison. The new education wing is a huge improvement.

4.5.5 *CSCS cards*: It is regrettable that this quite small but non-trivial bar to ex-offenders with qualifications getting jobs has not been addressed.

4.5.6 *Cell smashing*: The Board welcomes the introduction of fines for this which appears to have made some impact.

4.5.7 *Short term prisoners*: Still an issue, with its attendant problems of not being able to address offending behaviour.

4.5.8 *Camera numbers, positioning and efficacy*: still a concern. The Board welcomes the prison's request for more cameras on Security as well as Safer Custody grounds.

4.5.9 *Attendance at Healthcare*: This appears to have improved a little, although 20% of appointments are still missed.

4.5.10 *Use of Beaufort as ROTL wing*: The Board is disappointed that this has not worked. The Wing appears to be too big for this purpose and ROTL prisoners frequently come under sustained pressure to smuggle banned substances and objects.

4.5.11 *Lack of Toe by Toe programme*: An ongoing problem still. The Board is baffled that the prison does not encourage this more.

4.5.12 *Fresh Air and Exercise*: Provision of fresh air and mild exercise has improved with the increasing use of the Hub, in particular for prisoners not on Activities.

## SECTION 5

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### **5.1 Diversity, Race, Equality**

5.1.1 Oversight of this work is done by the DREAT team and, in the Board's view, effectively

5.1.2 Statistics are always available and are used. The work of the team and of the managing officer is recognized throughout the prison. The Board regards the current Diversity Officer and administrative assistant as dedicated, efficient and pro-active.

5.1.3 There is a well-understood and transparent complaints procedure for prisoners. It is welcomed that complaints from BME prisoners about racial matters have reduced considerably in number during the reporting year.

5.1.4 However, there have been complaints that BME prisoners seem less likely to be given ROTL than white British prisoners. The Board found that a smaller percentage of BME prisoners apply for ROTL. Reasons given included lack of awareness, which needs to be addressed

5.1.5 Complaints from older prisoners have increased, but are mainly seen as residential or regime matters, unless related to health or disability issues.

5.1.6 Those prisoners who are prescribed particular activities to alleviate symptoms or as part of treatment, for example physiotherapy or physical exercise, can have a hard time accessing what has been prescribed.

5.1.7 The complaints procedure is paper based and for some prisoners with reading difficulties the process depends on getting to meet the Diversity Manager.

5.1.8 The uniformed staff profile is not diverse, being predominantly white British (which reflects the local population), and majority male.

5.1.9 As prisoners arrive in Induction they are invited to identify themselves in terms of nationality, ethnicity, sexuality, disability and if they describe themselves as racist or as vulnerable for any reason. The number of self-declared racists has risen during the reporting period from 5% to 9% and strategies have been discussed to manage and challenge these prisoners.

5.1.10 During the reporting period there has been a slight increase in the tiny number of prisoners prepared to describe themselves as gay.

5.1.11 The many prisoners who suffer from mental health conditions are subjected to high levels of discrimination because, despite the best efforts of local health and mental health staff and Prison staff, and because care provision and specialist accommodation is severely lacking nationally. The Service is institutionally negligent of these prisoners and inflicts suffering on the individual and high levels of stress upon those who have to manage them or live alongside them.

## **5.2 Education, Learning and Skills**

5.2.1 Data collected by the prison's Allocations Department suggests that typically:

- purposeful activities are scheduled for about 60% of prisoners;
- about 50% of prisoners are allocated to these activities;
- about 40% of prisoners actually attend these activities, the most common reasons for non-attendance falling under the responsibility of the prison or its sub-contractors, such as the cancellation of courses.

5.2.2 In March, the number of sessions offered by Weston was cut by about 30%, partly as a result of a decision to provide every instructor with one session per week non-contact time, and partly as a result of an overspend in the prison's education budget in the first half of the academic year.

5.2.3 Weston College, which is responsible for OLASS provision, continues to struggle to provide an adequate number of qualified teaching staff. Popular courses have not been run due to a lack of suitable instructors, while five of the instructors on Weston's books are absent on long-term sickness. Provision of cover remains patchy.

5.2.4 The Board welcomes the appointment of an Allocations clerk, though the appropriate allocation of prisoners to courses remains a challenge, partly because of the incomplete information available to the department.

