

IMB

HMP RANBY

The Annual Report of The Independent Monitoring Board

to

The Secretary of State

at

The Ministry of Justice

Reporting Period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

ANNUAL REPORT

Section 1

Statutory Role of the IMB

The Statutory Role of the IMB

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and immigration removal centre to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice 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 the Board 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.

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Section 3 **Description of HMP Ranby**

3.1 Location

HMP Ranby is situated in North Nottinghamshire, mid way between the towns of Worksop and Retford. The Category C male adult training prison was converted in 1971 from its previous function as a Forces Army Camp.

3.2 Buildings / Facilities

The residential housing consists of 10 wings. 3 wings are on the 'open' side of the prison and 7 on the 'closed' side. There is no provision for a 24hr healthcare service as HMP Ranby has no hospital unit. The single storey building which has been extended

accommodates other functioning departments such as Prisoners Addressing Substance Related Offending (PASRO), Counselling Assessment Referral Advice and Throughcare Service (CARATS), Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT), Voluntary Drug Testing (VDT), and Alcohol treatment. The Care and Separation Unit (CSU) located in one of the old buildings and contains 16 cells, of which 4 are used as doubles. Attached to the CSU, is a small paved exercise yard which is contained by a high wall.

The Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy (IDTS) is located on a residential wing and at the end of the reporting period was providing treatment for 111 prisoners; other wings also hold prisoners who participate in the treatment. The induction of new prisoners is carried out on a residential wing. Prisoners can arrive at HMP Ranby 5 days per week and up to 4 times a day; this process inevitably gives rise to an extremely busy reception department.

Education accommodation comprises of 2 buildings and 5 dedicated vocational training workshops (Catering; Industrial Cleaning; Joinery; Painting & Decorating and Plumbing). One of the education buildings also houses the Library. Education provision includes traditional teaching; plus functional skills delivery in work areas, for prisoners who cannot leave the wing and those in the Care and Separation Unit (CSU) the education is tailored for their needs. During 2011/12 a new Arts & Humanities Academy was opened. There are 11 workshops in the industries department ranging from Woodwork; Textiles; Enterprise Services; Plastics through to Engineering. One workshop works a three shift pattern (day's afters and nights), all this enables prisoners to be trained and educated in wide ranging programmes to assist in their rehabilitation and resettlement.

3.3 Accommodation / Capacity

The Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) at HMP Ranby as at March 2012 was 892, its Operational Capacity (OC) is currently 1098.

3.4 Sentence Term Range

HMP Ranby provides housing and facilities for short to mid-term prisoners. However, accommodation is also provided for life sentence and Indeterminate Public Protection (IPP) prisoners. The numbers have increased as reported in previous reports. All facilities are designed to assist in their planned progress towards transfer to open prisons in preparation for release on Licence. The main function of the prison is to provide for the safe and secure custody of prisoners in its care. The table shows the number of prisoners grouped by sentence who were detained in March 2011/12, compared with those in 2010/11.

Sentence Term	Under 12 mths	12 mths to 4 yrs	4 yrs to Life	Life	IPP's
<i>% March 2011</i>	2.00	45.43	43.09	5.04	9.61
<i>% March 2012</i>	7.06	38.45	54.47	6.40	12.81

3.5 HMP Ranby's Vision Statement

'HMP Ranby will protect the public and reduce re-offending by providing a secure, decent and safe environment where all individuals who reside and work here will be valued and encouraged to fulfil their potential'.

3.6 Agencies / Contractors

This non-exhaustive list of agencies and contractors help HMP Ranby achieve its vision:

- Applied Security Design (ASD): Electrical Component Assembly and Plastic Injection Mouldings;
- Offender Employment / Skills Services (OESS) Community Pay Back Restorative Justice;
- Offender Learning & Skills Service (OLASS 3) Lincoln College Education provision;
- Nottinghamshire County Council Library services;
- Trackwork Ltd Specialist training for the Rail Industry;
- Utilise Ltd Specialist training for Utilities Industries;

- Branston Woodwork; Plastics; Engineering; Powder Coating; Contract Services Textiles;
- Print UK: Plastic Coat hangers / Mouldings;
- Tow Tester Caravan Multi Tester;
- Plasgran Plastics recycling;
- HMP Ranby recycling: Textiles; Office and Cell furniture;
- Toolfast Assembly of shower components and fixing packs;
- Fletchers Metals Ltd Metal recycling;
- HMP Ranby recycling: Textiles; Office and Cell furniture;
- Catering Equipment LTD;
- Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust (PCT) which commissions healthcare and is also involved with the Drug Strategy Programme;
- Lincoln College which holds the contract for Education, learning and Skills;
- The Samaritans provide a counseling service for prisoners. They assist in the training of prisoners who volunteer to be “listeners” to help other prisoners who are in need of someone to talk to and who is not in a position of authority and want to talk to a fellow prisoner;

Section 4

Executive Summary

4a. Particular issues requiring a response

4a.1 Mental Health

The Board has significant concerns with Mental Health issues. They impact on the safety of individuals who are sent here without prescription or medication. There are delays in receiving medical records for those who arrive at HMP Ranby, and for those who are relocated to other prisons without prior knowledge of the nursing staff.

See paragraph 5.5 in Section 5 for further information.

4a.2 Learning & Skills / Industries / Purposeful Activities

The Board is disappointed that as in last year's report the educational and vocational needs will be further limited by the governments cut in the budget. The initiatives and opportunities to gain qualifications useful on release could be further hindered. The Board is concerned that the failure to provide an Education Manager and the necessary staff in the department will impact on the progress already made by prisoners. The loss of the British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICS) and the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) due to funding changes of the Skills Funding Agency (SAF) is most unfortunate. See paragraph 5.3 in section 5 for further information.

4a.3 Staffing and Resources

The management of staffing and resources is more severe and intensive as cuts in the national budget do not account for the regime requirements and are often at variance with staffing capability and the number of staff available. Services, administration and activities are reduced, this seriously impacts on those who live and work at HMP Ranby. See paragraph 6.6 in Section 6 for further information.

4a.4 Security (including Safety)

Throughout the reporting year a number of issues relating to discipline and security have been a serious concern to the Board i.e. bullying; threats; drug abuse; mobile phones; SIM cards and in particular the assaults on prisoners and staff alike. The Board appreciates that continual effort is being made to eradicate the acquisition and possession of such contraband. The Board continues to point out that "A" Wing is an unsuitable building which has provoked incidents of safety for prisoners residing there due to no in-cell sanitation. See paragraph 6.11 in Section 6 for further information.

4a.5 Resettlement

The reduction of suitable housing options for prisoners making their way back into the community due to national financial cuts leads to fewer housing alternatives. See paragraph 6.10 in Section 6 for further information.

4a.6 Drugs / Mobile Phones / Hooch

The Board again must mention the concerns it has with the volume of drugs and mobile phones entering the prison. The issues relating to illicit items getting through the security system leads to other significant concerns connected with discipline and the safety of all prisoners. The anti-dash fencing, BOSS chair and new wand are helping to improve control of some of the areas where drugs / mobile phones recovery is a problem. In the last quarter of the reporting period there have been acute issues with the number of HOOCH finds. See paragraph 6.4 in Section 6 for further information.

