



HMP USK & PRESCOED

Annual Report

2014-2015

Section 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prisons Act of 1952 and Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an independent Board, appointed by the Home Secretary / Minister 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 concerns it has.
3. Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in 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 prison records.

Section 2

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Section 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

3.0 HMP Usk and Prescoed is located on three sites. HMP Usk is a Category C prison in the town of Usk, HMP Prescoed is a Category D prison in the area of Prescoed, and the Cilwrgi prison farm is a few miles away at Coed-y-paen. Some of the prisoners from Prescoed work on the farm. Prisoners at Usk and Prescoed are supported by Personnel Officers, Case workers, a Psychology Department, a Substance Misuse team, the Chaplaincy, a Healthcare Department and a Resettlement Team. Healthcare offers a day care facility at Usk and Prescoed, but there are no beds for in-patients. HMP Usk and Prescoed have libraries and gymnasiums, and Prescoed also has a multi-faith chapel.

3.1 HMP Usk opened in 1844 and is an old-fashioned building with three main wings fanning out from a central control point. It last housed a prisoner in 1961, and housed Rudolph Hess for part of the Second World War. It is now a male Category C prison holding vulnerable prisoners: the majority are sex offenders. The Certified Notional Accommodation (CNA) was raised from 266 to 272 in November 2014. The Sex Offenders Treatment Programme (SOTP) is available to all inmates, and there is a thriving Education Department.

The objectives of the prison are to hold prisoners securely and safely, and to provide a well-ordered establishment where prisoners are treated humanely and with decency and respect. The structured regime is intended to prepare prisoners for a safe release, and reduce the risk of re-offending. There are carpentry, bricklaying and plastering workshops at HMP Usk, but it is under consideration that these should move to Prescoed or Cilwrgi where the bulk of resettlement training is carried out.

3.2 HMP Prescoed is situated in open country on the site of a previous Young Offenders Institution which opened in 1939, about three miles from Usk. It is now a Category D resettlement prison and the CNA rose from 213 to 230 by April 2014. The regime at Prescoed is designed to rehabilitate and educate through a structured sentence plan and resettlement plan; and to promote the reduction in risk of prisoners re-offending when they return to their communities. Opportunities exist for education, training and work placements, and resources are allocated to the resettlement of prisoners. The established regime at Prescoed has included a range of industries and activities for long established and continues today as it looks to increase the number of suitable work placements.

The Board can report that during the period there were very few absconds and ROTL failures. This reflects a success rate of which the prison is naturally proud, particularly when considering how many temporary licences are issued each year. All prisoners who abscond are returned to close conditions. Other unauthorised absences are subject to the adjudication process and robust action is taken (e.g. loss of privileges).

3.3 Cwilgiri farm consists of 460 acres, of which 160 acres are woodland, plus a variety of outbuildings. The farm has a thriving milk herd and a flock of chickens. There are a number of training opportunities for prisoners, e.g. milking parlour, herd management, animal husbandry, arable farming, sawmill activities, basic skills on farm machinery. On average there are between 15 and 25 prisoners working and training on the farm every day. Following the last reporting period there have been changes in the management of the farm, and the prospects for training at the farm are much improved. The farm is designated an area of Special Scientific Interest (SSI).

Section 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 The considerable changes to maximise efficiency within budgets, as reported in last year's report, appears to have been completed and in most cases successfully with the prison receiving high ratings. Changes to staff location and involvement have been noticeably improved in the main with communication to both prisoners and staff being good. The advent of change requests has been a success.

- 4.2 Changes to budget responsibilities has given rise to some delay in requested action being delayed.
- 4.2 The board are in the middle of a recruiting campaign and although generally successful the time delay is an issue. The board are currently 5 members short [but expect 3 to start in the new reporting period]

Section 5

EQUALITY & INCLUSION

During the last year one Diversity and equality meeting has taken place. The committee monitored and managed issues related to equal treatment of prisoners and was made up of staff, the decency officer, the equalities officer, IMB member and prisoners representing minority groups in the prison. Subsequently both the decency and equalities officers have relocated to alternate roles within the prison. During the intervening period both members of staff have carried on statutory duties on a skeleton basis.

