

# INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD



## HMP STAFFORD

ANNUAL REPORT  
1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015

## SECTION 1

### STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

1. The Prisons Act 1952 and the Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Justice Secretary from members of the community in which the prison is situated.
2. The Board is specifically charged to:
  - 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
  - inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom they have delegated authority, as it judges appropriate, any concern it has
  - 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 custody.
3. 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 THE PRISON

4. HMP Stafford is a category C, adult male, sex offender establishment with a certified normal accommodation of 741. On 30 April 2015 723 sex offenders and 15 non sex offender prisoners were held. In the Autumn the prison re-roled and is now a national sex offender hub. The prison is near to the town centre and is one of the oldest prisons in the country; many areas are 'listed' for planning purposes.

5. Each of the six older residential wings has accommodation for over 100 prisoners. Each wing has in-cell sanitation and a shower block. The prison comprises A, B, C, E and F wings. D wing also holds prisoners; it is used for induction and accommodates the Healthcare Centre and the Segregation Unit which is located below.

6. G wing, which is a single cell, two storey, prefabricated building for 40 prisoners, was constructed in 2004. The good quality of accommodation and facilities on G wing is in contrast to the remainder of the prison. A Senior Support Group Unit was being built towards the end of the reporting period.

7. There is a visitors' centre in a building opposite the prison and a visits hall and a tea bar within the prison itself. There are ten workshops providing a variety of activities.

8. As at 30 April 2015 the number of full time or equivalent staff was 272, 26 fewer than the previous year. No efficiency savings were made or required outside of the original benchmark reductions of 2013-14.

9. Healthcare facilities, including dentistry and chiropody, were provided by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Primary Care Trust (PCT), education services by Milton Keynes College and library services by Staffordshire County Council. Transport for prisoners was provided by Geo Amey and canteen by DHL.

10. There were many voluntary organisations supporting the prisoners. Among them were Samaritans (support for Listeners), Halow Trust (visitors' centre), Shannon Trust ('Toe By Toe' reading project), official prison visitors, chaplaincy volunteers, Bereavement and Loss Counselling Service and refreshment provision in the visitors' centre by Friends of Stafford Prison.

## SECTION 4

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

11. It is the Board's opinion that HMP Stafford is well managed and that staff make determined efforts to ensure prisoners are treated humanely and safely. This is against a background of a re-role to full sex offender status, a transition which the Board believes was handled swiftly and competently.

12. The Board wishes to raise the following issues with the Minister, particularly in relation to IPP offenders, which was highlighted in the last few Annual Reports.

Respondent	Issue	Action Required	Section
Minister and NOMS	Too many IPP prisoners are: a) without hope of a fair and timely release and b) have a sentence plan which, once complete, does not affect their release.	Introduce legislation to ensure IPP offenders are not routinely kept beyond tariff.	5.5
Minister and NOMS	Sex Offender Treatment Programmes (SOTPs) are only available for the most serious offenders and then only at the end of their sentence.	Increase funding to ensure serious sex offenders can benefit from a more timely programme.	5.5
Minister and NOMS	There is a disconnect between Healthcare and prison which can impair the consistent and continuous care for those in custody.	Create a structure in which there can be a more effective link between the two parties.	5.3

Issues to be raised with the governor 2014-15:

a) Education and Learning & Skills

Library use, although improved, continued to be hampered by lack of prison staffing.

Pg 8, para 32

b) Healthcare

- The pressure on Healthcare staff, especially since their manager was shared with another prison, was excessive.

Pg 10, Para 48

- Routine treatments could not keep pace with the increased range and urgency of older prisoners' needs.

Pg 10, para 50

- The unavoidable demand placed on staffing by increased bed watches led to an increase of time in cells for the rest. Cancelled appointments were an additional stress. Suspected bullying of older prisoners, by younger ones, for their prescribed medication heightened the vulnerability of the weakest in the prison.