4a.7 Transfers

The Board has major concerns about the struggle that HMP Ranby has with relocating prisoners, especially safeguarding family ties. This is known to be vital to a prisoner's progress towards effective resettlement. HMP Ranby is a category C training prison and receives about 2000 prisoners a year. The (PMU) Prisons Management Unit transfer more prisoners to the north from the London areas every week, but those who want to move south struggle and these moves take a great deal longer. Several establishments incorrectly advise prisoners as to which prison they are being relocated to, they can then end up at HMP Ranby which is totally in the wrong direction. See paragraph 6.12 in Section 6 for further information.

4a.8 Lifers & IPPs Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection

The Board continues to have concerns as to the availability of programmes and other issues in this area. The number of Life and IPP prisoners held at the prison has greatly increased over recent months. As at March 7th 2012 there were 68 Life and 136 IPP prisoners. This contrasts with last year's average of 54 Life and 103 IPP prisoners. This increase puts a huge strain on management and staffing resources. See paragraph 6.7 in Section 6 for further information.

4a.9 Safer Custody

Throughout the reporting period the Safer Custody / Violence Reduction team were redeployed on numerous occasions which, in the Board's opinion had influenced the

consistency of the service provided. The Board believes that the effectiveness in this reporting period would have been better served by a dedicated full time team. (PSO2700 states, the position of Safer Custody Manager should be a full-time appointment). The availability of confidential access by prisoners has not always been available. The Board recognises the pressure that gang activities have on safety and the issue of bullying relating to drugs and the acquisition of mobile telephones. See paragraph 5.6 in Section 5 for further information.

4a.10 Residential

The Board is still of the opinion that "A" wing is a cause of concern. The Board has for years expressed its views about this wing. "A" wing is a building that has no in-cell sanitation. Since the closure and demolition of the old army billets the Board feels that the movement of those prisoners to other wings entailing "doubling up" gives rise to its concerns. See paragraph 6.1 in Section 6 for further information.

4a.11 Healthcare

The Board continues to be concerned at the lack of 24hr healthcare cover, as Bassetlaw Hospital is considered within easy reach of the prison. Requests have been made for an out of hours nurse but to no avail. At present night staff is able to consult a helpline but has the onerous responsibility of what to do in case of illness. The arrival of medical records containing prisoner's special needs information from other prisons is often inadequate. See paragraph 5.4 in Section 5 for further information.

4a.12 Property

As in our 4 previous reports the Board continues to have concerns regarding the volume of property allowed "in possession" at different prisons of the same category and the quality of "up-to-date" detail on property cards and particularly the disinterest shown by a prisoner's previous establishment in resolving matters relating to property. See paragraph 6.3 in Section 6 for further information.

4a.13 Chaplaincy

The Board hopes that the number of prisoners wishing to attend a service is not restricted due to the reduction of staff at weekends, plus the new cuts in this year's budget and it believes that any prisoner wanting to attend the chaplaincy should be allowed to do so. The Board is perturbed that there was no Anglican Chaplain at HMP Ranby for 14 months. See paragraph 6.14 in section 6 for further information.

Section 4

4b Issues of Excellence not requiring a Response

The Board commends the very good work that is carried out in HMP Ranby. However;

4b.1 Operations Department

The Board recognises and appreciates the extensive work carried out in this small department. It consists of a modest but fully committed and dependable team, comprising one full time member, one part time member and one member who works as cover. There have been approximately 2000 prisoners entering the prison this year and with an Operational Capacity (OC) of 1098 there can be a considerable number of prisoners waiting

for a transfer. Within one month of this reporting period the number of prisoners who were transferred on a “normal move” into and out of the prison amounted to 211. Other areas dealt with in this unit are; escorts to other establishments, discipline moves, moves for security reasons, prisoners wrongly categorised, police productions, those going to court, prisoners attending a funeral, those who have hospital appointments. Although staff has all the duties shown above, they are often redeployed to other duties.

4b.2 Resettlement

The Resettlement department has worked diligently throughout the year. The team have increased the number of family days which now take place every month. They are in contact in various ways with many external agencies, through email & Internet databases. They have once again supervised an increase in the number of agencies who visit HMP Ranby on a regular basis i.e. NACRO, Framework and Stonham who hold regular housing surgeries, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Hope for the Homeless, Surestart for Family Visits, The Well (Retford) for those working on Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL), St Anne’s Advice Centre for Debt & Money Management, Royal British Legion to support Veterans in Custody preparing for release and others who deal with employment, drug and alcohol abuse.

Section 4

4c) Overall Judgement

4c.1 Management

The Board rates highly the assistance provided by management in the resolution of prisoner applications even though some required an adjustment to previous managerial decisions. The Board recognise and compliments Senior Management on their effective, yet sensitive control of prisoners / activities during the reporting period.

However, the Board has the following concerns:

- Staff deployed from their primary role to carry out other duties on a regular basis, allowing work in their own department to accumulate. In this current climate it has

added to the difficulties already incurred. Areas re-deployed include, Offender Assessment System (OASys) and Operations. In one area within the last quarter this has amounted to 187hrs. It is accepted that versatility in staff is valuable but achieving this should not be at a cost to other vital activities;

- The closure of departments beneficial to prisoners.

4c.2 Communication

The Board notes that in-cell TV information on a variety of prison activities continues. However in this current climate the reduction of staff working on the wings and other areas has meant less communication with prisoners. It has driven up applications sent to the IMB. The Board must again comment on concerns made in previous reports regarding poor communication between establishments, the lack of interaction in some departments and between Senior Management and Middle Management. This has a negative impact on prisoners and their welfare. For example:

- Prisoners arriving at HMP Ranby from other establishments, genuinely believed they were transferring nearer home, when they were actually moved further away;
- Prisoners who are sent to HMP Ranby from a prison which is about a two hour drive away, (with a two week sentence to serve) then released to travel home which is a short drive from their previous establishment;
- The Personal Officer Scheme though reviewed and promoted by management is of no real value and therefore not given credence by prisoners. The lack of the officer / prisoner consultation time is not in the best interest of the prisoner. The every day questions a prisoner asks has now moved to written applications. These can take up to 3 days for a reply when a phone call was more efficient and communication between staff and prisoner were maintained at a better level;
- It is evident that some officers struggle to provide a supportive role toward prisoners.

Question to the Minister

If prisoners have a two week sentence, why are they moved long distances when their home is very near to the sending establishment, especially when cutbacks are in force? Couldn't the reduced budget be better spent?

4c.3 Co-ordination

During the reporting period communication between departments has been encouraged and in some areas competently displayed, but, the co-ordination between departments has not always moved at the same speed. Focus Group meetings have been effective, but the support from the departments could be better, to ensure that they have a beneficial impact on the co-ordination of effort when group assessments are reflected on.

The Board has previously reported the following concerns and they are still an issue:

- The selection of responses from some departments to the same questions raised on behalf of prisoners by the IMB, is bewildering;
- The lack of attendance of managers at meetings which benefit their interests;
- Management in some areas struggle in obtaining the necessary 'Security Intel' which hinders the conclusion of certain problems, such as those related to a prisoner's visits, transfers, continued CSU detention and denial of purposeful activity;
- The requirement of Open prisons (Category D) spaces is prioritised for (IPP) Indeterminate Public protection Prisoners, leaving other prisoners who have worked towards this aim having to wait longer.

Section 5 **Mandatory Reporting Matters**

5.1 Diversity

The Board acknowledges the notable progress that has been made by the Diversity Manager, supported by the management team, in the promotion of Diversity awareness at HMP Ranby; a major contributing factor being the introduction of the Challenge It Change It (CICI) programme, which has been presented to 97% of all staff, and the introduction of regular Diversity Forums.