5.2.5 Weston has made progress in achieving internal verification status with some of its awarding bodies, which should enable faster delivery of certificates. Nevertheless, the system for delivering certificates to prisoners remained unreliable throughout the reporting period.

5.2.6 Under Weston College, there has been an emphasis on “cohort learning”, by which a group of students together studies a complete course from start to finish. Although teachers believe this approach provides a better chance of educational success in the prison context, it can also result in greater numbers of unfilled places as prisoners who drop off a course cannot be replaced.

5.2.7 Anecdotal evidence from prisoners suggests scepticism about the quality of teaching and rigour of many assessments.

5.2.8 “Toe by Toe” the peer mentoring programme for basic literacy, and support for the distance learning supported by the Prisoner Educational Trust, is regrettably left to the initiative and enthusiasm of individual members of staff, which is too variable and inconsistent for continuity.

### **5.3 Healthcare & Mental Health**

5.3.1 Increased numbers of adult prisoners puts pressure on healthcare. Adults with social care requirements are not accounted for. Some need help with showering and domestic tasks, but there is no provision. Who is meant to help these prisoners?

5.3.2 A full reception screen takes place within 24 hours of arrival, and those highlighted with mental health problems will see a member of the mental health team and be assessed on a needs basis. Medication has to be requested by the doctor and there may be a delay in it being processed as the pharmacy is in Yeovil, 35 miles away.

5.3.3 There have been problems with attendance for appointments (20.7% did not attend appointments in March), despite the prison providing movements officers. Prisoner success rate in attending is in direct proportion to the quality of the movement’s staff on the day. Since the implementation of New Ways of Working, things have improved - since those with activities get to be seen before going to work. This has improved free flow but has caused problems with dispensary medication to other prisoners. There are so many left on the wings who need treatment that it can finish as late as 11am. This impacts on the clinics, as the holding cells are limited to 24.

5.3.4 There have been assaults in the holding cells which have not been recorded because there is no CCTV camera in there. As the prisoners are unsupervised while waiting for and after appointments, we suggest that cameras are installed to prevent further problems.

5.3.5 The dentistry had to be suspended for one month in April 2013 due to a rodent infestation in the consulting room.

5.3.6 Elderly patients have complained that Portland’s provision compares unfavourably with other prisons. They are not being issued with adequate clothing when expected to go out in cold weather, and are only provided with a thin plastic coat.

5.3.7 The Board is concerned about the length of time it takes from a prisoner being sectioned to that prisoner being found suitable accommodation in a medical unit. In one case, a disturbed prisoner who had been in the segregation unit since the end of October was sectioned on 23rd December but not shipped out until the middle of February. The length of time he spent in solitary confinement was detrimental to his welfare; he regularly self-harmed and smashed up his cell.

5.3.8 The prison has provided more interventions to deal with the challenging population. There were 4 Alcohol Related Violence (ARV) courses of 10 participants with 36 completing, and 8 Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) courses of 10 with 74 completing, which is an improved completion rate for both.

## **5.4 Purposeful Activities, including work.**

5.4.1 One difficulty in “reporting by exception” lies in deciding what is an exception and what is the rule. In this regard, it is tempting to say that the unsatisfactory number of workshops closed or suspended during the year remains, very regrettably, the rule not the exception at Portland. Non-attendance by (or non-availability of) instructors for various reasons remains the principal cause.

5.4.2 Only two of the highly successful Railtrack courses took place in the reporting year, but it is good to record that another was due to start almost immediately afterwards. This venture, which provides the opportunity for secure employment on release and therefore has a significant effect on reducing re-offending, is cost-effective and should be encouraged at every level of the prison system.

5.4.3 Two long-standing enterprises ceased during the year. The Re-cycling Workshop discontinued its cloth-cutting business (reducing used clothing into rags for use mainly in the garage trade), and the Laundry suspended operations following the closure of HMP Dorchester and the hiatus over the future of HMP The Verne.

5.4.4 Another regrettable closure was the employment of some of Portland’s ROTL prisoners in helping to staff and manage the “Jailhouse Café” at HMP The Verne. Coercion to smuggle from other prisoners proved impossible to resist in some cases, and the café closed (temporarily it is hoped) on security grounds.

