



**HMP Wakefield**

**Annual Report**

**by**

**Independent Monitoring Board  
Wakefield**

**01 May 2013 – 30 April 2014**

**Monitoring Fairness and Respect  
for People in Custody**

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## **1. STATUTORY ROLE of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB)**

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 required 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 a 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.

## **2. HMP WAKEFIELD – DESCRIPTION**

HMP Wakefield is one of only eight High Security Prisons in the country. It is located between the city centre and a residential district, with a Certified Normal Accommodation of 750 prisoners of Category A, B, and High Security Remand. There are four residential wings: A, B, C, and D. Remand prisoners are also housed in B wing, in a separate unit. All cells are of single occupancy. Prisoners are also held in the Health Care (HCC), the Segregation Unit and the Exceptional Risk Unit (Closed Supervision Centre - CSC), both located in F Wing.

The CSC operates under a national co-ordinated management strategy to provide secure isolated location for those prisoners who are assessed as consistently and violently disruptive.

## **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 to 30 April 2014. It is presented in the standardised national format. As in previous years, we again acknowledge the continuing good work and the improvements achieved in many areas of the prison while identifying and highlighting any areas of concerns.

This year has seen the continued process of change and renewal of the Board resulting in significant changes to its membership and experience. Remaining members have been increasingly stretched and have worked harder than ever to meet commitments. As a result, by the end of the reporting period the Board had started an extensive recruitment exercise which had resulted by July in half a dozen new members being recommended for appointment. The Board is extremely concerned that some 8 months later, none have actually been appointed, a combination, apparently, of delays in security and other checks and

administrative systems outside the prison and IMB itself. The Board recognises that, with its own shrinking resources, there will be significant responsibilities in relation to induction, training and support, and it has anticipated this by putting systems in place to make sure that this happens effectively.

### **3.1 Issues requiring the attention of the Director**

As reported over several years, the Board has been concerned about the continuing problems with the aging fabric of the Segregation Unit. It understood the difficulties of decisions about the practical use of available resources given the high security implications of any remedial work; however, in the meantime, the state of the building remained poor with a direct effect on the living and working conditions of prisoners and staff. It was therefore very pleased when sufficient resources were identified to allow for the necessary work and at the imaginative solutions that have been planned to allow the repairs and renovation to be carried out with a commitment to public protection.

The Board has needed to express its concerns over some considerable period of time about the continuing restrictions on the use of the workshops caused by dilapidation of the fabric of the buildings. This has potentially a direct effect on moves by the Prison Service to more fully occupy prisoners in gainful employment. This is also true of the staffing arrangements which can lead to loss of work in the case of absence and lack of cover. However, this year has seen the welcome provision of resources to effect the necessary repairs and renovation, which in due course should enhance the workshop provision. However, other issues to do with supply of contracts and throughput of work, as well as the management arrangements to make the best use of the improved facilities and fabric will still need ongoing attention.

Gaps in educational provision are highlighted in our report and the Board urges a review of the resources available to this important area of work, especially in a prison like Wakefield where the very long-term nature of many of the population emphasises the need for productive occupation.

Last year, the Board recognised the challenges faced by prison service management in managing a significantly reduced budget and the difficulties in implementing the staffing and the other changes that this has necessitated. It was concerned during the year about the potential service delivery implications of the introduction of the Fair and Sustainable initiative, as well as the personal challenges it has posed for individual members of staff, some of whom have left after many years of service and experience. It said that it would continue to monitor and discuss with management the practical effects it observes on standards of service, training and skills and staff morale.

It has done so, and like the staff and management of the prison was gratified by the positive results of the full inspection by HMIP during the year. The report showed significant improvements in the overall running of the prison, particularly in areas such as respect, which has been challenging in recent years. The IMB would wish to associate itself with the assessments of change made by the Inspectorate and recognise that this has been the result of significant and sustained efforts by management and the hard work and commitment of staff to improving conditions for prisoners.

## **4. Reports**

### **4.1 Equality and Inclusion**

The primary oversight and mechanism for dealing with equality, inclusion and diversity issues is the work of the Prisoner Equality Action Group (PEAG), chaired by the Deputy Governor. This is an effective and responsive system. PEAG meets every month, with an active agenda and defined ongoing action points, and is well attended by prison staff (including relevant senior officers) and by prisoner "Equality Representatives" (several from each wing). The Prison's formal Equality Action Plan (EAP) is derived partly from the work of PEAG, and partly from other sources, including internal inquiries and DIRF (Diversity Incident Reporting Forms) investigations.

