

INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD



HMP LEWES

Annual Report

1st February 2015 – 31st January 2016

Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody



Section 1

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

The Prison Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

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.

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.**

Section 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1	
STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
Section 3	
DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON	4
Section 4	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
ISSUES REQUIRING A RESPONSE FOR THE MINISTER	10
FOR THE GOVERNOR	10
Section 5	12
EQUALITY AND INCLUSION	12
EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS	13
PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY	13
HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH	14
RESETTLEMENT	16
SAFER CUSTODY	17
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES	18
SEGREGATION (CARE AND SEPARATION) UNIT	21
Section 6	
SECURITY	22
Section 7	
THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD	23
APPLICATIONS FROM PRISONERS TO THE IMB	24

Section 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

1. HMP Lewes is a Category B, local resettlement prison, serving Sussex courts. It holds both remanded and convicted prisoners including a small number of young prisoners aged 18 to 21. The number of Foreign Nationals has averaged around 81 during the year. The majority of the prison is of Victorian origin and was built on a radial design. A new block was completed in 2008 consisting of 174 single cells.

2. The CNA (Certified Normal Accommodation) is the ideal maximum population of the prison. In January 2016 the baseline number for CNA was 617. The Operational Capacity relates to the 'population which could be accommodated without risk of disruption through overcrowding'. For HMP Lewes the Operational Capacity is currently 692, reduced from 724 .

3. At the end of January 2016 HMP Lewes held 655 prisoners (650 in 2015). The total male population in Her Majesty's Prison Service at the end of January 2016 was 81,443.

The prison's residential areas consist of 10 wings:

- A wing Drug recovery capacity 134
- B Wing Segregation Unit capacity 14
(Including 2 Observation cells and 2 Special Accommodation cells)
- C wing General Wing capacity 150
- G wing Care and Support Unit (CASU) capacity 23
- F wing Mainly Vulnerable Prisoners capacity 147
- F1 First Night Centre capacity 30
- K wing Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) capacity 22
- L wing Sentenced category C adults capacity 80
- M wing Sentenced category C adults capacity 94
- HCC Health Care Centre – Acute inpatient facility capacity 12

The main contractors to the prison are:

- GEO Amey (transport to and from the courts and local prisons)
- Serco (transport to and from prisons)
- Carillion (from June 2015) Support Service Company (responsible for all works and stores)
- Tascor (transport for Foreign Nationals for bail hearings and deportation/repatriation flights)
- DHL (ordering and delivery of prisoners' purchases from earnings)
- 3663 (supply of frozen, fresh and dry foods for prisoners' meals)
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (all inpatient and outpatient care, opticians, dentist)
- Medco (GP Services)
- CRI, Crime Reduction Initiative (responsible for Drug and Alcohol Teams)
- NOVUS, part of The Manchester College (Education, Learning and Skills)
- KSS (Kent Surrey and Sussex), CRC (Community Rehabilitation Company)
- Tribal (careers advice)
- East Sussex County Council Library Service

All the above organisations and their services have been approved and appointed at a National Level. In addition, a number of voluntary and other organisations provide significant services. These include:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (weekly support group)
- Job Centre Plus (DWP employment and benefits advice)
- Keep Out (a crime diversion scheme delivered by serving prisoners)
- National Association of Official Prison Visitors
- National Careers Service
- Sussex Pathways (provides a 'through the gate' mentoring scheme and co-ordinates Restorative Justice)
- The Prison Fellowship (runs Sycamore Tree, a six week victim awareness course for prisoners)

- The Samaritans (runs the Listener scheme, whereby prisoners can call on a rota of trained prisoner Listeners. There is also a dedicated telephone line by which prisoners can speak to the Samaritans on request)
- The Shannon Trust (provides 'Turning Pages' formally known as 'Toe by Toe' reading scheme)

Section 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REGIME

4. The main theme of this report is the unpredictable regime delivered throughout 2015. On February 9th 2015 an 'interim regime' was introduced with the intention of providing a sustainable and predictable regime to maximise attendance at activities and ensure a safe, secure and decent environment for prisoners and staff. However with low staffing levels and high sickness rate this was, at times, difficult to deliver and often resulted in a disrupted unpredictable regime throughout 2015. Subsequently this had an adverse effect on prisoners' education, healthcare, rehabilitation and time out of cell.