The change from Racial Incident Report Forms (RIRFs) to Diversity Incident Report Forms (DIRFs) in May 2011 generated further valuable training for those officers likely to be involved in the investigation of DIRFs. Since the introduction of this change in reporting procedures there has been a substantial reduction in the number of DIRF reports which have a singularly racial aspect. This change also appears to have prompted a better understanding and awareness of the range and variety of diverse actions which are contrary to an individual's equal rights.

5.2 Disability

Disabled persons at Ranby make up about 14% (160+) of the prisoner population. The Disability Manager, who has a proven success record, also recognised by the Butler Trust, cares for disabled prisoners' needs.

There is a positive and supportive opt-in approach to disability at HMP Ranby where the dignity of 'older' prisoners for example is maintained by them having the option to participate in disability forums and the use of special facilities, rather than being placed under any pressure to do so. During the reporting period there have been further provisions made for prisoners who have recognised disabilities, such as:

- Regular Diversity Forums to tackle the needs of disabled prisoners, and
- The establishment of a disability awareness programme.

Support is provided by the senior management team to the disability challenges at HMP Ranby and working relationships between the Disability and Healthcare teams is excellent. Greater awareness towards disabled prisoners has been developed with all staff, eg. In the effective application of the Prisoner Emergency Evacuation Procedure (PEEP).

There is a concern regarding the confidentiality of medical-in-confidence information, which could be copied from the System One application. The concern is that medical-in-confidence information may be introduced to the NOMS system. This may lead to an increase in the risk of disclosure of medical-in-confidence information, as the NOMS system uses a less secure means of access control, than System One.

****System One requires strong authentication security (user access) through a securely issued, secure smart-card, where NOMS does not require this.***

Question to the Minister

Can the minister explain why a new information system (P-NOMIS) cannot record data on a strand of the diversity programme?

5.3 Learning and Skills / Industries / Purposeful Activities

In the Board's opinion and as noted in previous reports, with a prisoner population of almost 1100, HMP Ranby should have an increase in budget to ensure the resources / facilities enable this training prison to provide appropriate purposeful employment and education. This develops prospects of employment in the community. The Board is concerned that there was no Education Manager from April to November 2011. The educational developments and opportunities provided for prisoners to gain useful qualifications suffered an adverse effect. However, the Board accepts the efforts of all staff in this area in assisting to develop work and skills opportunities for prisoners.

The Board is pleased to note that;

In the Open University (OU) department 24 students are studying at this time. 21 at level 1, (1st year degree) and 7 level 2, (2nd year degree) courses have been conclude. One prisoner

acts as a Peer Mentor providing Toe by Toe for some prisoners, has also trained as a teaching assistant and works within education. The National Prison Radio visited at Christmas 2011; both staff and prisoners enjoyed entering the radio quiz event. Forward funding for rail and utilities skills training was secured.

A Future Event:

In the summer of 2012 HMP Ranby will hold its first Open University (OU) degree graduation; attending will be the OU, prison staff and the student's family and friends. The

graduation is delivered in exactly the same way as in the community with the full cap and gown ceremony. The student is continuing to study for a Post Graduate qualification.

New projects about to be launched are:

1. Virtual Campus.
2. Diagnostic Testing Suite.
3. Level 3 Distance Learning Study Support.

Library

The Board is pleased to report that the library is still an excellent and well-used educational resource with the use of several computers to assist prisoners studying an OU course. Prisoner's order books to assist with their OU course as do those in a typical class study environment. All wings have a dedicated time for attending the Library. The attendance has increased within the reporting period and the issuing of books has become more popular.

New Projects about to be launched:

DVDs relating to popular documentaries and educational subjects.

The 6 Book, challenge for beginners in reading.

Amongst the areas of good practice are:

- A selection of books for use by Foreign National prisoners;
- The Job Centre Plus "Job Point" is used for seeking employment in the community
- Toe by Toe operates well. Prisoners are seen on induction, then interviewed and signed up in the library.
- "Story books for Dads" is very much in use. Prisoners who don't speak English do benefit by this.

Education

The new Education Manager arrived in October 2011. The Board anticipates that the development of those in education will now be increased. The Board reports that take up on classes based on a typical week (sample 25th March / 30th March 2012) is between 381 and 408 (Friday half day teaching 166) attendees per day, daily average 408. In addition are those who access embedded learning in work/activity areas, including wings and the CSU.

Staff promotes education; in particular Skills for Life, as well as identifying specific learners to relevant courses in partnership with the OMU to address prisoners' needs linked to their sentence plans. Education continues to provide a range of courses, i.e. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), H&S, Food Hygiene, Cookery, Art, ICT, Work Preparation Creative Writing etc. Some areas work to Level 2 in NVQ's; HMP Ranby is also developing activities to Level 3. Literacy and Numeracy entry levels / ESOL were proven to Ofsted as being areas of improvement, but short courses still have a waiting list.

An assessment of unmet need of prisoners who might require basic skills input is now met by two specialist qualified staff who are experienced in assessing; teaching and supporting learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Referrals are made via Prison Induction; CIAS; Healthcare; Industries; Wings; OMU and other Education staff.

The Board does have the following concerns:

- The waiting list for longer courses stands at 108 prisoners as of 31 March 2012 and has slightly increased on last year's report;
- Short courses have a waiting list of 723 requests to attend a range of courses provided, even though some prisoners have applied for more than one course;
- The Board is concerned that the opportunities in education may have a cutoff point as the budget restraints take place;
- Staffing has not always been sufficient. Recruiting suitable experienced staff is difficult as the location of HMP Ranby does not attract applicants in the same way as city based establishments;
- Although information about learning difficulties is shared with all staff, the lack of a "purposeful" Personal Officers scheme only occasionally allows staff to refer a prisoner with additional needs to the education department;
- Education for those detained in the Care and Separation Unit (CSU) is improving but the Board feels that this area should not be forgotten. Prisoners who are there for

their own protection and not punishment, still need to have the same access to education as those in the main part of the prison;

- Inter-prison transfers can still be disruptive to Educational schemes when files and details are not forwarded promptly from receiving establishments;
- The lack of spaces in open prisons has delayed transfers for those having gained qualifications to assist in employment back in the community.
- Although establishments are endeavoring to standardise courses so that schemes are seamlessly portable this is still a concern;
- The Plumbing Department always has difficulty in sustaining Instructors, although the latest instructor has been here since November 2011;
- The SFA will no longer fund British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICS) which is very popular and is a well run and constructive workshop;
- The SFA will no longer fund the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) this is popular and an employer-relevant accredited training course.

Industries

The Board is pleased to report that within the Industries department there have been improvements. The staff memorial garden was constructed and a short service was given by the Chaplaincy. In the last quarter two workshops have moved to extended working hours and with the input nationally another will be opened in the near future. These will run alongside a workshop that has for some years opened on a three shift basis. This allows prisoners to experience regular working practices before they are released. In last year's report prisoners who were "not required" to be at work were "left on the wing". However; a new system run by Activity Control will place each prisoner, who is able to work, in an activity that is meaningful.

The Board notes that the Learning Resource boxes provided to all industrial workshops for use when production is unavoidably interrupted continues to be in use. Items such as Scrabble are accepted as an educational asset. Some workshop instructors have developed a work related Quiz Book containing word searches etc. that pertain to their area of work.