During the year there were 97 DIRF's submitted, of whom 55 were not substantiated, 36 were substantiated, and 3 led to formal investigation, and 3 were ongoing. There are also monthly Equality Reps meetings, at which the Reps scrutinize around 10% of the DIRFs, and recommendations for investigation are added to the Equality Action Plan. In addition there are External Scrutiny Panels held on a quarterly basis. DIRFs are also quality checked by the DDC on his visits to the Prison.

The board attends the PEAG meetings regularly. The constructive joint working between officers and prisoners has been found to be impressive. Equality and diversity issues are taken very seriously in the prison, and practical actions taken where necessary. It is notable that equality related applications from prisoners remained low in numbers, i.e. 6% of the total number of applications received in the year.

### **4.2 Education, Learning and Skills**

Education Learning and Skills programmes are offered to approximately a third of prisoners.

Employment, learning and skills are integral to the offender management process. Programmes are carried out throughout the prison locations, not just in the workshops.

Problems do occur however, when prisoners apply for education as there are not enough places available to meet the assessed demand. IMB applications in this area have increased by 2% from previous years.

The teaching provision is a mix of full-time and part-time staff. The curriculum has been reviewed to ensure delivery. Data recording is used across all learning and skills to report to Offender Management on individual progress on each course. Wakefield is a registered centre for City and Guilds and runs NVQs. It is also an approved centre for Certa. CLEAR TREE no longer work with the Waste Management Unit and qualifications are delivered through Manchester College.

Learning and Skills and Education have continued to provide support in all areas of the prison, including the Segregation Unit, HCC and CSC. Support has included outreach from the gym for offenders with identified health problems and additional support for CSC including high level IT opportunities. There are additional courses which are offered to allow the kitchen staff to enhance their qualifications. HCC has continued to provide a range of

additional stimulating activities for the growing number of elderly offenders and those with mental health problems, including P.E. for gentle exercise and individual programmes/physiotherapy.

Education is offered on a part-time basis with few full-time opportunities. Most courses are of a fixed eight week term to ensure that learners plan for progression. Funding is a limiting factor in the numbers following Open University Programmes. However, the opportunity is only available to prisoners in the last seven years of their sentence.

Art is well established and most years offenders continue to enter the Koestler Awards. The P.E. department also delivers H1 and H2 Certa Courses.

### **4.3 Healthcare and Mental Health**

The Primary Care Centre, IDTS and GP Service continue to be operated by Spectrum Community Health. There is continual concentration on drug reduction. ATD drug testing is routinely carried out with oversight from qualified staff. Drug abuse related bullying is at its lowest level for many years.

Nottingham Health Trust continues to supply Mental Health Services. This service works very well and there is strong co-operation between the service and Wakefield Prison A.I.C.

Nottingham Health has recently introduced an alternative treatment for older prisoners with personality disorders. These problems prohibit entrance to risk reduction programmes. At present 13 prisoners are on the scheme although 60 prisoners have been identified, not far off 10% of the prison's population.

The Tele-medicare service is running successfully. However, the contract is being transferred from Airedale to Pinderfields Hospital. This will further reduce operational time as the hospital consultants will be much closer to hand.

Humberside continue to run the In-patient Care Service. Wakefield has a significant number of older prisoners - 334 out of a total population of 744. This, by its very nature, brings its own healthcare problems.

Services such as dental, optical, and x-ray screening are carried out in line with NHS targets. Diabetes presents a significant problem with a total of 61 sufferers.

Annual immunisation for the 65's and over is given for influenza and pneumonia.

The Healthcare Forum meets monthly with representation from all Healthcare providers and Wing Representatives. Minutes are published and are available.

A system identifying Prisoner Healthcare Forum Representatives has been introduced. The representative acts as a 'link person' for Healthcare queries. The representatives have been issued with orange t-shirts and sweatshirts.

#### **4.4 Purposeful Activity (including work)**

Each workshop has two distinct measurements of prisoners allocated to it: the *roll*, which is the capacity, i.e. the highest number possible, and the *actual* number which the workshop accepts each shift. The actual number accepted depends upon various factors, e.g. the staff available (the number of instructors and or discipline staff), and the availability of the prisoners (high can vary because of doctors/dentist appointments, visits to the gym, and legal visits etc). Prisoners on the roll are paid even if they are not selected for work on that shift. The selection of those selected for work appears to be a rota system run by the shop floor staff.

##### *Workshop No 1 and 3: Textiles and Cutting*

A Textile production unit has been formed by combining Workshops 2 and 8, working with Workshop 3 (see below). These are housed in Workshop 1 and have a maximum of 70 prisoners on the roll. However on a recent visit only 47 prisoners were in the Workshop with no Cat A's present.