HMP Usk has continued to hold a number of diversity forums. The organisation of the same and updating of the notice boards has been assisted by the commitment of prisoner representatives.

Matters which have occurred during the year have been dealt with by the former equalities officer in cooperation with the management team where appropriate. The IMB have received no applications as a result of the paucity of the structure.

Where discrimination incident reports [DIRFs] have been received these have been dealt with by the former equalities officer. The IMB has monitored these and signed the appropriate number.

Section 6

EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS

Both prisons offer a range of education, learning and skills which together with work opportunities give good opportunities for prisoners to develop any shortfall in their knowledge and experience.

Some difficulties have been encountered with changes to staff employment conditions but these seem to coming to a conclusion at the end of the reporting period.

An emphasis is being applied to training designed to make prison leavers more employable and although the board welcome this some consideration to rehabilitative training/education needs to be kept in mind.

Section 7

HEALTH CARE

Following the transition of responsibility for healthcare at Usk and Prescoed from the prisons to the local health authority mentioned in last year's report. The health care service has been remodelled which has resulted in changes in the procedures and staff responsibilities. 2 full time health care workers have been added to the nursing staff. The department is now at full strength after a considerable period of staff shortages. There is also now a full time pharmacy technician based at Usk.

Sadly during the year there have been 4 deaths in custody. One report contained recommendations to procedures which have now been implemented. Two made no recommendations and the fourth report from the Ombudsman and Health Inspectorate Wales is yet to be received.

Whenever a prisoner from Usk has to leave the prison to attend a hospital appointment they have to be accompanied by usually 2 officers which results in staffing pressures at the jail resulting in lock downs. To alleviate this plans are in place to enlist the services of an in reach physiotherapist who will visit the prison, and the introduction of video link consultations with hospital staff.

Funding of £15k has been secured for the training of staff and selected prisoners in first aid and the recognition of mental health issues.

During the year the number of IMB apps concerning health care have been low and reflect the good working relationships that exist between the health care department and the prisoners.

Finally it is worthy of note that the head of healthcare Louise Rooney was awarded the prize of nurse of the year [adult section] by the royal college of nursing in Wales as well as the Betsi Cadwalader foundation scholarship award

Section 8

PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

At Usk, Prescoed and the Farm staff have been working hard to introduce a new regime of purposeful activity.

There has been significant progress in developing the learning and skills across all three sites with full implementation expected very soon. It is hoped to have a clear plan of action/improvement in place in the next few months whilst continuing to build on existing success's such as cleaning, catering gardening and recycling.

Since the appointment of a new farm manager it has hosted a number of well received events and established a raft of training opportunities.

Section 9

RESETTLEMENT

During the year work placements have continued to be managed by the community placement team and the quality and quantity has been increasing and pleasing to the board. This will no doubt create employment prospects to those being released

With the future being taken over by the CRC's and some questions as to how much will be their responsibility the board are concerned that this progress may not be continued during any transition

At Usk this depends on sentence planning and interventions to prevent reoffending and identify needs and appropriate interventions or treatment programmes as detailed in section 12

Section 10

SECURITY

The IMB attends monthly Security Meetings at both Usk and Prescoed sites, when key threats and required actions are discussed. Being Cat C and a Cat D prisons the Security priorities are not always the same. Usk, is a Non-Resettlement prison managing VP & SOTP prisoners many of whom are subject to MAPPA. Prescoed manages its population to prepare them for successful release from prison. A large proportion of prisoners are involved in work outside the prison, therefore Security is crucial to monitor their daily activities and keep to a minimum any not permitted items coming in to the prison. A key priority for both prisons is public protection. Security on both sites, is well managed and monitored in such ways as trends and threats are identified at the earliest opportunity.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

Both Usk and Prescoed hold Contingency Plans. These Plans are not routinely exercised, however, exercises are arranged when other pressures allow. Over recent years the numbers of staff has been reduced to a leaner efficient regime, therefore some things lose their priority in the day to day running of the prisons. The IMB has observed at some exercises and been impressed with the operation and how learning points were captured. At Prescoed, if there is a ROTL Failure or an Abscond occurs, then the Contingency Plan is used to manage the incident.