However, the Board still has concerns regarding;

- Lengthy delays in recruiting replacement staff due to a national ban on recruitment. At the end of the reporting year there were 24 instructors and 4 vacancies;
- The claim that all workshops are available even when Instructors / Supervisors are either off sick, on holiday, or training;
- The Plumbing Department always has difficulty in sustaining an Instructor.

Questions to the Minister

Although the Board welcomes input into the workshops, they can only work to their full potential if they are staffed constantly. Due to the ban on recruitment this means that anyone off sick, on holiday, training, or resigns closes that workshop and there is no immediate replacement, or at least relatively quickly available.

1. Can the minister explain how the extra cutback in funds, allows management to ensure workshops and training facilities are fully staffed and equipped so as to provide the majority of prisoners with the opportunity to spend time in purposeful activity?
2. Can the Minister explain how the cut in resources, which limits prisoners to basic level education skills and is now cutting across more areas leaving only a chosen few to proceed to further education / extending working conditions, is fair to all?

5.4 Healthcare

The Board is pleased to report that Healthcare as a whole has continued to improve with the introduction of the Primary Mental Healthcare and Chronic Disease Clinics. The recent

refurbishment of Healthcare is drawing to a close and vast extensions have been made which includes; Secondary Healthcare clinics; Prison Addressing Substance related offences (PASRO), Counseling Assessment Referral Advice and Throughcare Service (CARATS), Voluntary Drug Testing, (VDT) Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) and Alcohol abuse.

Other work has begun, including a landscaped garden area containing a water feature, and a decked area, and a conservatory to be used as a meeting area for prisoners with mental health issues and also as a general consultation area for both staff and prisoners. In an

effort to assist prisoners who want to stop smoking, patches are now available. A successful peer support group is underway and meetings take place 3 times per week. Dental care is fully operational and visiting dentists now hold surgeries 4 days per week. All appointments are seen within 2 weeks.

However the Board still has concerns about;

- The amount of prisoners in the waiting area to see medical staff when only one staff member is on duty. On one visit to healthcare there was a total of 31 prisoners with only one member of staff to book them in and out;
- Healthcare staff continue to express concerns over the lack of information received from some establishments when prisoners are transferred to HMP Ranby. This is an ongoing problem. Although HMP Ranby has the electronic medical information system in place, this is not always the case in other establishments and records are not always transferred with prisoners;
- The greater number of prisoners waiting at the pharmacy for medication;
- Healthcare staff are not always happy with the communication between wings, activity control and healthcare;
- The amount of applications the IMB receive when prisoners are not able to book an appointment with a doctor, medical staff, or have not received a reply to complaints;
- Healthcare provisions from Bassetlaw PCT have not included specialised information on diseases common to some Foreign National prisoners, however, the situation has eased as a result of the opening of the Immigration Removal Centre at Morton Hall;
- The Board's previous concerns relating to the lack of visits by an optician has still not been addressed. Visits are made every fortnight, the waiting list for appointments stands at 75. The optician sees just 10 prisoners per visit.

Question to the Minister

Improvements in the healthcare regime means, more prisoners attend a variety of clinics which can sometimes lead to larger numbers of prisoners congregating in the waiting area.

1. Does the Minister agree that the cutback in staffing (which has led to confrontations) leaving only one member of staff in the waiting area with those attending clinics and the pharmacy is not conducive to safety / bullying of staff or prisoners?

5.5 Mental Health

The Board is pleased that provision given to prisoners with mental health issues has improved. The waiting list for 1st referrals to Primary Healthcare has fallen to 33. The waiting time for 1st consultation has reduced to 2.5 weeks. Prisoners contacting healthcare with existing issues has reduced, although there are still a number who, will not / cannot take advantage of the service. The total recorded number of prisoners stands at 73.

New initiatives in progress are;

1. Crisis intervention; Primary Healthcare staff work with prisoners in crisis but who do not need to be on the waiting list for additional treatment;
2. Closer interaction with those in the Care and Separation Unit (CSU);
3. Ties with the safer Custody department have been strengthened;
4. Interaction with those who have "self harm" issues by attending their reviews;
5. Intervention Management; for prisoners who have supportive activities in their cell.

The Board welcomes the long awaited renovation which allows for prisoner progress; as treatment rooms, consulting rooms, and waiting areas are increasing.

The Secondary team providing help and care for prisoners with Personality Disorders and significant mental illness has also improved with one fulltime manager, one fulltime nurse,

and a part time admin post. Their working arrangements have also increased. The number of prisoners in their case loads has reduced to 16 which have brought down the waiting time to 5 weeks. The Primary and Secondary Teams have consultative meetings and prisoners are now allocated to the department that can give them the precise treatment needed.

The Board still believes that prison is not the place for prisoners with serious mental health / Personality Disorder problems although it continues to be a national problem. The Board

understands that there have been no prisoners awaiting assessment for transfer to a psychiatric unit in this reporting period.

However the Board has crucial concerns with;

- Delays in receiving information from the transferring establishment which should arrive with the prisoner;
- Prisoners who arrive without a prescription or medication;
- Prisoners undergoing treatment can be transferred to other prisons without the prior Knowledge of healthcare, interrupting continuation of care and may cause a setback to the prisoner's wellbeing;
- The waste of resources when large amounts of medication are bought in and the prisoner has then been moved.

Question to the Minister

1. A hospital place must be provided within fourteen days of a diagnosis and sectioning under the mental health act. Is this the case?
2. If question one is true, can the Minister explain why it is acceptable to defer diagnosis until a bed is found. Is this duty of care?

5.6 Safer Custody / Violence Reduction

The Safer Custody / Violence Reduction team has operated during the reporting period with a Safer Custody Manager; an Administration Officer (AO) and a Violence Reduction Officer; However, each of the members were redeployed to other duties for a large amount of time in this reporting period, but, the time that was spent in the department has included; first aid training, Cell Sharing Risk Assessments, duties associated with Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Management. 150 staff and all Senior Officers have received local violence reduction training. The new ACCT document has been introduced and Senior Officers have received training on the ACCT document process plus changes to the document.

The Safer Custody / Violence Reduction team have implemented a wide ranging and successful Safer Prisons Strategy at HMP Ranby. However with the re-profiling, and the increased workload on the Safer Custody Manager and the re-tasking of staff previously assigned to this area, the effectiveness of this experienced team is likely to be significantly reduced. This may have a negative impact upon achievements and the purpose of the Safer Prisons Strategy. The Board hopes there are strategies planned to ensure that Safer Custody / Violence Reduction maintain a high profile.

The Board recognises and advocates the use of the Samaritan trained listeners. Their continued training and vetting is invaluable to the Safer Custody / Violence Reduction team. The 'Samaritans' provide support for prisoners and promote co-operation with officers engaged in programmes designed to assist 'at risk' prisoners. The analysis of data and information gathered from 'at risk' prisoners provides the means of identifying those who are actively involved in gang activities. This highlights the need for an effective Safer Custody / Violence Reduction team which includes the accessibility to prisoners as often as is needed. The management and supervision of a 'Listeners' group is beneficial, although this year their numbers have fallen from 17 to 9.