##### *Workshop 2: Contract Services*

Previously Workshop 1 was contract services but this has now been split between Workshops 2 and 8. Workshop 2 now makes lining machines for sports fields. This year the work has expanded into 3 different types: Spray, Aerosol and Stadia lining. The Workshop also makes Reservoir tanks for hydraulic pumps. An interesting feature at the moment is that they are doing remedial work on machines which have been made in China. The manufacturing side is busy whilst the general contract side is not.

##### *Workshops 3 and 4: Textiles*

No 3 has been closed until the roof has been renovated.

No 4 shop has been closed due to the roof being unsafe. This is expected to be remedied during the roof refurbishment (programmed for July/August 2014).

##### *Workshop 5: Braille*

This is temporarily closed for roof repairs and to address some IT problems, but it is hoped to have this Workshop reopened quickly, due to the importance of the work carried out in this particular department, which includes preparing books for blind children in schools.

There are 2 small classrooms within the education block operating with a Braille facility, staffed by a small number of Cat A prisoners. However this is insufficient to keep up with the schedule required to maintain the output – with implications that the recipients of the books will be adversely affected.. This constitutes a huge worry to the very dedicated shop floor staff.

##### *Workshop 6: Charity*

Supervised by one civilian and one uniform staff, this continues to maintain an excellent reputation using a wide variety of skills with prisoners of widely differing accomplishments.

##### *Workshop 7: Hospitality/catering*

Working toward NVQ standard, prisoners are taught cooking and serving. The average group size is approximately 8 prisoners.

*Workshop 8: Textiles/T pack/contract services*

Three widely differing activities take place in this one Workshop: Textile sewing, which is very busy; T packs, which are also very busy; and Contract services – which have no work. This presents a problem, since whilst most of the prisoners are kept fully occupied, the 8 prisoners in contract services sit around, having a detrimental effect on the other prisoners who have to work.

*Workshops 9, 10 and 11* are used for storage

*Workshop 12: BICS Cleaning*

Offering accreditation this Workshop trains prisoners who can then become cleaners.

*Workshop 13: PICTA*

Closed due to IT security problems

*Workshop 15: Woodworking*

Run by two civilian staff, this shop continues to produce excellent high quality work which can be sold. It could be a greater source of revenue for the prison. However this seems to suffer from a lack of investment and is one shop which would benefit from being housed in larger premises.

*Workshop 16: Re-Cycling*

Recycling most of the rubbish produced by the prison, this Workshop is a huge success, and the staff should be complimented on their achievements

*Workshop 17: Printing.*

Closed due to IT security problems

**Conclusions**

The Workshops are all well run by the shop floor staff, but there appears to be a lack of urgency in bringing in and maintaining the work necessary to keep all the prisoners busy. The Board welcomes the fact that priority in resources has been found to address the long-standing problems with maintenance, especially the roofing problems. It recognises that the changes brought about by this necessary work ), along with the staffing changes and IT security difficulties, have not helped in keeping all the Workshops fully occupied, but by September 2014 it is expected that normal working will have resumed and the overall level of provision should improve in the longer term.

Workshop Usage 2013-2014							
Workshop No	Usage 2013	Usage 2014	staffing Level		Prisoners		Prisoners Cat A
			Instructors	Discipline	Roll	Actual	
No 1	Contract Services	Textiles & Cutting	2	3	70	47	nil
No 2	Cutting Services	Contract Services	2	1	31	20	nil
No 3	Textiles	Closed Re-roofing	x	x	x	x	x
No 4	Textiles	Closed Re-roofing	x	x	x	x	x
No 5	Braille	Closed Re-roofing	x	x	x	x	x
No 6	Charity	Charity	1	1	29	20	nil
No 7	Hospitality Catering	No Change	1	1	10	10	nil
No 8	Textiles	Contract Services	2	1	37	** see note	max 10
Nos 9/10/11	Used for storage	No Change	x	x	x	x	x
No 12	BICS Cleaning	No Change	2	1	12	8	nil
No 13	PICTA	closed	x	x	x	x	x
No 15	Woodwork	No Change	2	1	27	16	nil
No 16	Re-Cycling	No Change	2	2	44	30	15 *
N0 17	Print	closed	x	x	x	x	x

\*\* W/shop 1 and 8

\*\* Attendance depends upon staffing levels  
 1 Civilian plus 1 discipline= 15 attendees  
 no Cat A  
 1 Civilian plus 2 discipline= 20 attendees  
 no Cat A  
 2 Civilian plus 2 discipline=up to30 attendees no Cat A

#### 4.5 Resettlement

The Board has noted that a 2014 prisoner survey flagged up ‘preparation for release’ as an area for concern. The survey found that “prisoners appear less well informed about the services and support available to them in preparation for release”. Due to the category of prisoners serving sentences at HMP Wakefield few are released directly from the establishment, but work their way down the lower categories of the prison estate. However the report failed to state why it appeared there was a decrease in pre-release information.