5.4.5 The proposed enterprise making “shepherd’s hut” modules of differing sizes for leisure or granny-annexe use did not get off the ground as a result of rather over-optimistic forecasting by those supporting the venture.

5.4.6 Conversely, the initiative to produce flammable briquettes out of shredded waste paper - not a commodity in short supply within the prison system – is now in production. There is a need for a “travelling salesman” role to advocate and supply this to retail outlets without taking the time of prison service or Weston College employees who have their day jobs to do.

5.4.7 The delay in introducing a Sports Course involving the gym facilities at Portland is attributed to an ongoing clash between Weston College and the POA as to who is responsible inside the premises.

## **5.5 Resettlement**

5.5.1 The increased numbers of mainly adults has significantly complicated the work of Resettlement, which has nonetheless consistently managed to exceed the KPT’s. The increase of adult prisoners has been challenging in the area of accommodation, but they have succeeded in staying ahead of the target.

- 93.6% went into accommodation (target 90%)
- 31% went into employment (target 28%)
- 31.5% went into training/education (target 30%)

5.5.2 The Board has had numerous applications from prisoners regarding lack of communication with their OMU worker. At the end of the reporting period there were 121 prisoners (a quarter of the population) without a completed OASys.

This has meant that prisoners are not being put forward for the courses they are required to do in a timely manner, and that those who are on short sentences are unable to get their HDC, as the paperwork has not been completed. This also has an effect on ROTL.

5.5.3 Two Resettlement Roadshows were held during the year with 30 colleges, housing providers, employers and support organizations exhibiting. Dad's Days are continuing to prove popular, and are offered on a monthly basis.

5.5.4 Due to the paucity of activities available in the prison, the ROTL wing has almost 50% of the prisoners unemployed, and very few gaining a ROTL status. The lack of activities has been the main difficulty in implementing the New Ways of Working, as almost 50% of the entire population is behind doors due to this problem.

5.5.5 The Board greatly regrets the policy that prevents CSCS cards going to qualified prisoners on their release.

## **5.6 Safer Custody**

5.6.1 Portland has various safer custody strategies such as peer support and Listener schemes and the use of Safer Cell and a First Night Centre. However, violence within the establishment is an ongoing challenge. The Safer Custody team is well organised and produces helpful monthly information which is routinely shared with the IMB. Safer Custody meetings (combining Suicide and Self-harm & Violence Reduction) are held bi-monthly, and involve the IMB.

5.6.2 With a roll of 580 (more during the year at times) prisoners, there were 49 Prisoner on Prisoner assaults and 42 recorded assaults on staff. Attentiveness of prison officers and Healthcare staff saved a number of these situations from having tragic consequences. This is to be commended.

5.6.3 The number of unemployed prisoners, an underlying gang culture and the trade in illegal and banned substances appear to be catalysts for violence and bullying within the prison. Widespread gangland feuds and rivalries, when local gangs get established within the prison, are difficult for staff to manage. Offenders are relocated to separate wings wherever possible.

5.6.4 A Violence Minimisation Compact was introduced for prisoners persistently involved in acts of violence and bullying. It implements 14 or 21 days on basic regime with closed visits and gym restrictions for violent or persistent bullying behaviour. Although violence is being managed through the adjudication process, I.E.P and VR Strategy, significant regime change (New Ways of Working) and staff shortages do not bode well for victims of bullying.

5.6.5 238 ACCT books were opened during the reporting period, of which 204 were at Portland and 34 at other prisons. Twenty-six prisoners had multiple ACCT books opened. MTT preparations, C&R and fire training have taken priority over ACCT training creating the risk that a lack of trained staff could become an issue. The proportion of ACCTs opened for each age group at HMP/YOI Portland 18-21 (35%); 22-29 (45%); 30-39 (11%); 40-49 (9%); 50+ (0%).

5.6.6 Immediate Action plans are not always carried out within 1 hour of ACCT book being opened nor are prisoner signatures on these Plans and Care maps. ACCT books are not going with prisoners to their place of activity.