STAFFING

5. At the beginning of the reporting year low staff levels and morale together with high rates of staff sickness further exasperated the regime problem. The Board is pleased that a campaign through the summer to recruit more staff has been a success and numbers were back to the full complement (under NWOW) in November 2015.

6. The Board is pleased to note that staff sickness has been robustly addressed by the governing Governor and sickness rates have dropped throughout the year by 30%. However, staff sickness is still prone to rise significantly during holiday periods.

7. The low staff levels during much of the year along with the interim regime have resulted in staff being allocated to wings at short notice. The result is lack of continuity for both staff and prisoners. Not only are relationships hard to maintain but the basic day to day tasks are often not carried out which prisoners have frequently drawn our attention to, e.g. tracking of prisoners to activities and ACCT documents.

8. It has been noted by the IMB and others that HMP Lewes continues to have good staff prisoner relationships collectively and on a one to one basis. Staff should be congratulated, especially with the prison often performing close to full capacity

9. Board members have noted a significant change in prisoners' attitudes to each other and to staff over the past year or so. This tends to portray itself in a more aggressive and demanding manner. In an overcrowded prison with fewer staff this increased negative behaviour often puts added pressure on the staff.

10. The increased use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS, also known as Spice, or Legal Highs) has had a major impact on the prison as a whole. The prison's immediate catchment area includes Brighton and Hove, which has high rates of substance misuse. The introduction of reducing a prisoner to Basic on the IEP (Incentives and Earned Privilege) system, if suspected of taking NPS, is welcomed by the Board.

FIRST NIGHT CENTRE

11. The Board is concerned that the FNC is not accommodating new prisoners as it should. The FNC unit is where new prisoners should spend a short time on arrival in order to receive induction in an appropriate way and to acclimatise before locating to larger wings. Instead these cells are accommodating prisoners who cannot be relocated to a normal location, often for weeks at a time. These are Vulnerable Prisoners, often sex-offenders, for whom there is a shortage of space. This means that newly arrived prisoners have to be located straight onto a main wing, with all the pressures that this entails. Furthermore the regime in the FNC is severely curtailed and totally unacceptable with prisoners being locked up for up to 20 hours per day.

CLOTHING

12. There have been substantial delays, especially in relation to the provision of certain basic items such as allocations of clean clothing, to which prisoners have frequently drawn our attention. These shortages have undermined prisoners' wellbeing and ability to maintain decency. The response to allow prisoners on some wings to wear their own clothes has alleviated some of these problems but the situation is still unacceptable.

PROPERTY

13. There has been an increase in prisoner complaints regarding property missing in transit. Varying volumetric control between prisons and property not accompanying the prisoner when transferred result in lost/mislaid or late arrival of property.

FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE

14. The Board notes that the prison budget has not increased which has put additional strain on staff and services and impacted on the effective running of the Establishment.

PRISONER SUPPORT

15. The Chaplaincy team provides a consistently high level of support to the prisoners and HMP Lewes is fortunate to have such a dedicated multi-faith team.

DEATHS IN CUSTODY

16. There was one death from natural causes.

PRISON PERFORMANCE RATING

17. The Board is pleased to report that during the year HMP Lewes has improved its performance from a level 2 grade to a level 3 grade, as measured on a range of targets set by NOMS prison rating system ,graded 1 – 4.

ISSUES REQUIRING A RESPONSE

FOR THE MINISTER

18. The Board requests that NOMS addresses the issues of prisoner property in transit. The contract between NOMS and the Prisoner Escort Custody Services (PECS) GEO Amey, Serco and Tascor should have penalties in place if the prisoners' property does not travel with the prisoner.