HMP Wakefield still has significant issues with large numbers of prisoners who deny their index offences. Innovative work was being carried out with the Assessments Intervention Centre (AIC) to look at what motivated the prisoners who either did admit their index offence or those prisoners who admitted some blame - with a view to using the same methods with those who continue to deny their index offence/s.

During this reporting period a new governing governor was appointed and at his request building work and departmental moves were requested. It is the understanding of the Board

that some staff will be relocated from the Offender Management Unit (OMU) department to the admin block and the offender managers to the wings.

Currently prisoner sentence plans are reviewed every 12 months. Those who deny their offence/s are only reviewed every 3 years. Although this initially flagged up an area for concern, the prisoners who do deny their offence/s are periodically spoken to by their offender manager to review their denial.

HMP Wakefield continue to use the 7 pathways of offending model and have two dedicated staff members who deal with the prison's Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in which the prison estate is one of a number of statutory responsible agencies in the management of violent and / or sexual offenders.

Although the prison estate has seen large changes to the Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) scheme in this reporting period, due to the nature of the prisoners located within HMP Wakefield this is not usually relevant to the prisoners at this establishment.

The information pack provided to prisoners by the reception department on arriving at HMP Wakefield was reviewed by the Board and contained vast information regarding the regime of the prison and which departments / staff or services were available.

The HMIP unannounced visit to HMP Wakefield in this reporting period scored the resettlement department a 3 which is rated as good.

The number of prisoners completing accredited offence based courses was high, with a total of 66 prisoners completing living skills courses out of a total of 70 prisoners who commenced the programmes. Further foundation and revised foundation courses had good numbers of prisoners completing them; however these courses are not accredited.

The number of prisoners completing the Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP) was 36. The prison failed to provide details of the number of prisoners who failed to complete this programme. However, overall completion appears high.

A further change which has occurred regarding the programmes on offer is that each course has been allocated a custodial manager. This is likely to be a positive step, in that it will ensure that each programme has the responsibilities of the management team affiliated with it.

#### **4.6 Safer Custody**

The board is satisfied that accurate records are kept in respect of violence, self harm and anti-bullying. An ACCT document is opened if a prisoner is considered to be at risk.

Meetings are held monthly, those attending include offender representatives, anti-bullying and Equality representatives. The Samaritans, medical representatives and the IMB also attend. Notices of the meetings are displayed on the wings. It is also noted that Custodial Managers or their delegates attend daily meetings and check ACCT documents. The weekend duty governors also check all ACCTs, and consequently there is an ongoing 7 days a week continual document assessment.

The ACCT quality check list is very comprehensive and is open to view by the IMB. Note is made of the Care Map and its application.

Death in Custody procedures are well documented and understood. The IMB is informed immediately and a record of Death in Custody is kept by the Board. The Board is informed of any involvement by the Ombudsman, meets with his investigators where appropriate and receives copies of the Ombudsman's reports on Deaths in Custody. We are aware from a number of these reports of the Ombudsman's concerns about the use of restraints on grounds of security on prisoners who are seriously ill, or close to death. We recognise the difficult decisions that are involved and would support the Governor's view that these could appropriately and most effectively be made at the most senior local level and could be delegated from the Deputy Director.

The prison appoints a Family Liaison Officer who in the event of deaths and/or serious illness works very closely with the prisoner's family. Death in Custody notices are posted on the wings. The Governor or a senior member of staff attends funerals.

#### **4.7 Segregation, Care & Supervision, Close Supervision**

The Segregation Unit and the Close Supervision Centre are both housed on the same wing, in an older part of the prison, where the concerns of the IMB and other inspection bodies about the fabric and the state of repair of the building and the overall environment, have been of considerable concern over a number of years. While the unit generally presents as clean and orderly, it has been in a poor state of repair for some time and there has been a pressing need for a longer term solution to bring the physical environment for both staff and prisoners up to reasonable standards. The Board is pleased that work is now underway to make significant improvements, including to the roof. As a part of the prison which is visited very regularly by the IMB, the Board is well aware of the considerable efforts of managers and staff to provide at least a satisfactory regime for prisoners in this environment. It shared the concerns of the Inspectorate about the limitations of the regime for prisoners kept in segregation for longer periods, and the continuing inadequate nature of the living conditions for those few, and very high risk, prisoners in the CSC. In order to improve its effective monitoring of this unit the Board has given a single member particular responsibility for the oversight of the CSC, with regular contact with management and staff, and attendance at review meetings for prisoners. While there have had to be changes to this arrangement following moves in Board membership, every effort will be made to continue what has proved to be an effective system of monitoring here.

