



**The Independent Monitoring Board**

**HMP DARTMOOR**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015**

**1 OCTOBER 2014 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **Section 1**

### **STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

**1.1** The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an independent board appointed by the Ministry of 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 it has.
- 3) Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison and also to the prison's records.

### **1.2 Equality and Diversity Statement:**

HMP Dartmoor IMB will not discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone with protected characteristics in recruitment, in the treatment of members, and in the way we monitor the treatment of people in custody. Protected characteristics are: disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race including ethnic or national origin and nationality, religion or belief, age, marriage and civil partnership, sex and sexual orientation.

We aim to value diversity by respecting people from different backgrounds, and by recognising that their different experiences, skills and requirements enhance the Board's ability to monitor fairness and interaction between prisoners, detainees, staff and visitors.

**Section 2**

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## **Section 3**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

**3.1** HMP Dartmoor is a Category C prison for up to 640 adult male prisoners. The prison is situated in Princetown on the western edge of Dartmoor National Park, eight miles from Tavistock and sixteen miles from Plymouth and the nearest main-line railway station. Access is difficult with very limited public transport. The scenery is impressive, but the local environment is harsh and can be particularly bleak in the winter months. The prison comprises six residential tors (wings), a Care and Separation Unit (CSU), healthcare suite, chapel and education facilities and workshops. In addition, there is a large gymnasium, a well-equipped kitchen, a library and other facilities to support the life of the prison. The prison and prisoners are supported by a number of contractors and charities, either working in the prison or visiting on a regular basis. In June 2015, the Estates contract was awarded to Carillion, and expanded from infrastructure management to include aspects of service provision.

In August 2015, following preparation and consultation, the prison population moved to a fully integrated regime where all tors contain a mixture of main and vulnerable prisoners.

**3.2** The buildings are leased from the Duchy of Cornwall and the Prison Service is responsible for their upkeep. Many of them are old, highly prone to damp, and asbestos continues to be an issue in certain places externally. A large crack in the exterior wall of Fox Tor has resulted in the closure of the adjacent exercise yard since the end of July 2015, while repairs are awaited. There are, however, well-maintained and attractive garden areas. The prison is one of the major employers in the town alongside agriculture, tourism and a small brewery. Employment opportunities in the local area for prisoners on release are, however, limited.

**3.3** In September 2013, the Ministry of Justice announced that negotiations would commence with a view to terminating the lease and closing the prison. No indicative date has been provided; the progress of negotiations is unclear and the prison, to its credit, continues working and developing as usual.

## **Section 4**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **4.1 Overall Judgement**

**4.1.1** This has been an interesting year both for HMP Dartmoor and for its Independent Monitoring Board. The Board has had to work hard to fulfil its statutory commitment despite operating with a reduced membership (three members left due to illness, and one was required by the Secretariat to resign due to a relative joining the prison staff) while at the same time carrying out what was a protracted recruitment process, not made easier by delays at the Secretariat. The fact that the Board has still been able to deliver its functions rested in the

unfailing commitment of its remaining members. The prison, too, has had to contend with a number of changes and challenges this year, many of which were positive, but some of which have been challenging.

**4.1.2** One of the most significant factors for the prison this year has been the arrival in January of a new governing governor, followed shortly afterwards by the appointment of a new deputy. The Board believes these appointments have restored to Dartmoor some of the confidence lost by the ill-judged political announcement in 2013 that the prison would, at some indeterminate point, close. The Board has observed highly commendable efforts to improve communication at all levels within the prison and commends the highly visible presence of the governing governor and her deputy. There has also been a most welcome renewal of interest in the decency agenda for prisoners, and this can be evidenced in every section of this report.