19. Carillion is the new maintenance service provider '*providing more efficient, high-quality services in public prisons*'. In reality the Board is often told of delays to repairs including broken kitchen equipment and rodent infestations. It would be beneficial for all staff and prisoners if the lengthy procedures for of any requested work could be simplified and dealt with more efficiently by Carillion.

20. Better planning is urgently needed regarding the national availability of accommodation for groups such as sex offenders, where there is a sharp increase in numbers, who are then at risk of being inappropriately housed, particularly in Category B prisons such as Lewes. Spaces such as those in the First Night Centre are being taken by this overflow, and Safer Custody is potentially compromised.

FOR THE GOVERNOR

21. It is essential that a reliable regime is implemented and robustly delivered. This should help to eliminate cancellation of outside hospital appointments, attendance at activities and access to phone calls and importantly, give prisoners needed time out of cramped cells.

22. The First Night Centre is not operating as it should. The Board believes this is unacceptable and does not provide a safe and decent start to prison life.

23. The range of purposeful activities and relevant work opportunities is still too small for the number of prisoners. The Board urges the Prison to improve allocation of purposeful activities and monitor and record the attendance more robustly.

24. Areas such as Post, Equalities, and Visits have suffered due to lack of staff. It is important that staff are allocated to these areas as they provide basic services that contribute towards a prisoners rehabilitation.

Furthermore Mandatory drug testing has taken place on a limited basis throughout the year as a result of staff being deployed to other departments and this is also unacceptable.

25. We urge the management team to encourage staff to ensure that prisoners' property is recorded correctly, transferred with the prisoner and that the cell clearances are conducted appropriately. The Board requests that the sending and receiving prisons take responsibility for mislaid property, rather than the prisoner initiating the process.

Section 5

STATUTORY AREAS

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

26. The Equalities function is managed by the Diversity Race Equality Action Team (DREAT). This team has not been fully staffed for the reporting period. For example there have been no Equality Meetings for the reporting period and it would seem that the 2 Prisoner Equality Representatives have not been officially utilised. There have also been few specific activities for those prisoners who share a protected characteristic.

27. There are about 81 Foreign Nationals in the prison at any one time. Telephone translation services are available and there is an informal use of prisoners for translation requirements. Within the reporting period, the service offered by the UK Border Force Agency was less than adequate. This situation has recently changed with Home Office personnel visiting every fortnight. Five Foreign Nationals under IS91 have been held for more than one year.

28. The increase of older prisoners has resulted in more prisoners requiring special care even if this is not defined under the legal requirements. 8 % of prisoners are aged between 50 and 59. 4% of prisoners are aged between 60 and 69 and 4% over the age of 70. Many of them have complex medical and care needs, which, where possible are managed on normal wings.

29. There were 8 Discrimination Incident Report Forms (DIRFs) logged in the reporting period. All investigations were completed within the target dates.

30. The Chaplaincy Team is extremely proactive in faith provision, with equal emphasis placed on responding to the needs of prisoners who are of no declared faith. The team have Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Pagan, Jehovah's

Witness, Buddhist, Quaker and Jewish chaplains and are actively seeking approval for a Hindu minister. Whatever a prisoner's faith, a minister will be sought if required.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

30. Education is contracted out to Novus (part of The Manchester College). At the beginning of the reporting period over 30 courses were offered; however 9 of these have since been closed for varying reasons. Some courses are now combined or incorporated under other training. Other courses were cancelled due to lack of interest (for example, newspaper editing), and lastly other courses were seen as unsuitable for the population in Lewes (for example, an intensive 2.5 day Maths primer).

31. The range of courses available is continually being assessed through needs and attendance. The assessment of literacy and numeracy skills is part of Reception and Induction at HMP Lewes and there is a regular bi-monthly process for feedback involving prisoner focus groups.