Pg 10, para 51

c) Purposeful Activity

The lack of thorough assessment on arrival and the emphasis on earning rather than learning resulted in prisoners' resettlement needs not being met.

Pg 13, paras 78/79

d) Segregation

The inconsistent provision of specialist staff in this area before re-role meant that the previously praised aftercare on the wings could not always be given to prisoners.

Pg 16, para 99

e) Catering

Inoperable equipment continued to prevent the team of staff and prisoners from being as effective as possible.

Pg 16, para 104

f) Wing Issues

- It was difficult for the Board to monitor induction, a process which was highlighted as a concern in previous Annual Reports, because the timing and location were unpredictable.

Pg 17, para 111

- Officers often could not be detailed to the same wing (after benchmarking and before Every Contact Matters) so that the valuable personal connection between them and prisoners was impaired.

Pg 17, para 114

- The Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme was still not being used effectively.

Pg 17, para 116

## SECTION 5

### 5.1 Equality and Inclusion (Includes Foreign Nationals)

#### Positives

13. During the reporting period the prison continued to monitor equal opportunities for all those who shared the protected characteristics as laid down under the Equalities Act of 2010, along with those who did not. Those relevant characteristics identified were as follows:

- Religion and Belief
- Race
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability
- Gypsy/Roma/Travellers
- Age
- Transgender

14. As HMP Stafford had undergone a change of function, there were new challenges to ensure that all prisoners were given equal consideration during the transition and afterwards.

15. Every wing of the establishment had a prisoner Equalities Representative who sat on the monthly Equality Action Group which was chaired by the Deputy Governor pre re-role, then co-chaired by him and a prisoner; this encouraged active citizenship. They added new issues to an agenda which they took to the Equalities meeting. This was monthly and was attended by the governors who had responsibility for one of the characteristics. They reported back to the prisoner meeting on any actions.

16. A new, larger facility had begun to be put in place for the Senior Support Group (SSG) which would give more space in which more prisoners could be involved in a greater range of leisure and educational activities.

17. There was an active Gay/Bisexual/Transvestite (GBT) Group which met monthly, chaired by a Senior Officer. They had regular guest speakers and prior to the change had a regular attendance of between 20 to 30 prisoners; since the re-role this number increased to 40 plus.

### Negatives

18. There were 72 Discriminatory Incident Report Forms (DIRFs) raised during the period, 31 more than over the same period last year:

- Religion and Belief	9	(same)
- Race	29	(up 20)
- Sexual Orientation	16	(up 8)
- Disability	17	(up 6)
- Age	0	(down 2)
- Transgender	1	(down 2)

19. The reporting of and response to DIRFs remained an issue. Some actions were picked up in wing observation books but not raised as DIRFs. More staff training was to be put in place in order to resolve this. Response to existing DIRFs within the time limit was then monitored by the deputy governor and relayed to the Senior Management Team in the Equalities Report. Under reporting of DIRFs was identified and improved.

20. The re-role brought with it a change in the age profile with double the number of prisoners over the age of 65, from 51 prisoners before the change to 104 at the end of the reporting period.

### 5.2 Education, Learning and Skills

#### Positives

21. The new Head of Education (Milton Keynes College) had a positive impact, working together with the Head of Learning and Skills to produce a meaningful and dynamic action plan which incorporated points made by Ofsted and an active Self Assessment Review.

22. The Library was open on two evenings each week as well as Saturday mornings in the latter half of the reporting period.

23. Library visits were increased by 28%.

24. The Anne Frank Exhibition and talk was well received and attended.

25. Literacy was enhanced by reading and writing activities: Six Beginnings (writing) and the Six Book Challenge (reading) were appreciated.

26. In addition to Toe-by-Toe, the Shannon Trust asked the establishment to pilot a new reading scheme, 'Turning Pages', which was well received. New mentors began to be recruited and monitored.