The Chair of the Board also regularly attends the national CSC and Category A management meetings on behalf of the group of high security prison IMBs.

As in previous reports, the Board again expresses concerns about the challenges posed by the significant number of prisoners with mental health and behavioural problems who are housed in segregation, often facing staff with considerable difficulties in ensuring satisfactory relocation arrangements. This contributes to an imbalance of the population on the wing, overt behavioural problems and additional pressures in the management of the wing.

#### **4.8 Residential Services (including accommodation, food, catering and kitchen)**

There are four main wings, each accommodating approximately 180 prisoners in single cells with toilet facilities and electricity. Each wing has a kitchen which is well used by prisoners. Meals are collected at the server and taken back to cells.

Prisoners who are not employed (owing to lack of work) and those not at education are locked up during these periods.

Association takes place in an area which can accommodate about 150 prisoners. Gym sessions are available, but are often shortened or cancelled at weekends because of staffing levels. The sports field is not in use – again because of staff levels under the ‘Old Profile’. Re-profiling is due and it is hoped that more outside activities will become available.

The Segregation Unit is a separate Wing which also houses CSC prisoners. There are in-cell toilet facilities, but the cells are without electrical sockets (which it is hoped will be installed at a future date).

The new kitchen came into operation during the reporting period. There are still problems with some equipment, including alarms. Bread baked on the premises has proved a success and has reduced the amount of wastage. Meals are well planned for the various festivals throughout the year. Prisoners appreciate the meat and fruit pies prepared in the kitchen.

There is a book at each Wing’s servery for prisoners and staff to record comments.

There are disabled prisoners on every wing, supported by fellow-prisoners as carers. Across the Wings, over 100 prisoners represent their fellows in terms of lifestyle, lifers, listeners, toe-to-toe, insiders, diversity, cleaners, etc.

Visits take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The recent introduction of on-line booking facilities has improved the booking system. POPS are now supervising the Visits Centre which had been run by volunteers since 1988.

There is a formal complaints system in operation. Prisoners can use the system as normal or with confidential access to the Governor and Chair of the IMB. Complaints are seen on a daily basis and whenever possible a reply made within 3/5 days. If the complainant is dissatisfied there are clear instructions as to the next stage. The ICAS complaint system is operated through a freephone number.

## 5. BOARD STATISTICS

Recommended complement of Board members	20
Number of Board members at start of the reporting period	12
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	11
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	4
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendance at Board meetings during period	10.3
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	362
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	485
Total number of applications received	196
Total number of segregation reviews held	54
Total number of segregation reviews attended	54

### APPLICATIONS TO THE BOARD BY NUMBER SUBJECT

CODE	SUBJECT	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
A	Accommodation	3	4	21	11
B	Adjudications	5	3	5	1
C	Diversity related	0	5	7	12
D	Education/employment/training	16	32	29	15
E	Family/visits	3	12	7	8
F	Food/kitchen related	3	5	1	5
G	Health related	4	14	15	37
H	Property	13	33	17	25
I	Sentence related	1	13	7	12
J	Staff/prisoner/related	24	37	21	5
K	Transfers	3	2	11	6
L	Miscellaneous	36	55	30	59
<b>Total number of applications</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>196</b>

### APPLICATIONS TO THE BOARD BY % SUBJECT

<b>CODE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>
A	Accommodation	2.70	1.86	12.28	5.61
B	Adjudications	4.50	1.39	2.92	0.51
C	Diversity related	0	2.33	4.09	6.12
D	Education/employment/training	14.41	14.88	16.96	7.65
E	Family/visits	2.70	5.58	4.09	4.08
F	Food/kitchen related	2.70	2.33	0.58	2.55
G	Health related	3.60	6.51	8.77	18.88
H	Property	11.71	15.35	9.94	12.76
I	Sentence related	0.90	6.05	4.09	6.12
J	Staff/prisoner/related	21.62	17.21	12.28	2.55
K	Transfers	2.70	0.93	6.43	3.06
L	Miscellaneous	32.43	25.58	17.54	30.10
<b>Total number of applications</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>196</b>

**END OF REPORT**