32. However, requirements incorporated into sentence plans are poor. One of the main issues is the relatively short length of time many prisoners spend at the prison. There is currently an initiative to tie in education and skills more closely with sentence planning which has started during January 2016.

33. Attendance is patchy. NOVUS estimates that a third of the non-attendance is for legitimate reasons, a third through shut-downs or lack of prison staff, and the remaining third due to prisoners not wishing to attend. It is difficult to confirm this situation as NOVUS figures and those collected by the prison show considerable differences.

34. The recent Ofsted inspection awarded Lewes education a Level 2 (Good), up from a 3 at their last inspection (Satisfactory).

PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITIES

35. There are a number of Activities offered at Lewes but they are limited in part due to the high churn of prisoners. Examples include lobster pot construction, poppy making, recycling, painting and the Gym. There is an average of 20 workers allocated to each main wing for jobs such as cleaning, but often little evidence of them being gainfully employed during their period of activity.

36. Ensuring that prisoners engage in education and activities is a key element of a resettlement prison. At face value it would appear that on a main wing 60% of individuals are off wing undertaking some form of activity. Further investigation reveals that these figures are suspect, with numbers not matching those kept by the education staff and no real audit trail as to whether individuals are attending or reasons for non-attendance. It would appear that the use of the IEP (Incentives and Earned Privileges) system to tackle refusal to attend is not being fully utilised. The IMB has been aware of this for many years. The situation was highlighted by prison management in August 2015 but does not seem to have improved.

HEALTHCARE (HCC)

37. New contracts were awarded in April 2015. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust covers all aspects of Healthcare apart from GPs, who are managed by Medco. Drug services are provided by CRI (Crime Reduction Initiative). There has been a great deal of work done by these providers to understand the roles and responsibilities of each, the complexities of which cannot be underestimated, to ensure that prisoners are not disadvantaged.

38. There is a 12-bed Inpatient Unit, which includes 1 Special Care cell. Smoking is banned in the unit. Prison Officers are currently allocated to this unit, working alongside NHS Trust staff.

39. Apart from the GP service, staffing levels have improved. There have been problems with GP provision and the use of locums. Optical and Dental

provision was also slow in being implemented which resulted in a backlog of appointments and hardship to prisoners. This situation is gradually improving.

40. The impact of the unpredictable regime has impacted on the services provided by the Healthcare Centre. This includes attendance at in-house clinics, outside appointments etc. External appointments are often cancelled due to another prisoner having a more urgent need. There are also problems with prison staff not being available for escort duty. Currently there is a high level of non-attendance for GP appointments, which is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

41. Increasingly prisoners are being treated on the wings rather than being placed in the Healthcare Centre - a challenge which involves changing the attitudes of prison staff and prisoners. There is continuous monitoring of prescribed drugs. There has been a huge decrease in the prescribing of Paracetamol and prisoners are now able to buy these through the Canteen system. There is an agreed Healthcare protocol for prisoners in the Segregation Unit and much care is taken to ensure plans are implemented swiftly and monitored appropriately.

42. There has been an increase in prisoners with Mental Health problems. The Healthcare team is skilled in the assessment and care of this group and there is an excellent referral system to local secure units. However, referral to non-local locations can prove difficult.

43. A number of therapeutic groups have been put in place, such as Stress Management and Trauma groups. These are being expanded, allowing many prisoners to stay on normal location, rather than being admitted to the Healthcare Wing.

44. As previously mentioned there has been a sharp increase of older prisoners with complex needs and these are now managed between Healthcare, East Sussex County Council Social Care Team and the Prison

Service. End of life care is well managed but the facilities are extremely poor for both prisoners and staff e.g. inadequate accommodation.

45. Currently the Complaints procedure is the only avenue open to prisoners to give feedback, and so far an alternative system has not been put in place. Complaints from prisoners are being replied to within 7 days. Sussex Partnership has recently received an excellent CQC report.