27. Lack of qualifications in the workshops was addressed by the introduction of a partnership with Stoke-on-Trent College, delivering NVQs within workshops.

28. Revised absence reporting for prisoners who had appointments meant that they were no longer recorded as absentees.

29. Careful recruitment to educational courses led to most being full and in some cases oversubscribed.

### Negatives

30. The system of capping funding meant that it had not been possible to fully utilise possible financial resources.

31. While a Student Needs' Analysis was routinely in progress for new intakes, it was at the time of writing insufficiently embedded in a clear three year Action Plan.

32. Access to the Library in the evenings was still dependent on the availability of officers staffing the wings and as a result the advantage of evening opening was not fully operational.

33. As HMP Stafford was no longer a resettlement prison the Virtual Campus was used far less. The Board was seriously concerned about the impact on resettlement and the prisoners' futures after release. The role and purpose of National Careers needed to be clarified with regard to the prison's change of function.

34. Lack of treatment programmes for low level sex offenders as a result of a nationally agreed National Offender Management Services (NOMS) policy meant that those prisoners were unable to complete their sentence plans.

### 5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health (Includes Drugs)

35. The change of function had a significant impact on the demands made on Healthcare. There was an increase in the number of older prisoners with health related problems and long term conditions and more prisoners presented with personality disorders. There was also an increase in prisoners who self harmed and had anxiety issues. Additionally there was a new healthcare specification that all prisoners over 40 must have five yearly health checks and over 50s had to be checked yearly.

### Positives

36. Healthcare was granted an extra £100,000 which was spent on equipment and additional health assistants so that there was an improvement in staffing levels.
37. A Health Trainer/Coordinator was appointed to serve the six local prisons. At the end of this reporting period seven prisoners had completed and passed the course to become Health Champions, able to offer peer support and lifestyle advice also able to signpost to relevant health services. Access to them was available on all wings.
38. A very well organised and attended Health Fair offered information and advice across a large range of health related issues, including healthy eating, mental health and wellbeing, smoking cessation and drugs etc.
39. Dental care improved and the waiting list settled to a five week target.
40. Ultrasound scans and aneurism screening took place within the prison and the County Hospital agreed to come in to run free audiology tests for the increasing numbers of prisoners who required them.
41. The waiting rooms were refurbished, although as 'free flow' movement for prisoners had recently been introduced, the need was not so great at the end of the reporting period.
42. Discussion had begun on adapting part of one of the wings in order to develop appropriate end of life care.
43. Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS) worked very effectively and had a well advertised and proactive approach. Staff met prisoners within 24 hours of them entering the prison and offered a wide and flexible range of support and interventions.
44. The clinical team prescribed and managed prisoners during detox. Other staff worked on one to one sessions and ran a range of group support and alternative services. As an example, in February a quarter of the prison population attended a variety of such groups.
45. Recovery Champions were introduced: these prisoners were selected, trained and supervised to offer peer support and encouragement at an individual and group level. The Recovery Event was well attended and received very positive feedback.
46. There was a significant reduction in illegal drug use, particularly after the re-role.

47. DARS was a significant presence at the Health Promotion Fair.

Negatives

48. The Board was not happy that in the face of the increased demands, the Head of Healthcare was still obliged to divide her time between two prisons; communication between Healthcare staff, prison staff and the Board itself was not always easy.

49. The removal of two cells from Constant Supervision use freed up two much needed consulting rooms in Healthcare. Work on them was woefully slow as a result of different providers being used and after several months they were still not available.

50. The GP attended each morning but his waiting list dramatically increased and he was frequently unable to clear it within the week.

51. The continued lack of officer escorts meant that the regular cancellation of hospital appointments continued. At its worst 37% were cancelled in one month and over the year it averaged 25%. The Board was aware that the prison routinely provided over and above the profiled benchmark resources, however; also that cancellations were only over and above the profiled escorts.