**4.1.3** At the outset, therefore, the Board would like to highlight and celebrate some of the prison's significant positive achievements during the year. Of particular mention should be the move at last to total single cell accommodation (5.6), the provision of seating for elderly/disabled prisoners at the foot of the stairs leading to the Dispensary, both of which have been issues in previous reports; the attempts at cell and wing redecoration (although there is still much more to be achieved); and a sustained daily focus on improving attendance at work and education, together with real improvements to educational provision. The report's sections on Resettlement (5.4) and on Safer Custody (5.5) outline significant achievements and improvements too: from the increased use made of restorative justice, to the improved working of the Safer Custody meeting. There is much to commend about the prison.

**4.1.4** Perhaps the most significant development this year has been the change to an integrated regime, a move driven by the new governing Governor. Whilst it welcomes the change in many ways, the Board believes the transition phase to the new integrated regime could have been managed better initially, and voiced its concerns at the time. This report draws attention to some aspects of the management of prisoners where it believes more sensitive management could have avoided an escalation of tension at key moments for the prison (5.5;5.7), such as in the immediate aftermath of two of the deaths in custody (out of the five which took place this year (5.5;5.7)).

**4.1.5** Other aspects which have caused the Board concern this year and which are dealt with in more detail in the relevant sections are: the closure of some workshops due to recruitment difficulties (5.2); the closure of workshops on Fridays (5.2); the continuing ready availability in the prison of drugs and various psychoactive substances and the problems these cause (5.3;5.7); the staffing shortages due to bed watches, sickness and detached duty leading to too many wing closures (5.3); difficulties being experienced with the Carillion contract (5.3;5.6); the continuing difficulties caused by heavy caseloads and some shortcomings in the Offender Management Unit (OMU) (5.4); the continuing arrival of prisoners without an Offender Assessment System (OASys) (5.4); further problems with the transfer of prisoners' property (5.6); shortages of furniture and televisions (5.6) and ongoing instances of bullying following the move to an integrated regime (5.5).

**4.1.6** HMP Dartmoor has made good progress this year under a new governor and deputy and there are many praiseworthy instances of excellent working practice but, as with any establishment, there remain areas of weakness which demand further attention or remedial activity, and especially those which involve the safety, or perceived safety, of prisoners within the new integrated regime.

## **4.2 Matters for which a response is sought**

### **4.2.1 Questions to the Minister**

1. What steps nationally will the Minister take to ensure that prisoners transferring between prisons do not do so without a fully completed OASys? (5.4.3)
2. How is the new Carillion contract being monitored nationally? If problems with the contract remain, how is it envisaged that these will be resolved? (5.3.3; 5.6.1; 5.6.4)

### **4.2.2 Questions to NOMS**

1. Does National Offender Management Service (NOMS) intend to introduce any local measures to ensure that prisoners transferring between prisons do not do so without a fully completed OASys? (5.4.3)
2. What further measures are planned to try to improve the transfer of prisoners' property to avoid losses? (5.6.6)
3. In the light of continuing problems with illicit substances, will NOMS review the provision of drugs dogs and provide at least one dedicated dog per prison? (5.3.5; 5.7.5)

### **4.2.3 Questions to the Governor**

1. Does the governor intend to review the practice of lone working on wings at night? (5.5.6)
2. Does the governor plan to review the heavy caseloads of OMU staff with a view to increasing staffing levels in this unit? And will the governor ensure attendance of the OMU at all Reducing Reoffending Strategy Meetings? (5.4.3)
3. How is the success of the move to integration going to be assessed and reviewed? (5.3.5; 5.5.3)
4. Is the governor satisfied with current measures to challenge the instances of bullying which appear to remain, despite prisoners signing compacts? (5.5.3)

## **Section 5**

### **KEY AREAS**

#### **5.1 Equality and Inclusion**

**5.1.1** The Board welcomes several new initiatives during the reporting year. These have included: holding an equality action meeting quarterly in line with the production of equality monitoring tool statistics with prisoner representatives attending to report on issues; a rotation system enabling various groups (GBT, Travellers, Buddies, Over 50s) to meet in the Diversity Centre while it was open for work, and the Safer Custody Representative, (in 2015 this was a Listener), meeting new prisoners in Reception to explain the different kinds of help available in HMP Dartmoor.