RESETTLEMENT

46. Kent Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Community Rehabilitation Company was appointed on May 1st 2015. KSS management has developed a comprehensive work plan to enable close monitoring of targets and progress reports. They continue to work with The Job Centre, National Careers Service, DART (CRI), Sussex Pathways and Healthcare to ensure that the best all round plans and actions can be implemented for the individual prisoner.

47. There has been some delay in implementing all the procedures required by KSS and discussions are still underway with both the prison and other agencies to ensure that prisoner needs are appropriately met prior to and following their release from prison.

48. Individuals sentenced to less than 12 months are now supervised by the Community Rehabilitation Company. For those serving between 12 months and 4 years supervision is on licence by either the CRC or, for higher risk prisoners and sex offenders, by The National Probation Service. CRC's are paid, in part, by results. Currently all resettlement data is paper based.

49. Time out of cell for prisoners is now limited and unpredictable making it difficult for staff to access prisoners' resettlement activities.

50. The changes of responsibility for the above areas have been challenging for all, and those involved should be complimented on their efforts

in attempting to implement the new processes, which have and will continue to require close cooperation from all those involved

51. Sentence planning is limited, but the backlog in Offender Assessment System (OASys) completion as of January 2016 is currently 37, which is an improvement on recent years. Any urgent OASys is complete, but others are out of date. There has been a concerted effort to manage this process and the backlogs have now been reduced.

SAFER CUSTODY

52. Due to sickness and maternity leave there has been a major adverse impact on all areas. Officer hours lost in Safer Custody work have been 47 per week for most of the year.

53. The recording of assaults and violent incidents during the period was 162, averaging 9.8 per month for the first 6 months and 17.1 per month for the rest of the year.

54. Violence Reduction (VR) Investigations are now taking place, although some of the historic allegations were abandoned (many of the prisoners had left the prison by the time there was the resource to look at them) and investigations are once more falling behind, with only 2 out of 7 completed in November. Currently most wings do not have a VR officer rep.

55. There were 308 ACCTS opened with a monthly average in the first half of the year at 20.6 rising to 30.6 per month in the later half of the year. The poor quality of some of the ACCT documentation is being addressed with weekly inspections now taking place and improvements being noted. The Listener scheme remains active, although it is sometimes difficult for prisoners to access this service, particularly at night.

56. The increase of Vulnerable Prisoners has resulted in many individuals being held in the First Night Centre, as there is no room on the VP Unit. This

is of particular concern, as the FNC does not have a normal regime which includes regular unlock and exercise. It has resulted in new arrivals going straight to the wings instead of being given a more careful introduction to prison life. All this poses potential risk to safe custody.

57. There was one death in custody, from natural causes. Five inquests have taken place this year, four delivered a verdict of natural causes and one a verdict of suicide. The recommendations have been addressed.

RESIDENTIAL

REGIME

58. During the period of this report there has been an interim regime in place. This has resulted in the following:

- No set pattern for opening and closing of wings
- Prisoners being locked in cells for up to 20 hours
- Staff being deployed to wings and departments at short notice
- Adverse impact on education and purposeful activity
- Increase in violence and bullying
- Difficulty in Healthcare issues being dealt with in a prompt and appropriate manner
- Cancellation of meetings and poor follow through of action points
- Wing staff under pressure resulting in poor communication with functions such as Activities, Education and Healthcare
- Staff and prisoners unable to build good relationships which are vital to ensure the smooth running of the prison.

59. The IMB fully recognises that many of these situations were brought about by low staffing levels which included high sick absence. The staffing levels are now running at almost 100% and there is continued assurance from local management that this will help rectify these concerns

60. The recent January 2016 HMCIP inspection noted that the new regime implemented the same month has, in these early days, shown an improvement both in regime and in the use of the FNC.