52. Withdrawal of some services from the County Hospital, formerly known as Stafford District General Hospital, meant that the journeys to other hospitals were longer and more difficult. By and large the appointment staff in these hospitals were not as accommodating and understanding as those in Stafford.

53. Because there was no onsite inpatient Healthcare wing there was a worrying gap in the provision of care and attention for prisoners discharged from hospital or who became ill and were confined to a cell on the wing.

54. Since the change of function the drugs of choice changed to prescribed medication, mainly Tramadol. This became a growing problem. Evidence showed that older prisoners were sometimes intimidated into parting with their medication and that it was occasionally being trafficked.

55. It was disappointing that Healthcare staff rarely attended the monthly Drug Strategy meeting. This was as a result of staffing resources and the split of the Healthcare Manager between two prison sites.

#### 5.4 Purposeful Activity (Includes Work)

##### Positives

56. During the reporting year there were seven workshops with a planned roll of 234 completing contract work for outside customers; additionally the prison laundry and gardens party provided work for a further 33; the reclamation area provided work for a further 14 prisoners.

57. The atmosphere in these areas between supervisors and prisoners was good and in some shops was improved following the re-role, with a constant workload keeping everyone occupied.

58. The work available was varied and required different skill and educational levels with some being more satisfying than others; these variations were reflected in the pay bands.

59. The efforts of the Industrial Manager in continuing to increase work from outside customers was reflected in a 19% increase in the value of sales to these customers. The efforts of the supervisors and prisoners in the reclamation area achieved an impressive recovery of 93% of all waste.

60. The gym was utilised for morning and afternoon sessions of circuit training, badminton and weight training with an average attendance of 56 each session. Various courses were run which highlighted an increased focus on healthcare concerns, including substance misuse, basic PE, smoking cessation, GP referrals, exercise programmes, both mental and physical.

##### Negatives

61. Whilst acknowledging the valuable revenue stream generated, the Board remained concerned that much of the work provided, (eg key ringing, packing, simple assembly) provided little emphasis on the needs of younger sex offender prisoners approaching resettlement and on their need to find employment. It was felt that the older prisoners needed more suitable training which prepared them for retirement, not for the world of work.

62. Following the re-role and the increased prisoner age profile, the Board was concerned that prisoners of retirement age were prioritised over younger prisoners who needed pre-release training and education much more.

63. During the year the majority of workshops were refurbished, but some areas continued to reflect the age of the buildings, eg leaking roofs in certain shops.

64. CCTV equipment was still not adequate in workshops.
65. Workshops had full rolls and by the end of the reporting period could not increase numbers employed without moves to additional areas and the recruitment of additional supervision.
66. The uptake of evening gym use by prisoners employed elsewhere during the day fell since re-role, possibly due to the change in age profile.
67. A separate area was set aside in the gym for light chair based exercise for Senior Support Group prisoners; however the uptake, which was voluntary, was poor.

#### 5.5 Resettlement (Includes Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection IPP)

##### Positives

68. As in previous years, the resettlement record for this year was, generally, at or above target in all the key performance indicators achieving, at the year end, over 90% for settled accommodation, 13% for education/training and 12% for employment.
69. Resettlement meetings were held on a bimonthly basis when the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) was reviewed.
70. Resettlement fairs continued during 2014 and a further one was held in 2015. External agencies associated with employment, training and life skills attended and prisoners were given the chance to book a time to attend the fair.
71. Family visits continued to be held and, despite some early concerns, continued to be successful with much positive feedback. The system for booking in for visits on arrival was amended to remove the bias towards local visitors and this was positively received.
72. A new children's worker was appointed early in 2015 to help with family visits.
73. A new pay structure was being written for prisoners which would encourage them to undertake appropriate courses rather than attend those workshops where, hitherto, the pay had been higher.