**5.1.2** The Board notes that Training for Buddies to a National Care Standard has been carried out to assist the implementation of the Social Care Act and welcomes after its many requests the installation of fixed chairs at the foot of the stairs to the medical hatch and the efforts made to ensure they are used by those with mobility difficulties.

**5.1.3** Other positive developments which the Board welcomes have included: the introduction of 24 books at different reading levels on the subject of dementia to assist Buddies, the availability once more of Travellers' Times, and a relaunch of the Shannon Trust. The Board sees the appointment of three paid mentor positions as a very positive development and is pleased that this, together with new, age-appropriate reading materials has resulted in a four-fold take up by prisoners with reading difficulties.

**5.1.4** The Board has been concerned throughout the year about the pressures on the Chaplaincy and welcomes the arrival of the new Managing Chaplain. A Quaker chaplain has also joined the workforce. This has allowed the reintroduction of the popular bible study group. The Board regrets that there is still no imam but understands there is continued effort to try to fill the position. Access to the chapel remains a barrier for those in wheelchairs who cannot negotiate the few steps as the building of a ramp has so far not proved possible. The Board welcomes the discussions which have taken place with the Kitchen Manager about making appropriate food available for all religious festivals.

**5.1.5** The Prison Council meets bi-monthly and the Board has observed its meetings and understands how they are valued by prisoners. Interim meetings are held on the tords with custodial managers and the agenda is drawn from issues raised. The effectiveness of this forum, however, rests to a large extent on the commitment shown by senior management in chairing and following up issues afterwards. Changes in management led to a feeling earlier in the reporting year that these meetings did not always lead to effective follow-up.

**5.1.6** Finally, some staff have taken up the opportunity to learn to sign and further courses are being considered. The Board is therefore able to report

positive examples of an enlightened and progressive view of equality and inclusion within the prison.

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

**5.2.1** Throughout the reporting year, the Board has noted that the Acting Head of Learning and Skills has worked closely with the Education manager for Weston College and the Industries' Manager to ensure that the provision of education and purposeful activity for prisoners at HMP Dartmoor continues to provide a broad range of opportunities. Weekly Quality Provider Meetings and a bi-monthly Quality Improvement Group meeting monitor the relevance of this provision and ensure that numbers of prisoners in education and in workshops are maintained. An Activities Manager was appointed in late 2014 who liaises with staff on the wings and follows up non-attendance. The Board notes that monitoring attendance at work and education is now a regular item at the morning meeting and is followed up by the Activities Manager.

**5.2.2** The Board has found much to commend during the year including: the provision of additional Maths and English courses in order to meet the target for learners to reach Level 2 in functional skills, and the development of the Gardens/Ground works working parties which offer the largest number of employment places. There also have been some notable prisoner achievements which the Board would like to recognise, such as: prisoners have designed, constructed and planted recreational areas in previously unused spaces. Planting has been increased in raised beds and polytunnels to provide produce for the kitchen and museum. The Board commends this useful sustainable activity.

**5.2.3** During the year, attendance figures at education have remained high and Weston College reported a figure of 102% against profile for the last academic year. The Board finds this figure difficult to comprehend. The Board notes that there has been greater fluctuation in attendance in industries due to a range of factors: the PICTA workshop has only just reopened after a lengthy closure; all ICT courses and work in the call-centre now require a more stringent risk assessment which has meant delays for prisoners starting. The Board has reported in previous years that there is difficulty appointing instructors to workshops due to this prison's location and the low salary offered and the Board regrets there have been times during the year when workshops have been closed due to staff not being available. To ensure that workshops can be operational when tutors are absent, the prison has now trained up multi-skilled members of staff who are able to provide cover.

**5.2.4** The Board has, throughout the year, continued to observe that sometimes significant numbers of prisoners were present on the wings during the working day, but is encouraged to note that prisoners can now work in a craft workshop when they are not in education. On one wing, for example, in September, out of a total of 149 prisoners, 47 remained on the wing in the morning and 63 in the afternoon. Such figures were not exceptional. The Board remains concerned that on Fridays many workshops and some classes are closed all day.