The resourcefulness of the Safer Custody team supporting staff during the reporting period is illustrated in the following;

Self Harm – 2010 to 2011, there were 49 -- 2011 to 2012 there were 37;

ACCT's – 2010 to 2011, there were 144 -- 2011 to 2012 there were 116;

Prisoners monitored on Violence Reduction Regime: -

Stage 1 – In this reporting year 103;

Stage 2 – In this reporting year 35;

Stage 3 – In this reporting year 27;

Assaults on staff in this reporting year 22;

Assaults on prisoners – within the last 6 month there were approximately 40.

There are 33 Safer Cells located on J/K wings and only one serviceable cell in the Care & Separation Unit.

The Boards main concerns are as follows;

- One to one direct confidential access to the Safer Prisons Team should be readily accessible;
- Very low Violence Reduction Strategy Audit result;
- Safer Custody Manager's reduced availability to direct contacts by those 'at risk' and to the continued effective 'hands-on' management of the regime;
- Limited support provided for the victims of bullying;
- Senior Management at Safer Custody meetings was poor until November 2011;
- The reduced level of direct management resulting from the Safer Custody Manager's part-time status which may result in a deterioration of the quality of support generated to prisoners 'at risk'.

Question to the Minister

Can the Minister justify budget reductions which have resulted in skilled managerial officers, i.e. a Safer Custody Manager, being re-deployed to other non-related duties whilst still being expected to uphold an established high level of care to those 'at risk'?

5.7 Care and Separation Unit (CSU)

The CSU has a core membership of 14 staff. Although those staff can constantly change the Board still recognises the care and control of prisoners in this unit is of a very high standard. All CSU staff has attended the "Three Core Courses" which consist of Adjudication Liaison, Mental Health Awareness and Control and Restrain Training. The Board acknowledges the high quality/fairness of both the adjudicating and review process.

The library service in the CSU is improving and CDs, books and magazines are exchanged by prisoners. Members of the Education Centre attend weekly where practicable and lessons are designed to suit prisoner's individual needs.

Weekly visits to the gym are now accessible to prisoners. A radio is offered to all prisoners on their arrival, the introduction of a TV is discussed at their second review. If their Incentive and Earned Privilege (IEP) status is appropriate, the TV and gymnasium are allocated.

There has been a complete refurbishment of the prisoner's shower room and 3 high quality shower cubicles have now been installed. The Board, however, feels the need to raise a number of concerns some of which have been raised in previous reports:

- The extended use of the CSU for prisoners who have moved there under O.I and have mental health or severe personality disorders. Although figures for such prisoners have slightly reduced, the Board considers that they should be transferred to a more appropriate establishment and not left to languish in this unit which in the Boards view is due to the lack of appropriate accommodation in the community.
- Prisoners should be assessed and moved within 14 days but it is the case that they are not assessed until a place can be found;
- The small exercise yard is not fit for purpose;
- The provision of Education in the CSU is working adequately but there are occasions when staff are unable to attend for various reasons;
- The heating in the unit is sporadic;
- Prisoners use the CSU as a short cut to accessing transfers, however, a pilot scheme is in progress to make more use of wing accommodation, the Board hopes this will prove invaluable;
- HMP Ranby does not have set criteria for accepting prisoners; this inevitably has an effect in the small CSU where prisoners are housed pending re-categorisation back to category B establishments.

Question to the Minister

HMP Ranby has almost 1100 prisoners. The CSU caters for those on Good Order Or Discipline (GOOD) Cellular Confinement (CC) Own Interest (OI). Some prisoners have

Mental Health problems. Knowing this;

1. Why is there no suitable accommodation in the community?
2. Is this called "duty of care"?

Within one week in the last month of the reporting period there was an incident at height involving 5 prisoners on J wing and assaults on members of staff on E wing, those prisoners ended up in the CSU causing an already over used regime more problems.

3. Can the Minister assure the Board that the severe cuts in Budget and Staffing levels is not helping to cause more incidents, thus intensifying the safety of prisoners and staff alike?

Section 6
Other issues on which the Board wishes to report

6.1 Residential

Ranby has 10 residential wings, 3 on the “open” side and 7 on the “closed” side. Weapons, drugs and mobile phones continue to present problems for both prisoners and staff and requires constant diligence to minimize the problems caused.

3 wings on the open side; A, H, and I function well despite some difficulties relating to the closure and demolition of B wing. These wings serve approx 310 prisoners, with the majority in employment or appropriately occupied. “A” wing provides accommodation for disabled prisoners and a spur is available for older prisoners.

Some wings on the “closed” side operate well. D wing manages prisoners who are reducing drug addiction. The Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy (IDTS) team and nursing team provide daily methadone prescriptions. C wing is the most recent addition to the establishment accommodating 60 prisoners. It has had problems with the heating system in the past. There has been a slight improvement with the heating but the long standing difficulty with the floor which has been in place since the wing was first installed, has received several temporary repairs, and remains a problem.

However the Board has concerns with some aspects of the residential units:

- “A” wing continues to present structural difficulties for staff. The shower area is particularly vulnerable, creating problems and raising the risk of assaults and bullying. In-cell sanitation would reduce the risks as the area cannot be observed via the CCTV system.
- The accommodation on the “open” side has been affected by the closure of B wing, condemned as not fit for purpose in 2011. It has been acutely felt by H / I wings as they have increased their intake from 40 to 60. Some prisoners are reluctant to move to these wings as they are expected to double up in 20 of the cells.
- The incentive to progress to H/I wings has been seriously affected and causes frustrations due to the lack of space for furniture, although the wings are classed as double cells;
- F wing’s function is reception and induction. It copes well with the busy nature of such a wing and the added pressure this brings. However, the prisoner intake can be four times greater than other wings and with the changes to the Personal Officer scheme, this does not give rise to good prisoner/staff working relationships and the safety of all who work there;
- J/K wings have long standing problems with the heating system due to a design fault. The Board has expressed concerns over these structural problems in past reports.

Questions for the Minister

1. Can the Minister provide an explanation as to why the structural/design faults have remained unresolved since the wing was first built?
2. Is it acceptable for prisoners to share cells which were designed for one?

6.2 Catering

The Board wishes to acknowledge the high quality of the work in both the kitchen and the officers’ mess which work independently. The kitchen floor which was a major concern for the Board for some time was replaced with a 10 year guarantee. However problems have again occurred but the contractor states that it is a foundation problem and is not their responsibility; this has yet to be resolved. The equipment breakdowns (reported in previous years still exists), however, there is alternative equipment available in the kitchen which helps to ease the problem.

The Board still has the following concerns;

- There are prisoners working toward NVQ levels 1 & 2. However, at this moment in time there are no internal verifiers due to long term sickness;
- Breakfast packs are issued with the lunch time meal, (previously it was delivered with the evening meal). It is now kept for almost 24hrs before consumption, a long time to be left in a warm cell. This regime allows food to be consumed later in the evening,

prisoners then have to wait until lunch the next day for a meal. This task is done to make it is easier for staff in the mornings. The Board does not consider this to be satisfactory;

- The catering allowance of £2.10 pence per day per prisoner has remained the same over the last three years. This presents a problem for the catering department in trying to maintain its high standard.

Question to the Minister

As there has now been another reduction in the budget due to inflation and national cuts. Can the Minister explain how the decrease in budget for meals is beneficial to the well being of prisoners living in a working / training establishment?

6.3 Property

Property owned by prisoners is of great importance to them. The recovery of lost, stolen or otherwise missing prisoner's property continues to be of concern to the Board and a cause of serious annoyance and anxiety to the prisoner. During the reporting period 117 of the 601 applications submitted related to property misplaced or lost. Of these 15 related to property lost during a prisoner's transfer from another establishment.