FIRST NIGHT CENTRE

61. All prisoners have an initial health screen on arriving in the First Night Centre. This wing is specifically for new arrivals, who are fully risk-assessed and then moved to an appropriate residential wing, or Healthcare if necessary. This is no longer the case. Due to the number of Vulnerable Prisoners and others who for various reasons the prison staff feel cannot be located on the main wings, this wing is now used to house prisoners on a long term basis. This is a totally unacceptable situation as the wing does not have a normal regime.

62. It means men being locked up for most of the day with no formal plans for their stay in prison. This has a negative impact on the wellbeing of the prisoners concerned and is a very difficult situation for wing staff to manage. So far, despite various discussions and suggestions, there has been no concrete plan put in place for addressing this very serious situation. However after the recent HMCIP inspection, in January, this situation was swiftly addressed by NOMS.

KITCHEN

63. There is an allowance of £2.02 per prisoner per day. The kitchen has not been fully staffed during the reporting period. There are delays in mending kitchen equipment which has an impact on the smooth working of this area. It is to the credit of prison staff and prison workers that the food offered is of an acceptable standard, in the view of the IMB. Care is taken to ensure that special diets are catered for and food for religious events is appropriately planned and delivered. The Food Comments Book is not always visible on the wings and comments are not always responded to.

PROPERTY AND KIT

64. The inadequate transfer of prisoners' belongings from one establishment to another is unacceptable but not unique to HMP Lewes. Cell clearances and the transfer of property between prisons are poorly managed by both the Prison Service and Prisoner Escort Service, GEO Amey and Serco. This has a detrimental effect on prisoners who lose documents and personal items.

65. The problem is exacerbated by the lack of kit available within the prison, including essential clothing. To attempt to alleviate this situation prisoners on some wings are now allowed to wear their own clothes but the root problems have not been addressed by the Prison Service nationwide.

VISITS AND POST ROOM

66. It was mentioned in last year's report that there was great difficulty in getting through to the Visits' booking line. Although anecdotal, evidence from both prisoners and visitors still indicate this is an ongoing problem.

67. In summer 2015 the number of visiting sessions was reduced by stopping the morning visits, in order to ease staffing problems. In August, it could take up to ten days for a prisoner to obtain the first visit from his family, which was having a negative impact on important family ties. However, at the end of the reporting year more visit slots were made available to help rectify the situation.

68. Family Days have now ceased (due to lack of funding) and the only alternative were three sessions provided this year for those on the DART Family Man Courses which are not open to all the formerly eligible prisoners.

69. The Post Room has at times been closed due to a severe shortage of staff, which impacts on both personal and legal correspondence.

STAFFING

70. Staffing has been of serious concern. High sickness levels, the transfer or resignation of experienced officers and OSGs, and the continual churn of staff from one activity to another on an almost daily basis, have all impacted on prison life. The planning and recording of staffing and wing regimes has often been on an ad hoc basis. Wings have been locked down at short notice and staff deployed away from their normal locations to “cover the gaps”.

71. Despite the very best efforts of the staff, it is not surprising that meetings are missed, reports are not always updated in a timely manner and the time to build relationships between staff and prisoners is eroded. If staff do not have the time to engage with prisoners and prisoners are behind their doors for long periods of time, interaction and understanding, and the ability to avoid problems before they happen, are lost.

72. Staffing levels have recently improved markedly and are now at almost full capacity. Staff and prisoner relationships have generally been excellent in the past but have been pushed to the limits over the past year. Despite this many officers go out of their way to maintain good relationships and go that “little bit further”.

SEGREGATION UNIT

73. The unit has operated at near full capacity during the period of the report with many prisoners being demanding, non-compliant and aggressive. The Special Accommodation is frequently utilised for short periods.

74. There have been a number of changes in the staffing on the unit but the staff continue to demonstrate skill and patience in this challenging environment. During the last few months the Board has been concerned about prisoners being placed in the unit because other wings are not deemed suitable to their needs. The IMB continues to monitor the situation closely.