**5.2.5** The Board would like to commend the work of Storybook Dads throughout the year and it was with real regret that it learned that the unit is to move to another prison, but understands that a smaller facility will remain. This is a much valued way of prisoners maintaining links with families many of which find visiting this remote prison difficult.

**5.2.6** Earlier in the year, Prospects took over from the National Career Service, and the Board has noted and commends the changes made to enhance the induction programme for prisoners which now sequences the learner's journey through a comprehensive needs-analysis of education and work experiences from reception to release. The Board also welcomes the fact that prisoners who may have learning difficulties are identified through induction and that Weston College now provides a tutor to assess and support these learners.

### **5.3 Healthcare and Mental Health**

**5.3.1** The Board has been aware of the pressure of a year of change for Healthcare provision in HMP Dartmoor. A new profiling plan was approved and a three month consultation period was carried out. The main change was that the Registered Mental Nurse (RMN) team was separated from the Registered General Nurse (RGN) team. A different shift pattern was imposed and the Board regrets that there is now no RMN nurse on site at weekends, although outreach support is available. Nurses in future will be expected to work in other prisons in the cluster as part of their new job descriptions. The Board will monitor carefully the effect such changes have.

**5.3.2** The Board welcomes the changes made to the Healthcare suite to provide more clinic space. The Optician's room however, remains unrefurbished and needs a complete overhaul.

**5.3.3** The Board is concerned that Carillion have made no approach to Healthcare to arrange to fulfil their cleaning contract. The suite at present is cleaned by prisoner orderlies and Healthcare staff. There have also been difficulties with the delivery of heavy items being transported to the unit from the gate, formerly done by Works but now not deemed to be part of Carillion's contractual remit.

**5.3.4** Shortage of nursing staff has caused difficulties during all of this reporting year. This resulted in doctors taking on some work which should have been done by nurses, resulting in some delays for prisoners waiting to see a doctor. For example, a September rota report recorded that there were 90 prisoners waiting to see a doctor, resulting in a two week delay. There was a five week wait for a dentist and 11 weeks to see an optician. The Healthcare manager has now recruited five new staff, but awaits their clearance to begin work.

**5.3.5** The Board remains concerned that another reporting year has seen staff being challenged by the influx of psychoactive substances, and prisoners passing on their medication remains a problem. The Medication queue, especially in the afternoon, has been once again the focus for potential bullying. The Board is however pleased to note that since the introduction of the integrated regime, more staff are now available during movement, and this has allowed an officer to

be detailed to monitor and supervise the Medication queue during morning and afternoon dispensaries.

**5.3.6** The ageing population's more complex and often chronic health conditions have resulted in: increased attendance at a range of outpatient appointments; increased age related checks, e.g.: attendance at outpatient hearing clinic. With the increase in this part of the population, this can only increase further. The Board notes that the Healthcare manager has felt fully supported by the prison's provision of escorts, above the agreed weekly allocation, but it has also noted too many occasions when the high level of hospital bed watches has resulted in regime closures on wings.

## **5.4 Resettlement**

**5.4.1** The Board welcomes national initiatives which are designed to facilitate resettlement. The introduction of Sentence Planning Boards, for example, gives a real opportunity for prisoners to be provided with relevant and appropriate courses/training to facilitate a smoother transition from prison into the community. This should also be further assisted by the Through the Gate Scheme and the establishment of Community Rehabilitation Companies.

**5.4.2** The Board has noted several local initiatives which should have a positive impact upon resettlement. The introduction of the integrated regime, Restorative Justice, the Strategic Directive Policy to improve the Families and Children's Pathway, the success in reducing unemployment levels within the prison and the introduction of a progress log for each prisoner are all welcomed by the Board. The intention of introducing a Resettlement Day for prisoners close to release focusing on areas such as: dry houses, rehabilitation and alcohol action programmes is also a good initiative which the Board commends. In addition, the policy of the prison only accepting offenders with at least a four year tariff gives greater scope for developing worthwhile long term courses and training. The Board is also encouraged to note that the prison is in the process of appointing Offender Management Unit (OMU) Liaison Officers to work on the wings to provide advice and guidance to staff and prisoners with regard to the various interventions available.