Particular recurring concerns are:

- Lack of an early positive response to applications referring to property;
- Inaccuracies of property cards which cause disagreements and create unnecessary work and a waste of resources;
- Delays in payment of compensation, once agreed, for lost / damaged property;
- Very restricted access to reception available for prisoners;
- Although new plans are in place for collecting property, problems still occur;
- Prisoners are not aware of the limited volume of property, i.e. electrical items / game console's allowed "in possession" at HMP Ranby when being transferred from another category C prison. The excess property is placed in their property box and is only given out when they are released or transferred. This leads to frequent complaints.

Question to the Minister

A reply given to last year's report concerning controls on volume said that, governors at each establishment can, under certain restrictions, make their own decision with the volume of property a prisoner can have "in possession"

1. Does the Minister agree that allowing this to happen causes problems for prisoners who have saved for weeks to buy certain items to have "in possession" at his previous establishment, to then have it taken off him at HMP Ranby and be told "you must save up again."?
2. Is it so impossible for Generic lists, varied by prison category if necessary, to be produced to ensure just and fair constraints regarding personal property?

6.4 Drugs / Mobile Phones / HOOCH

The Board recognises that the interception of drugs together with the arrest of persons attempting to smuggle them into HMP Ranby has made some progress during the reporting period. The interception of mobile phones has made better progress. Liaison with the local police in Nottinghamshire has also been extremely good. Persons arrested have been convicted and any other visits the prisoner has are made under the "closed" visits system.

The additional anti dash fencing and the new lighting system that has been in use around the estate has helped to reduce the recovery by prisoners of "over the fence" illicit drugs and mobile phones. There are small issues with the new lighting system, but these are monitored on a monthly basis and rectified.

Prisoners, who are encouraged to take Release On Temporary License (ROTL), were being pressured to bring illicit drugs into the prison, however, a new policy has been put in place and the system has improved.

The Board, however, has the following serious concerns:

- Regardless of the above successes the amount of illicit contraband entering the prison is as high as it was in last year's report;
- The number of HOOCH finds is increasing. With the decrease in the number of search dogs and staff, this is not now a deterrent. It has also increased bullying as

some prisoners are made to hide the HOOCH in their cell, consequently, the prisoner will end up taking the adjudication punishment.

Question to the Minister

1. Can the Minister explain how the cut in the number of search dogs and the reduction in staffing, which was known to have assisted in the successes of illicit finds from all areas in HMP Ranby, will benefit staff in the future?
2. Prisoners at HMP Ranby have used the cut in staffing as a means to instigate incidents. This happened in the last month of this reporting year where those prisoners under the influence of HOOCH caused thousands of pounds worth of damage. Does the Minister regard the cut in budget and staffing a fair price to pay when it can cause chaos and disorder in HMP Ranby?

6.5 Foreign National Prisoners. (FNP's)

The Board again commends the work of the officers at HMP Ranby tasked with meeting the special requirements of FNPs, especially those detained after the expiry of their sentence.

The Board also notes that:

FNPs represented an average of 13.9% of the prisoner population during 2011 with an average monthly transfer in of 21.25 FNPs; 7 full and 3 half day United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) surgeries were held, seeing 435 prisoners. An agreement has been reached with 2 UKBA staff continuing to provide monthly surgeries.

The Big Word translating facility was used on only 37 occasions for a total of 294 minutes. Although it is a considerable reduction from the 2010 usage, it is explained by the increased assistance in translations provided by bilingual prisoners, especially with regard to the increased Chinese and Vietnamese population. Assistance with translations for a Columbian national has been willingly provided by a female member of staff.

The Custody Office staff is valued for their assistance in processing 'out' 255 FNPs. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is now made available to all FNPs identified during induction by education staff. It is the prisoner's choice and any that request help in this regard receive it.

It is apparent that the Coordinator and his fellow officer invest lots of time and encounter frustrations in meeting the needs of those FNPs who wish to return home or who choose to stay at HMP Ranby but are frequently rewarded by successful and satisfactory results.

However, the Board still has some concerns:

- Both the Foreign National Coordinator and an assisting officer are profiled with other duties. As these officer's duties are termed 'flexible' they are regularly 'dropped' which is not always convenient when meetings/surgeries are arranged or urgent matters require attention;
- There are still some problems with the Criminal Casework Directorate (CCD). CCD (Operations) provides a very good monthly service but some Caseworkers are slow when providing information. Prisoners are still told, the night before they are due to leave that they will not be leaving after all. This generates distrust and frustrations;
- CCD still send all documentation in English which then requires increased use of translation facilities;
- The Ranby Induction book for prisoners has not yet been translated into any other language; however, use is made of the Prison Reform Trust booklet.

Questions to the Minister

1. Why can't finance be made available for local Induction Booklets to be translated into all relevant languages?
2. Why isn't mandatory training on the Translation Services implemented in a Prison designated for Foreign National prisoners?
3. Does the Minister agree that ESOL should be made mandatory in a prison designated for Foreign National prisoners?

6.6 Staffing and Resources

The Board is pleased to note the following improvements in this reporting year:

- Staff diversity targets have been achieved during 2011/12;
- Sickness levels are below target e.g. February 2012 at 8.18 working days per person (target 9.00);
- Industries at 21.3.11 had 37 instructors and only 1.5 vacancies;
- First aid training for staff is up to date and there will be a program put into place to ensure that the prison meets its commitments throughout 2012/13.

Many staff have been trained in fire awareness and Cell Snatch Rescue Equipment (CSRE), but may require refresher training, this is ongoing and a plan of action is in place. All managers have submitted a training needs analysis and are sure that targets will be met.

Psychology has been separated into two departments, Psychology deals with assessments etc. and is under the control of "Area" and the Programmes department is run by HMP Ranby, since the change the programmes department and the prisoners has successfully accomplished 125 courses, staff have met their target. But, due to cutbacks and the lack of spaces in "open prisons" prisoners now have to wait months before transfers can be made.

However the Board must reiterate again its concerns that:

- Departments are under resourced and "droppable duties" such as the Operations Department and Reception amongst others, (their duties are not completed because of more pressing work) leads to a backlog of work and many complaints.
- It is quite usual for staff to spend hours answering complaints and letters rather than pursuing their tasks. Staff familiar with the work are put on other duties and "stand in" clerks inevitably work less efficiently and the department from which they are transferred also suffers causing a knock on effect;
- The recruitment of staff in many areas was restricted for most of the reporting period. The Chaplaincy was without a Minister and the Education Department was without a Manager for many months;
- Lifer and IPP prisoners who have been approved for category D prisons by the Secretary of State are not transferring with the same regularity as there are not enough spaces at open prisons, this has also caused a backlog to other prisoners who are not Lifers or IPP prisoners;
- Time off in Lieu (TOIL) at the end of February 2012 stood at 3457hrs, approximately 2000hrs below the figures in last years report. This has been achieved by cutting Association on the wings to 8.8 hours per week; this leaves some wings in patrol state when prisoners should be on association.

6.7 Lifers and Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPPs)

The Board is pleased to report that the improvements recorded in last year's report have continued with a number of additional improvements.