SAFER CUSTODY (USK)

Safer Custody continues to be well monitored at Usk Prison. Quarterly Meetings are held when, officers, IMB, Listeners and the Samaritans are able to share and discuss any issues that are relevant to Safer Custody. The Board is sorry to report that during the reporting period for this Report, there have been four Deaths in Custody. All have been fully investigated, and any issues arising have either been dealt with / implemented or learning points have been cascaded to all concerned. Appropriate offers of support were made to staff and prisoners following each event. The outcome of the most recent death is still awaited and further action will take place as appropriate.

There are between 10 and 15 Listeners at Usk (depending on discharges and training etc.) During a three month period during the reporting time their activity was as follows:-

No Listening Hours	258
Call Count	304
Listener Count	319
Hours in Listener Cell	170
Suicidal Thoughts	12
Self-Harm	13
Bullied	7
Distressed	108
General	153

The management of Safer Custody is currently being reviewed with a view to having closer scrutiny and more accountability and will be monitored by the IMB and reported in next year's Annual Report. The Board feels that Safer Custody is being well managed at Usk.

SEGREGATION

As a prison catering for Vulnerable Prisoners and Sex Offenders, Usk does not support a Segregation Unit.

Section 11

Residential Services

11.1 Food Food is prepared and cooked for both prison sites at Prescoed. There are six staff members and up to 22 prisoners. Currently 16 prisoners are employed. This group are conscientious and attend but other groups have been less so and this can adversely affect service levels. The board monitors the kitchen weekly.

As noted in the HMIP 2013 report, there have been significant food quality issues in the past. The current Governor has made a point of addressing these and in May 2015 ordered:

- A peer review from the catering manager at HMP Cardiff.
- An internal review of catering management.
- Support from agency staff, when needed.
- That the new equalities officer be tasked with monitoring the issue and consulting with prisoners.

An example of excellence. Since these directives have been actioned it is noticeable that positive comments about the quantity and quality of the food have increased and complaints to staff and the IMB have diminished. Clearly senior management is ready to acknowledge problems and proactively deal with them. Additionally the new 'All Wales' 5 choice pre-ordered menu is now available as of May 2015.

Other points of note:

- Prisoners are able to work for NVQs whilst working in the kitchen and staff appear keen to help.
- The kitchen coped successfully with Ramadan by providing food in sealed insulated boxes.
- A food survey was conducted some 18 months ago. Now that the kitchen is settling into its new regime another survey is planned to take place in early August 2015.

- **The daily cash budget per prisoner is very tight.** The staff do well to produce satisfactory meals within this constraint as this money also has to accommodate those on special/ethnic/religious diets.

11.2 Catering department. The Prescoed kitchen is approximately one year old. There have been numerous teething problems which the installer Kier appear to have been astoundingly slow in addressing. The board have been informed that corrective work has been hindered by the contractor not accepting responsibility under warranty. For example:

- A defective drain cover in the food preparation area that presented clear Health/Safety and Liability issues have been only partly resolved following a site meeting. An unsatisfactory and now disintegrating temporary repair has been made.
- Several other H.S. issues are unresolved; most significantly this includes drain covers in front of hot ovens that cause staff and prisoners to stumble.

11.3 Buildings: Usk is a 19th Century radial prison despite this it is well maintained, clean and tidy. It is unfortunate that its current utilisation does not permit prisoners to eat communally. The Governor has mentioned that it may be possible (now that industries have been allocated a separate dedicated space) to use some of the corridors for this purpose - the Board consider this to be a good idea.

11.4 Buildings: Prescoed is a modern open prison. In general the nine single story units are well maintained. The other, the double story Lester Unit, has a more shabby appearance and a limited number of showers (4 for 40 prisoners) which the Board are informed are often blocked and one of which often fails to work.

The Board understands that the Prison is allocated a contingency fund of £26,000 to cover maintenance complications - the most charitable euphemism for this provision is "inadequate".

Section 12

USK PROGRAMMES

The following sex offender treatment programmes [SOTP] are delivered at Usk. These are facilitated by a knowledgeable and highly dedicated team of psychologists. They operate in other prisons in Wales and in the community at large.