There has also been a sharp increase of prisoners on open ACCTs (i.e. deemed at risk of self-harm) in the unit, which again is a point of concern.

75. The Board is satisfied that the protocols are met for prisoners with specific needs such as long stayers and those with mental health problems.

76. All paperwork such as daily logs, history sheets and open ACCTs have, on the whole, been well kept. Review boards are well managed and IMB members attend a large proportion of these.

77. Special Accommodation and dirty protests are professionally managed.

Section 6

SECURITY

78. The Security department is well staffed but the shortage of staff in other areas of the prison has impacted on the management of Security in the prison.

79. NPS (Novel Psychoactive Substances, Spice or Legal Highs) have been a major security threat throughout the year. The effect of their use is substantial, causing a potentially lethal threat to the user's life, and a safety risk to officers and other prisoners. Added to this is the need for Healthcare intervention and emergency admissions to local hospitals.

80. With limited resources the prison continues to try to stop drugs and mobile phone paraphernalia coming in but it is extremely difficult. Recently a targeted cell search uncovered mobiles in 7 out of 9 cells. Due to tighter staffing levels the focus is now on targeted searches generated by intelligence rather than regular searching.

81. Intelligence remains crucial in trying to keep on top of illegal activities, but time pressures on wing staff have contributed to submission of MIRs (mercury intelligence reports) being fitful and not always consistent with wing reports.

82. There have been long periods of time when Mandatory Drug Testing has not taken place due to redeployment of staff to wings.

83. There has been a recent increase in poor behaviour associated with prisoners refusing to transfer to other establishments.

Section 7

THE WORK OF THE IMB BOARD

Recommended complement of board members	17
Number of board members at the start of the reporting year	13
Number of board members at the end of the reporting year	12
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	4
Number of board meetings during the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the establishment	2

Number of Segregation Reviews held	102
Number of Segregation Reviews attended	79
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	7th Nov.

84. Members attend the prison on a weekly rota basis. Each week one member monitors the statutory areas (Healthcare, Kitchen, Segregation Unit and all residential wings), a second deals with prisoner applications and attends the weekly Segregation Reviews, while a third inspects other areas of the prison. Helpful presentations are given at the monthly Board meeting by HMP staff and others, to broaden IMB knowledge.

85. Rota visits cover different times of day and days of the week. As required, members have attended serious incidents and observed planned removals. Use of the Special Accommodation Cell has been observed and monitored. The Board has an agreement with the Governor over which incidents it should be immediately told about, but have repeatedly had to request that this is adhered to.

86. Members welcomed the IMB at HMP Winchester and the IMB at High Down on a training visit to HMP Lewes, and visited HMP Feltham. The Board held two in-house training mornings, and members attended the IMB Conference and several national and local training events. Three members attended a Muslim awareness day. One member conducted a night visit and another member is on the National Council.

87. Recruitment of new members has not proved difficult, and the Board is now attracting some younger members. However, retention of new members is not easy, as many find that the time required, especially in the earlier stages, is not compatible with other demands on their time.

APPLICATIONS FROM PRISONERS TO THE IMB

	Subject	2013	2014	2015
A	Accommodation	14	21	17
B	Adjudications	7	11	3
C	Equality & Diversity	8	6	5
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	17	17	25
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	32	35	36
E 2	Finance/pay	8	14	5
F	Food/kitchen related	13	17	2
G	Health related	63	64	58
H 1	Property (within current establishment)	11	25	16
H 2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	10	45	42
H 3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	9	2	5
I	Sentence (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat)	36	31	39
J	Staff/prisoner concerns inc bullying	24	26	41
K	Transfers	20	28	11
L	Miscellaneous	12	17	27

	Total number of IMB applications	284	359	332
	Confidential Access	40	37	35

88. Applications to the IMB have decreased since last year's report. The number of applications relating to Healthcare (17 %) and property (18%) remain the highest. Sentence related issues (12%) and Apps about staff (12 %) have also increased along with those about education, employment and training.