- The increase in Psychologists to conduct "one to one" interviews to meet the requirements of the Parole Board has been welcomed;
- The lifer / IPP 'family days' continue;
- The monthly liaison meetings between Lifer / IPPs and prison staff also continues;
- The Offender Management Team has improved its training. It has better equipped teams of Probation Officers and Prison Officers to manage this group of prisoners;
- The delivery of courses has improved although there remains a waiting list for prisoners requiring the necessary courses to fulfill their Parole requirements.

However the Board continues to be concerned over a number of National problems relating to Lifer and IPP prisoners;

- Although there is an improvement in the number of courses available to Lifers and IPP prisoners there remains a waiting time for attendance on the Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage it (CALM) course of approximately 63 prisoners. This delay is detaining the prisoner beyond the expiry date of their tariff;
- Delays in moving prisoners to category D (CAT D) open prisons once they have been given the CAT D status continues to cause a backlog in the process and delays in their rehabilitation programme.

HMP Ranby had 57 CAT D prisoners waiting at the end of March 2012;

- The number of IPP prisoners serving longer than their tariff is concerning and currently stands at 116.

6.8 Offender Management Unit (OMU)

The Offender Management Unit includes within its section the Lifer and IPP prisoners as mentioned in section 6.7.

The Board is pleased to report that the OMU team conducts a sentence plan interview on all prisoners admitted to HMP Ranby. The number of prisoners at the end of the reporting year serving 1 to 4 years stood at 408 and those serving over 4 years were 578. The figures for the number of prisoners graded as Very High Risk stood at 10, High Risk 384, Medium Risk, 492, and No Risk 127. For a department that has input to all prisoners who enter HMP Ranby this is an enormous challenge even when those prisoners serving under 12 months may only be here for a period of 8 weeks allowing minimal intervention.

In the near future the OMU team is hoping to develop work with a company called “Remedi” working to promote restorative Justice. Staff will be involved in working with both prisoners and victims to assist both parties to come to terms with what happened and the offender to face the consequences of his offending behaviour. In the OMU the backlog of OASys assessments reported in last year’s report has improved considerably.

However the Board has these concerns;

- The number of staff deployed to other duties regularly which allows their core duties to mount up;
- There remains the problem of prisoners arriving from local prisons with no completed OASys report; it causes an already busy and dedicated unit more duties.

6.9 Personal Officer Scheme

The Board has concerns with the Personal Officer Scheme. In its last report improvements were being made but the Board must point out that in this year’s report the scheme is not working to its full potential. A new working programme has been implemented for staff; this has cut the time given to the scheme.

The Board concerns include:

- The decrease in wing staff has placed more prisoners with each Personal Officer;
- The set day where Personal Officers interview a prisoner in his care has now ceased and staff must speak with prisoners during other duties;
- In the Board’s view there is less time to enter information on to the computer whether it is a positive or negative comment, addressing their sentence plan requirements, or addressing any resettlement issues;
- The use of a wing file was much easier to manage entries, since using the C-NOMIS computer recording system coupled with shared access to a computer station may not help officers to demonstrate good practice. It is not a good use of their valuable time when staff are having to wait even longer to make an entry on the computer;
- The use of wing applications for enquiries / simple tasks is now used and can take up to 4 days for a reply. The Board continues to receive many applications from prisoners seeking help with these matters;
- While information about learning difficulties is shared with all staff, Personal Officers only occasionally consult the Education staff about a prisoner’s special needs;
- Many prisoners find it difficult to talk to uniformed staff. Staff should continue efforts to “break the ice” with reticent prisoners.

Question to the Minister

Since last year’s report the Personal Officer Scheme has been redefined and no longer functions on a one to one prisoner / officer basis. In view of the changes can the Minister give some assurance that prisoner’s personal needs will still be met?

6.10 Resettlement

The Board is very disappointed that the cuts in the budget has lead to fewer housing options for those prisoners who are released and wish to make their way back into the community.

However, the Board is pleased to report that the resettlement team continues to produce an excellent standard of work. The number of Family Days has doubled, now operating every month both mornings and afternoons. This facility is available to standard and enhanced prisoners. Many of the concerns expressed in the 2011 report have been resolved partly due to some additional funding and partly due to the diligent enthusiastic work of the staff i.e.

- The employment job centre adviser has been reinstated and the debt adviser attends one day each week. The team have maintained their contact with many supportive voluntary groups who assist in the resettlement of prisoners;
- Although there remains a lack of Hostel places for prisoners of No Fixed Abode the resettlement team have fostered links with Local Authority and Housing Associations to secure accommodation on release.

There is an impressive supply of information available from the resettlement team who have produced a directory of services booklet for prisoners and their families. The Resettlement team has once again supervised the return of a number of agencies who visit HMP Ranby on a regular basis which includes organisations such as Sure Start and the Royal British Legion who support Veterans in Custody and prepare them for release.

6.11 Security (including safety)

The Board acknowledges that although there has been a reduction in staff and resources throughout the year the Security Staff, a well trained and coordinated team, continue their fight against indiscipline and security issues.

Unfortunately the establishment's dog cover is now controlled and supplied by the East Midland Drug Dog Team and dogs are now only available 4 days a week of which 1 day must be a weekend. There have also been occasions when the prison has not received the correct dog, proactive or passive.

The Anti-Dash fencing programme is now complete and the installation of CCTV cameras both internal and external continues. They include a number of Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras which have proved effective throughout the year. The Quad Bike Patrol program no longer exists and it is now likely the machines will be disposed of.

The Board again commends the continuing professional approach and successful application of the Fire Officer and his staff. During the year the Security Team has successfully detected a large amount of "Hooch". This is a result of continual good intelligence.

The Control & Restraint (C&R) Team currently numbers 24 and has effectively attended a number of serious incidents during the reporting period. Progress has been made on the purchase of 'mobile phone blockers'; these have been bid for and hopefully will be available for use in the near future.

The Board continues to have the following concerns:

- A large number of drugs, mobile phones, and SIM cards is entering the establishment;
- Prisoner's prescribed medication in circulation throughout the prison;
- The number of incidents associated with threats, weapons, bullying and staff assaults.
- The continuing admission of some prisoners to HMP Ranby who have additional problems of mental health issues and behavioural difficulties, some of which are attributed to long term substance abuse, which challenge good order and discipline;
- A recognised increase in organised gang activities, within the prison;
- The high numbers of short term prisoners has caused concern for a training prison;
- Long delays in prisoners being moved to "open prisons" has created additional work for the operations department due to the increase in complaints;
- The lack of in-cell sanitation on "A" wing provokes incidents of safety for prisoners.

Questions to the Minister

1. Why are search dogs now supplied only 4 days a week when there are still a large number of drugs / mobile phones entering the establishment?

2. Are there any national incentives to disrupt gang related culture / activity that can be implemented at HMP Ranby?

6.12 Transfers

The Board once again acknowledges the dedicated work of the small team in the Operations Department; there are three staff, one full time, one part time and one cover. With an Operational Capacity (OC) of 1098, large numbers of prisoners waiting for a transfer is the norm. The Board notes that the department has changed its working practise again to include transferring Indeterminate Public Protection (IPP) prisoners which unfortunately has decreased the 'good work' being done and is slowing down other duties in that department.