Core sex offender treatment programmes enables participants to describe their offending honestly and explore the explanations for their behaviour. Two programmes are available each financial year for groups of nine men. Each programme lasts six months and is a foundation programme for those who are of medium risk or above.

Becoming new me has been developed from the core programme. It offers participants the chance to review their life history from childhood and identify where unhelpful patterns of thinking, feeling and behaviour started. One programme is delivered each year and is an equivalent foundation level programme for men who are intellectually challenged. The programme is offered to groups of eight men.

Living as new me is designed for graduates from the BNE programme whose risk level is medium or above.

Healthy sex programme is designed on a one to one basis for men who have special treatment needs with sexual interest.

Extended sex offender programmes a six month programme targeted at those who have successfully completed the core programme. The men selected for this programme tend to be very high statistic risk and have outstanding treatment needs. Currently there are nine men on this programme.

Prescoed

There are no longer any group intervention at the prison. There are limited resources for other individual work at both site and as such it is offered if it is parole board directed.

Although not a programme a unique to Wales course has emerged in Prescoed. Through the good agency of Gwent drug and alcohol service a group of men have participated in a City and Guilds Diploma in counselling for drug and alcohol addiction. This has been a weekly commitment and has been honoured by all. A late 2015 course is planned

Section 13

TIME OUT OF CELL

This has reduced of late due to the number of escorts going out due to ill health concerns resulting in more lock ups.

USK

PRESCOED

08.00hrs - 18.00hrs

Free movement from 06.00hrs Roll Check
Return to own Unit by 22.00hrs

Section 14

EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENCE

- 1] Management and governance have gone through a major change in the year. The board think this has been handled well and in most cases sympathetically with full involvement with the staff
- 2] The change in the kitchen regime has proved effective and efficient after early teething problems
- 3] The continuation of family days has been welcomed and appreciated by the prisoners.
- 4] The appointment of a Farm manager and horticultural expert has provided valuable training opportunities.
- 5] The new ROTL procedures were introduced whilst minimising the Absconds/Failures
- 6] The pioneering drug and alcohol work piloted at the prison resulting in NVO's

Section 15

AREAS OF CONCERN

1. As mentioned in the last year's report, prisoners at Usk still have to eat their meals in their cells. The governor is looking at possibilities for identifying areas that could be freed up to alleviate this situation
2. The tight staffing levels leaves very little slack in the system to accommodate unforeseen incidents. For example, if a prisoner at Usk has to be admitted to hospital, providing a constant escort can seriously impact on other regimes back at the prison. The possibility of health care services such as physiotherapy being an in house service is under consideration. Whilst everything is going well the current arrangements are sufficient, but there is a worry that a serious incident could have major consequences. (This comment illustrates the need for regular updates on Contingency planning and exercises.)
3. The changes with contracting services is a concern with maintenance, CRC's being introduced into the prisons. The board intend to monitor closely the performance of these contactors/service providers to ensure no drop in facilities to the prisoners.
4. The shortage of probation staff may impact on the ability to produce timely OAsys's reports.
5. Overall, The Board has no serious concerns with the way that Usk and Prescoed functions.

Section 16

<u>BOARD STATISTICS</u>	
Recommended Complement of The Board	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	10
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	1
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	1
Number of Board Meetings during the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishment	294
Total number of Segregation Reviews	N/A
Total number of Segregation Reviews attended	N/A
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	Oct 2014

Applications to the IMB during the reporting period

CODE	SUBJECT	YEAR
A	Accommodation	2
B	Adjudications	4
C	Equality & Diversity (inc. religion)	0
D	Education/ employment/training	3
E1	Family / Visits inc mail & phone	0
E2	Finance / Pay	2
F	Food / Kitchen related	6
G	Health related	1
H1	Property within current establishment	2
H2	Property during transfer in in other establishment	1
H3	Canteen, facilities, catalogue shopping, Argos	2
I	Sentence related. (ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc	2
J	Staff/ Prisoner concerns inc bullying	2
K	Transfers	5
L	Miscellaneous	7
	Total number of IMB Applications	39
	Of total – number of Confidential Access was	0