**5.4.3** However, the Board is concerned to have observed serious and continuing pressures on OMU this year through very heavy workloads placed upon staff, some of whom share their work in OMU with work on the wings, and a leadership which has undergone a number of staffing changes in the year. The Board regrets this on-going lack of continuity. It also regrets that there was no representation or report from OMU at the quarterly July and October Reducing Reoffending Strategy Meetings. Equally of concern, is the inability both nationally and locally to reduce the number of prisoners arriving at Dartmoor without an OASys. Currently there are 91 prisoners without an OASys. This has the potential to undermine some of the excellent initiatives outlined above. The Board is also concerned about the diminished opportunities for outside work due to current Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) restrictions.

## **5.5 Safer Custody**

**5.5.1** In the past twelve months, the Board has observed significant efforts aimed at making the prison safer. For example, there has been a range of staff training in the use of the Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) process and further steps have been taken to improve the recording and reporting of incidents. Staff are given regular “bite size learning” through global emails to reinforce good practice, and there has also been greater in-depth analysis of incidents and an emphasis on follow-up actions.

**5.5.2** The monthly meetings of the safer custody group, where data is presented and analysed, are well-attended. The Board is encouraged to observe that Listeners and a representative from Samaritans also take an active part in these meetings and receive good support from staff. However, the Board notes that overall figures for Listener Calls and Direct Contacts made in 2015 were notably higher than in 2014 and 2013.

**5.5.3** The Board was made aware by a number of prisoners of their concerns in the weeks preceding the move to an integrated regime, and this was also reflected in a short term spike in the number of Listener calls. During the early days of the transition also, it was clear to the Board that tensions amongst prisoners were running high, and, initially at least, the Board formed the view that transition could have been better managed. The Board was compelled to make representations on behalf of several prisoners at that time, but it is fair to say that these deficiencies were quickly rectified. Despite the compacts signed by prisoners signalling their ability to coexist peaceably with all members of the prison community as part of the move to integration, there appear to be on-going issues regarding bullying and the Board will continue to monitor this carefully.

**5.5.4** The Board notes that instances of self-harm in 2015 are lower than 2014 and on a par with 2013 while the number of ACCTs opened are similar in all three years. The Board welcomes the Custodial Manager’s monitoring of the quality of comments made in open ACCT documents and after their closure, and welcomes that when shortcomings are identified this is followed up by feedback to staff. Good use is made of the recent national initiative to “Record, Respond and Reduce”. Several prisoners expressed concerns about the potential for bullying when a uniformed officer is not in attendance to monitor the afternoon medication queue.

**5.5.5** The Board has also observed that the recently introduced “Violence Diagnostic Tool” is aiding more detailed analysis of incidents. Hot spots are identified along with the current main reasons for assaults. Comparison with similar prisons show relatively low figures.

**5.5.6** The Board notes with sadness that there have been five deaths in custody during the year. Not all investigations concerning the later deaths have been concluded and therefore it would be inappropriate for the Board to mention any concerns it may have at this stage, but the issues raised in reports which have been received from the Prison and Probation Ombudsman have been brought to

the attention of the Safer Custody monthly meetings and the Board will monitor any resultant procedural changes carefully. In particular, the Board has been concerned about night time staffing (when an OSG can be alone covering an entire wing) and therefore also about issues concerning summoning help in an emergency.

## **5.6 Residential Services**

**5.6.1** The Board is pleased to report that a decision to remove all of the shared cells, much requested in former Annual Reports, has at last been implemented. However, the work actually to remove the double bunks, a major potential site for attaching ligatures, is only progressing slowly. Carillion had quoted £1000 per cell for removal of a top bunk. They have now agreed to remove these under their scheduled "odd job" timing at one cell a week.