##### Negatives

74. Following the re-role HMP Stafford prepared itself to offer Sex Offender Treatment Programmes (SOTP) for more serious sex offenders which took six

months to complete. Owing to a lack of programme resources, the SOTP programmes could only be offered to those prisoners who had six months left to serve. There was also some reliance on the delivery of SOTP in the community on release. The Board was aware that a bid for additional resources was being made to enable SOTPs to be started earlier, but recognised that if the bid was unsuccessful, the situation would impact negatively on prisoners. The Board was aware that the nationally agreed NOMS policy did not offer SOTPs to low risk offenders as repeat offending was unlikely; however the Board regretted the lack of any SOTPs for those prisoners.

75. In the last reporting period there were 47 prisoners in custody for the indeterminate protection of the public (IPPs), 35 of whom were post tariff. The Board recognised that the Independent Parole Board decided the final release date but it was also aware that sentence planning guidance from Offender Management could not be fully effective when appropriate SOTPs were not available or when prisoners were maintaining their innocence.

76. The attendance of some Pathway leads at Resettlement meetings was sporadic, with some not attending any meetings at all. This was not helpful to Board members in keeping up to date with progress; this was crucial, given the prison's re-role.

77. The Board was concerned that Job Centre Plus had a more limited presence in HMP Stafford and the National Careers Service representative only spent two days each week in the prison. This was not helpful to those 20 to 25 prisoners who were still being released on a monthly basis direct from HMP Stafford. The lack of thorough assessment on arrival meant that prisoners were not always on the most appropriate purposeful activity in terms of preparation for release.

78. The Board noted that there was concern within the prison that some prisoners were undertaking inappropriate courses given their age. Discussions were being held with the education provider to try to resolve the issue.

79. Although HMP Stafford was not a resettlement prison it began, towards the end of the reporting period, to release 20 to 25 prisoners per month without the support of the recently established CRCs.

## 5.6 Safer Custody

### Positives

80. The Board believed that, during a year of great change at HMP Stafford, prisoners were kept safe. This perception was ratified when the unannounced Safer Custody audit in February gave only three minor recommendations and highlighted the excellent work of the Listeners. The prison received the highest level of achievement (green).

81. The Safer Custody Team at HMP Stafford were to be commended for their hard work and commitment to always keeping prisoners safe but especially during the difficult times caused by the re-role.

82. There was a reduction in incidents of violence, especially since the change of function, and use of force remained low, with batons drawn on only two occasions during the year.

83. Prisoners who did not receive visits were reviewed on a regular basis and Listeners supported isolated prisoners. Training of new Listeners took place at least twice a year to ensure that the 50:1 ratio of prisoners to Listeners was more than maintained. The number of trained Listeners was usually above 20 and in fact reached 32 one month. The Open Door policy had given Listeners greater access to prisoners in need and they were able to be more proactive in assisting vulnerable prisoners.

84. There was an improvement in the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) documentation: it was quality checked by a governor each weekend and discussion with a case manager followed any shortfall.

85. The Safer Custody Team had begun the process of developing a policy for the older prisoners and for other vulnerable ones, given the increased age profile.

86. There was a rise in ACCTs for mental health reasons however this was a positive as it meant that staff were more aware of the signs and symptoms of mental health problems and were acting appropriately.

87. This year saw a decrease by a third in the number of strategies for tackling bullying (TABs). This may well have reflected the prison's change of population.

### Negatives

88. The Board was disappointed that, other than on one occasion, there was poor attendance from some Senior Management Team (SMT) members and heads of functions at monthly Safer Custody meetings. The expectation was that senior managers would attend in order to develop and coordinate local policy for the prevention of suicide and self-harm, and the management of violence reduction.

89. Following re-role the type of violence had changed. It was more covert and mainly involved bullying for medication. The Board endorsed the Safer Custody Team's advice that more information reports (IRs) were to be used to help reduce this bullying.