5.6.7 White ethnic origin consistently made up the largest proportion of ACCTs opened, consistent with the demographics of the population. 'Insiders' are working well but need more focus and attention. As they are increasingly being sought out informally during association, they are now allowed double association. There have been on average 8 self-harm incidents recorded per month, mainly cutting hands, cutting arms, swallowing a substantial amount of tablets or sharp objects which have been handled appropriately and effectively. Open ACCTs are considered monthly at the Safer Custody meeting, together with overall statistics and trends.

## **5.7 Segregation, Care and Separation, Close Supervision Unit**

5.7.1 The Board continues to find the CCU staff competent and caring, although there are now too many occasions when untrained staff are drafted in for short periods due to the general extreme leanness of staffing at Portland. Adjudications and reviews are reported as being carried out fairly and fully.

5.7.2 The Board is still concerned by the frequency with which prisoners are kept in the CCU, sometimes for their own protection or because they are believed by Security to be adversely influencing others on the wing. Also, too many in the unit have severe mental health problems, which cannot be "treated" there. Staff are not trained in this, though they manage well, and it is quite wrong that the prison service should be expected to do this work. On one occasion during the year there were two sectioned prisoners in the CCU on hold, effectively, while awaiting a suitable psychiatric bed. This needs to be addressed at a political level far higher than at an individual prison.

## **5.8 Residential Services**

5.8.1 Certified normal accommodation (the number of prisoners possible if all cells were single) is 463. 135 cells are either doubles or 'doubled up' (available for two prisoners, whether the cell had previously been for single occupancy or not) at the time of writing: 47 double cells on Beaufort Wing, 43 double cells on Raleigh Wing, 39 cells on Benbow Wing and 6 double cells on Drake Wing. There are still no privacy curtains in converted double occupancy cells on Raleigh and Benbow Wings.

5.8.2 The Board receives regular complaints about mixed wings. Adults feel discriminated against as those on mixed wings have to conform to a YO regime. This causes frustration and discontent amongst the adult population.

5.8.3 With New Ways of Working came a different regime of meals, with the main hot meal being served in the evening and a picnic lunch. This seems to have happened smoothly without serious incident. Diet is reported by members as overly carbohydrate

rich. It is to be commended that the vegetable garden is being maintained, just about, by means of volunteer enthusiasm.

5.8.4 The prison is not equipped to take disabled prisoners or those who need flat access, but it is being sent such prisoners. This is unfair and could be discriminatory.

5.8.5 We welcome the increased use of the Hub, especially for prisoners who are unallocated to work or education. However, we regret that those who spend their days on the wing do not have more fresh air and exercise. Due to staff shortage, fresh air and exercise is too limited at the weekend.

5.8.6 We consider that our worries over the use of Beaufort wing as a ROTL and mixed wing have proved justified. We have witnessed the decline in ROTL numbers which results from the pressure put upon ROTL prisoners by their peers, on Beaufort and elsewhere, to bring in tradable or illegal substances.

5.8.7 We have observed that Reception has adapted positively to New Ways of Working and the increased roll.

5.8.8 A rash of property loss by prisoners arriving at Portland from other prisons (one in particular) during the reporting period put strain on Reception as well as individual prisoners. It was dealt with humanely and has now improved.

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

18th July 2014

## SECTION 7

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### 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	12
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
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 Applications Statistics

Code	Subject	2013	2014	confidential	2014
A	Accommodation	1	6		6
B	Adjudications	5	3	1	4
C	Equality & Diversity (inc religion)	0	3		3
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	31	23	1	24
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	5	26	2	28
E 2	Finance/pay	2	11		11
F	Food/kitchen related	1	6		6
G	Health related	9	30	6	36
H 1	Property (within current establishment)	10	14		14
H 2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	7	38	1	39
H 3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	1	3		3
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc)	14	33		33
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	9	17	7	24
K	Transfers	28	42		42
L	Miscellaneous	32	22		22
	<b>Total number of IMB applications</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>277</b>		<b>295</b>
	Of total: Confidential Access	25		18	

## **GLOSSARY**

ACCT	Assessment, Care in Custody & Teamwork
ARV	Alcohol Related Violence
BME	Black & Minority Ethnic
CARATS	Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice & Through-Care Services relating to drugs
CCU	Care and Control Unit
CSCS	Construction Skills Certificate Scheme
GOOD	Good Order and Discipline
GRT	Gipsy Romany Traveller
HDC	Home Detention Curfew
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
OLASS	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