**5.6.2** In its regular surveys the Board has noted that most communal areas of the prison are decorated and maintained to an acceptable standard, and the Board commends the cleanliness and tidiness generally across the prison. The Board also commends the prison's efforts to redecorate landings but notes that some cells still remain in real need of redecoration. Despite the prison informing the Board that all showers were now fully screened, a recent inspection revealed that in Granite Tor at least only those showers visible to the landing had been screened, and the cleanliness of some of the showers was also in question. The lack of a proper servery in Granite Tor remains a real concern, although it is understood that capital funding has been acquired to rectify this.

**5.6.3** The Board wishes to record its serious concern during the year about the poor state and the inadequate supply of cell furniture across the prison, and the shortage of televisions. Both have been the subject of complaints from prisoners and staff throughout the reporting year.

**5.6.4** Food continues to elicit a mixed response from prisoners with some adverse ad hoc comments from a few prisoners. Some continue to complain about the small size of portions at lunchtime and these have been verified on occasions by members in rota reports. On the other hand, there are prisoners who have said how good the food is at Dartmoor when compared with other prisons. There have been no written applications to the Board this year on the subject of food. A recent in-depth visit to the kitchen by a Board member revealed the care, commitment and diligence shown by prisoners preparing cooked and snack meals. The Board is, however, seriously concerned about the length of time it takes to repair essential equipment used in the preparation of meals. The requests for repairs or replacements now have additional administrative layers caused by the new Carillion contract, adding to these delays.

**5.6.5** The number of times prisoners appeared to be locked up due to staffing shortages has been a concern throughout the early part of the year, especially during periods of staff sickness, detached duties, when there have been large numbers of bed watches and during the summer holidays. It also appeared to the

Board that some full wing closures could have been avoided by opening reduced numbers of landings according to the reduced number of staff present. However, this unwelcome situation has improved with the recent arrival of newly recruited and trained staff.

**5.6.6** The loss on transfer of prisoners' property from one prison to another remains a continuing problem and this has continued to cause complaints and applications to the Board throughout the year.

## **5.7. Segregation, Care & Separation, Close Supervision, Order and Discipline**

**5.7.1** The Board has been present for most GOOD reviews this year and has found that they have been conducted professionally and with fairness by governors chairing them. There have been few instances this year when it has been difficult for a member of Healthcare to attend. The Board has not been made aware of many instances when prisoners have had to be restrained forcefully, although not every serious incident has been notified to the Board.

**5.7.2** When the full complement of experienced, or at least trained staff, are on duty in the Care and Separation Unit (CSU) the Board can highly commend the thorough and professional way the unit is managed and operated. However, during the summer, the experienced staff in the CSU, many of whom had worked there for several years and who were therefore fully conversant with unit protocols, were transferred to other duties in the prison within a short period of time, causing the Board some concern. During early September, for example, the unit was often staffed with untrained staff who were unfamiliar with its routine and paperwork, and this led to some frustration on the part of experienced staff and some omissions: such as the duty Board member not being informed when prisoners had been brought into the unit. Similarly, due to staff shortages, there were also several instances where the unit was in patrol state with only one member of staff on duty, resulting in regrettable restricted access to prisoners by Board members.

**5.7.3** The Board recorded 8 serious incidents during the year of which five were Deaths in Custody. At least two of these deaths took place in hospital. The deaths which took place within the prison were promptly notified to and attended shortly afterwards by members of the Board. Generally, the Board has been able to observe the professional and sympathetic manner in which Deaths in Custody were handled by staff afterwards, both in the care and consideration offered to colleagues who had had to deal with these challenging experiences, but also to the bereaved families and friends involved. The Board therefore has been satisfied with the aftercare offered by the prison. There were, however, issues which have caused the Board some concern. But as investigations were incomplete by the end of the reporting year, the Board will not comment any further at this stage.