90. Officer hours profiled for violence reduction were not all used for this purpose. Staff resource issues, especially over school holidays and on occasions of emergency bed watches, reduced these hours considerably each month. The Board hoped a permanent solution could be found to this problem.

91. There were occasions when staff told needy prisoners that a 'Duty Listener' was not available, when in fact Listeners at HMP Stafford rightly considered themselves to be permanently on call.

### 5.7 Segregation, Care and Separation, Close Supervision/Constant Watch

#### Positives

92. The premises were clean and well maintained.

93. It was pleasing to note that officers who were more experienced in this unit were more regularly assigned to duties there. Staff were knowledgeable and helpful when members undertook monitoring. They endeavoured to ensure that exercise was taken daily, although this was dependent upon staffing levels.

94. The Board was notified of each new entry into the unit. Prisoners were regularly visited by members who were able to speak freely with them.

95. Reviews and adjudication hearings were conducted in a professional manner. All paperwork was available and appropriate staff were present.

96. Prisoners on constant supervision were kept safely and documents were monitored by members. Showers, exercise and telephone calls were taken in

the Segregation Unit. The Board was informed and regularly visited these prisoners.

97. Use of Force and Adjudication Governance paperwork was available for inspection. It was noted that since re-role in 2014 numbers held in the Segregation Unit decreased quite dramatically, although towards the end of the reporting period a slight increase was noted.

98. The number of adjudications decreased significantly after re-role.

#### Negatives

99. The Board regretted that since benchmarking officers working in the Segregation Unit no longer had time to maintain aftercare on the wings.

#### 5.8 Residential Services (Includes Food, Catering, Kitchens)

##### Positives

100. The cost per day for meals and snacks was £2.01 per prisoner. This represented an increase of 5p from last year. The catering team provided good quality food to over 738 prisoners each day.

101. The Kitchen received a five star award for food hygiene.

102. Monthly meetings were held by the Catering Team with prisoner representatives from each of the wings in attendance. Comments were generally positive and complimentary of the meals provided. Suggestions were always welcomed.

103. The work of HMP Stafford Kitchen was ably managed by the catering team during the long term sickness absence of the Catering Manager. This was an ongoing situation which continued until the new Catering Manager was appointed in April 2015.

##### Negatives

104. An area of concern highlighted in the last report was the high level of inoperable equipment during the year and the time taken to rectify this situation. There was some improvement during the reporting period in the time taken to repair or replace items but the kitchen could not function at its best without the correct equipment to provide 738 prisoners with meals and snacks.

## SECTION 6

### Wing Issues

#### Positives

105. Wings were decorated, often by prisoners, and refurbished in terms of some toilets, showers and beds in preparation for re-role; this was the start of a rolling refurbishment programme but the wings had already become cleaner, fresher and more attractive places in which to live and work by the end of the reporting period.

106. Noticeboards had begun to be updated and coordinated. This work was carried out by a prisoner to promote active citizenship. As a result the same information was given to all.

107. One cell was joined to a neighbouring one to ensure 24 hour monitoring by a prisoner carer of an elderly prisoner in very poor health.

108. The laundry and kit issues of last year lessened as a result of a governing governor's persistent monitoring of them.

109. The introduction by another governing governor of 'free flow' movement between work and residence and of increased association created a more relaxed feeling on the wings.

110. Active prisoner representation on various groups increased, resulting in a better community spirit on most wings.

111. The induction process began to improve although the actual timetable still needed to be published and adhered to.

#### Negatives

112. The Board felt that HMP Stafford as a Victorian prison, housing many elderly and sometimes unwell prisoners since the re-role, militated against the care of many of those in custody. Serious obstacles included an antiquated heating system, a lack of space for more linked cells (see para 107) and most cells only being accessible by staircase.

113. 'Regime creep', the gradual loss of time during the unlocking process, resulted in some loss of association time.