The Board does have other concerns:

- The increasing high population nationwide continuously hinders movement;
- Operational staff find themselves answering complaints from prisoners and letters from their solicitors. This takes up hours of their valuable time;
- Prisoners are told they are moving to a certain establishment for family reasons, when in fact they find themselves at HMP Ranby. This exacerbates difficult situations and causes distress for both staff and prisoners;
- Operational staff are deployed to other duties, increasing the delay in processing transfer applications;
- There have been inappropriate moves to HMP Ranby by prisoners from Category B prisons. It is difficult transferring those prisoners who were wrongly re-categorised as being suitable for a category C training prison, as some establishments are not interested in taking them back. This has increased over the last three months;
- Prisoners had to wait 56 days before applying for transfers. This rule has now gone and allows even more transfer applications to be sent to the department starting from the first day a prisoner arrives at HMP Ranby;
- Prisoners sent to HMP Ranby due to overcrowding at other establishments;
- Indeterminate Public Protection (IPP) prisoners now take inappropriate priority over other prisoners when it comes to transferring them to category D open prisons, even when they have been working hard and making progress. The IMB receive applications from prisoners asking why, when they have gained this status they are left in HMP Ranby for much longer than they should be;
- There are other transfers to be considered i.e. Police Production, Funerals and prisoners who are exchanged with another establishment on a one to one basis.

Reception Transfers

The Board recognises the hard work carried out by staff in Reception considering the volume of work involved, as HMP Ranby has no set criteria for new arrivals where other establishments have. For example:

- Reception of new arrivals which happens at least 4 times a day;
- The associated induction and first night obligations;
- The redeployment of staff to other duties;
- Prisoner's being transferred out and those being released;
- Movements to attend Courts, hospitals etc;
- Prisoners applying to reception to access their personal property;
- The large amount of property that does not come with a prisoner from some establishments. Reception staff are occupied in contacting those prisons regularly;
- The amount of missing property from other establishments, occupying hours of time that could be spent on work at HMP Ranby.

Question to the Minister

1. Why does Ranby not have a set criteria for accepting prisoners as other establishments do? This leaves Ranby open to accepting unsuitable prisoners. With reducing staff members this could prove difficult to manage and affects the safety and security of both prisoners and staff.

6.13 Visits

External Centre

Staff are polite, caring and efficient when dealing with visitors and applying the process.

The new times for opening the visits centre has improved a situation reported in last year's report, where visitors had no access to toilets for long periods on arrival.

However the Board has concerns that:

- The booking line for visits is not available on a Wednesday. This puts extra pressure on staff and increases the verbal abuse from callers on other days.

Internal Facilities

The Board acknowledges the way the staff carry out their duties in a very polite and caring manner in the searching of visitors. The visits area is pleasant and family friendly. The play area is very much appreciated by the young visitors. The new system of the prisoners being in the visits room prior to the visitors arriving has reduced the family queuing. The family visiting days are very successful and appreciated by both visitors and prisoners.

However the Board still has these concerns;

- The tea bar, is not always open which therefore does not provide for those visitors who have travelled some distance to see a prisoner;
- The lack of accumulated visits in this reporting period. The Board considers these visits important to family ties and to resettlement into the community;
- Although the prison tries to locate prisoners to a prison near the family home to facilitate visits, this is not always achievable due to lack of vacancies caused by overcrowding of the prison population on a national scale;
- The presence of search dogs is very limited due to the fact they are now area based.

Question to the Minister

The search dogs play a vital role. Can the Minister explain how reducing the use of the dogs helps to improve the drug finds?

6.14 Chaplaincy

The welcome changes in the Chaplaincy Team recorded in last year's report continue, with the multi faith centre used regularly for Muslim Prayers and other religious groups. Despite the continued absence of a full time Anglican Chaplain, a situation which has existed since 17th Dec 2010, the chaplaincy team has fulfilled its pastoral duties well.

The Roman Catholic and other Christian Services are continuing with the local Priest and other visiting Ministers but with interruptions by the lack of staff at weekends and the cut in the national budget.

However the Board is concerned that;

- There has been no fulltime Anglican Chaplain for the majority of this reporting period and the part time sessional Chaplain has been unable to complete his hours;
- During this period the Anglican services have been conducted by the Salvation Army Officer and although his service has been appreciated, Holy Communion was not available. This was rectified in Feb 2012 when a new Anglican Chaplain commenced his duties;
- The Board is concerned that in the reporting period there was inconsistency in how prisoners were required to enlist for attendance at religious services on Sunday and with staffing issues at the weekend the services were postponed or cancelled.

Questions to the Minister

1. In view of the absence of an Anglican Chaplain over a number of months does this pose the question as to whether the prison has failed to 'recognise and respect the rights of the prisoners to practice their religion'?
2. Does the Minister agree that there should be no restrictions on attendance at Sunday worship and why does the reduced staffing on Sundays lead to it?

For and on behalf of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Ranby

Signed:*C S Gee*.....
Carole. S. Gee. Chairman

Section 7 Board Statistics

Appendix 1

IMB MEMBER'S ATTENDANCES DURING REPORTING PERIOD

REASON FOR ATTENDANCE	TOTAL VISITS
Rota Visits including: Applications; CSU Reviews; Matrix; ACCT Reviews.	342
Board Meetings	98
Area Chairs Meetings	3
In-House Meetings	21
Sub-Group Meetings & Major Concerns Research	27
Board Informal Meetings	14
Annual Team Performance Review	8
Night Visits	2
Evening Visits	3
Serious Incidents	2
Visits to Other Boards	15
Visits from Other Boards	2
Special Visitors	2
Training - Local	115
Training - National	5
Annual Report	53
IMB National Conference	2
Chairman I Vice Chairman Duties. Including Confidential Access and Recruitment.	226
Total Number of Attendances	725

Section 7 Board Statistics

Appendix 2

PRISONER APPLICATIONS TO IMB DURING REPORTING PERIOD

CODE	SUBJECT	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012
A	Accommodation	45	6	15	42	48	35
B	Adjudications Etc.	18	11	5	37	10	12
C	Diversity Related	21	16	9	21	18	9
D	Education / Employment / Training	34	35	16	28	59	53
E	Family / Visits	28	58	43	24	36	34
F	Food / Kitchen Related	16	14	Nil	Nil	4	4
G	Health Related	31	66	28	41	69	81
H	Property	108	141	93	90	84	117
I	Sentence Related	110	230	124	82	65	81
J	Staff / Prisoner Related	13	24	32	21	19	26
K	Transfers	156	96	49	49	77	68
*L	Miscellaneous	69	63	50	43	55	81
	Total Number of Applications	<u>649</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>464</u>	<u>478</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>601</u>

* Miscellaneous includes: Bullying; Threats / Threatening behaviour; Earnings / Wages (As distinct from IEP); Request and Complaints – Late and Inadequate responses; Communication with External Authorities; Lack of Janitorial materials; Document retrieval; Foreign National problems – other than those coded.

Section 7 Board Statistics

Appendix 3

**THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD
DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

BOARD STATISTICS 2011 / 2012	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	19
Number of Board Members at the start of the Reporting Period	12
Number of Board Members at the end of the Reporting Period	7
Number of New Members joining the Board in the Reporting Period	3
Number of Board Members leaving the Board in the Reporting Period	6
Total number of Board Meetings during the Reporting Period	12
Average number of Attendances at Board Meetings during the Reporting Period	8.75
Number of Attendances at Meetings other than Board Meetings	91
Total number of Visits to the prison (including all meetings)	725
Total number of Applications received	601
Total number of Care and Separation Unit Reviews Held	336
Total number of Care and Separation Unit Reviews Attended	310