**5.7.4** In the aftermath of the death that took place in the CSU, the Board was aware that several prisoners were affected adversely with the possibility of a threat to prison order. Accordingly, a number of prisoners were immediately transferred out of the prison. The Board was informed only later that the National

Tornado unit was placed on standby during this time, but was in fact not used. The Board was not informed of this threat nor of these actions at the time, so was unable to observe what happened. Shortly afterwards, a small number of prisoners expressed extreme anxiety to members of the Board about the death in custody. In one or two isolated cases, the Board felt that some of these prisoners could have been managed more sensitively by staff.

**5.7.5** The availability of illegal drugs and various psychoactive substances, often known as 'legal highs', continues to be a serious problem within the prison. There have been obvious examples when these have been detected: such as items being thrown over the walls, but the Board remains concerned at the ready availability of these substances which have resulted in sporadic acts of violence and, at the least, unacceptable and unsafe behaviour on the wings but at the worst bullying and intimidation. There have also been several hospitalisations as a result of consumption of such substances and instances of intimidation or threats of intimidation and bullying where debts have been incurred. The Board remains concerned that the prison does not have a dedicated drugs dog, and at possible shortcomings in drugs intelligence, mentioned in one recent Prison and Probation Ombudsman report.

## **Section 6**

### **ADDITIONAL AREAS (As required)**

None required

## **Section 7**

### **THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

**7.1** Board duties have continued to be split between rota visits and addressing applications from prisoners on a weekly basis. Owing to the reduced size of the Board, one member was assigned to rota visits each week and another processed applications. Every effort has been made to provide an IMB induction for prisoners newly arrived at HMP Dartmoor.

**7.2** Each Board member has had an area of special interest (ASI) and regular specialist reports have been discussed at monthly Board meetings. ASI monitoring has involved observing a number of prison meetings including: the Prison Council; the Safer Custody Group; the Quality Improvements Group; Equality Action Team; Segregation Monitoring and Review Group; Security; Reducing Reoffending. In addition, individual discussions have taken place with the Governor and the management leads for specific areas. The Board has been regularly represented at the Area IMB Chairs' meeting. On occasions, there has been discussion and interaction with other IMBs in the local cluster of prisons and one such visit to HMP Dartmoor (from HMP Swansea) has taken place during this reporting period.

**7.3** Issues of concern have been raised with the governor through rota reports and directly at the chair’s monthly meeting. The governor, or her deputy, has also attended the IMB monthly Board meetings for a dedicated agenda item and she has continued to be open and frank in addressing the Board’s concerns.

**7.4** Where possible, Board members have attended GOOD reviews. Less regularly, Board members have attended adjudications and ACCT reviews.

**7.5** Maintaining Board numbers has continued to be a challenge, made worse by the lengthy recruitment process, and it was necessary to hold a recruitment exercise during the year. Developing a Board that is truly representative of the community continues to prove elusive.

A breakdown of applications and Board statistics can be seen below:

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	8
Number of members leaving within reporting period	5
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the Establishment	466
Total number of segregation reviews attended	38
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	Held in Nov 2015

## APPLICATIONS

Code	Subject	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	Accommodation	8	9	6	10
	Adjudications	2	4	10	3
	Equality and Diversity	8	8	5	2
	Education, Employment, Training inc. IEPs	27	16	7	28
	Family/ Visits inc. Mail and Phone	47	53	37	26
	Finance/Pay	17	15	23	8
	Food/Kitchen related	3	7	6	0
	Health Related	50	58	27	15
	Property within this prison	47	29	30	21
	Property during transfer	Included in above	37	33	28
	Canteen, Catalogue shopping	12	9	4	2
	Sentence related inc. ROTL, parole, release, re-cat etc.	34	34	47	23
	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc. bullying	21	37	30	26
	Transfers	38	17	25	16
	Miscellaneous	50	17	32	25
	Confidential Access	8	13	5	15
	Total	364	350	326	246