114. Because of repeated and protracted bed watches, fewer staff were available to supervise the wings. The need for flexible use of staff to cover shortfalls and unplanned external escorts resulted in a) diminished personal

knowledge of prisoners and b) reduced continuity and consistency of care because officers were frequently not detailed to be on the same wing. As a result the Board felt it important to introduce a new duty to monitor ACCTs in a more formal way towards the end of the reporting period.

115. IMB application forms continued to be unavailable sometimes, even though the form was available online and could be printed on the wing. Towards the end of the reporting period Board members made sure forms were available on a weekly basis.

116. The Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme continued to be used inconsistently. The Board found it difficult to monitor reviews, both of IEPs and ACCTs, as they of necessity took place at unpredictable times.

117. Prisoners continued to be addressed without dignity by some staff in spite of being asked several times by different governing governors to use their preferred names or their surnames prefixed by their title.

## SECTION 7

### THE WORK OF THE IMB AT HMP STAFFORD

118. The Board appreciated the cooperation freely given by management and staff during the course of its work. Each week Board members attended the prison to monitor Rule 45 reviews and to observe meetings. They responded to prisoner applications on a weekly basis; adjudications were monitored and rota visits were undertaken fortnightly. A new ACCT monitoring duty was added to the Board's duty rota.

119. The Board held a monthly meeting, which the governing governor or deputy attended, in order to brief members on prison matters and to discuss issues arising from monitoring. One to one meetings with the governing governor became increasingly difficult to arrange in the latter half of the reporting period, largely as a result of the former governing governor leaving, a busy interregnum period, then a new governing governor starting and then leaving.

120. The IMB Clerk was always present at Board meetings and was very efficient. This support was appreciated.

121. One Board member attended the IMB Annual Conference in February 2014.

122. Both Chair and Vice Chair attended the quarterly Area IMB meetings. They also attended Senior Management Team meetings, as did other interested Board members.

123. The Chair and another member began to take part in a group which monitored British sex offender prisons.

124. The two Board Development Officers did a magnificent job of training a large group of new members, resulting in five new and highly competent members completing their probationary period. Sadly, as a result of this the annual prison visit could not be fitted in. Training for all was extended at each Board meeting by the half hour visit of a member of prison staff who answered questions about their role and the issues with which the Board had become concerned.

125. For the first time in many years an Information Officer was appointed who each month provided fascinating insight into the national, as well as the HMP Stafford, picture.

126. The authorised strength of the Board was 16 but for most of the reporting period was 11. A new member began at the end of the reporting period and recruitment began for more.

127. There were two deaths in custody in the reporting period.

Sally Osborne-Town  
Chair

6 August 2015

*This report was approved by the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Stafford on 3 August 2015.*

## ANNEX A - STATISTICS

Board 2014/15	
Recommended complement of Board members	16
Number of Board members at the 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	1
Number of members leaving within reporting period	2
Number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	9
Total number of visits to the establishment	395
Number of applications dealt with	260
Number of confidential requests/complaints processed	23
Number of segregation reviews held	60
Number of segregation reviews attended	48

Applications								
Subject		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015
A	Accommodation	3	0	5	4	0	5	5
B	Adjudications	6	1	0	5	1	3	7
C	Diversity related	2	1	0	3	0	1	5
D	Education/employment/training	10	5	7	11	9	9	29
E	Family/visits	26	5	3	19	3	16	19
F	Food/kitchen related	2	2	1	1	1	4	8
G	Health related	20	1	6	22	17	22	22
H	Property	55	3	10	18	15	32	51
I	Sentence related	27	4	20	29	9	23	19
J	Staff/prisoner related	8	4	1	19	17	3	11
K	Transfers	36	8	9	13	22	30	38
L*	Miscellaneous	42	9	26	27	24	3	41
	Compliments	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Total number of applications	237	43	88	171	107	151	256

\* Covers subjects such as risk assessments, lock up, regime, MDT, cell searches, security record, information requests, canteen/catalogue shopping, facilities and behaviour warnings.