



HMP LONG LARTIN

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year 1st February 2015 to 31st January 2016

SECTION ONE - The Statutory Role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.

Inform promptly the Secretary of State or any official to whom he has delegated authority, as it judges appropriate, any concerns it has.

Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and commitments placed on it and what impact these have on those placed in its custody.

Ensure its members have right of access to every prisoner and every part of the prison as well as prison records, to enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively.

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SECTION THREE - Description of HMP Long Lartin

- 3.1.1 HMP Long Lartin is a dispersal prison within the High Security Estate, situated in the Vale of Evesham. The original premises date from the early 1970s, although they have been modified by successive programmes of adaption and improvement.
- 3.1.2 The prison has a Certified Normal Accommodation of 625 adult males, about a quarter of whom will typically be Category A, including some High Risk prisoners, with the remainder Category B. From time to time there may also be a small number of remand prisoners, all of them provisionally Category A.
- 3.1.3 All prisoners are accommodated in single cells, either on one of the three support wings or five mainstream wings. The support wings and one mainstream wing lack in-cell sanitation.
- 3.1.4 The education contract is with Milton Keynes College; Worcestershire Health and Social Care Trust provides healthcare but Care UK will be the provider from April 2016. DHL has the canteen contract and Geo-Amey has the maintenance contract.

SECTION FOUR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 For the attention of the Minister

- 4.1.1 The Board commends the programme of new purpose-built prisons which will provide appropriate accommodation and facilities for inmates who may be incarcerated for many years. We would, however, like the Minister to ensure that adequate funding is allocated for those prisons which are lacking in basic standards of accommodation and adequate facilities, to provide a humane and decent environment for both prisoners and staff.
- 4.1.2 We wish to point out to the Minister that four out of the eight wings in HMP Long Lartin are still 'slopping out'.

4.2 For the attention of the National Offender Management Service

- 4.2.1 A reassessment of education provision for long term prisoners (see para 5.4.1) and for prisoners in Segregation and Healthcare (see para 5.5.5)
- 4.2.2 To ensure that the authority for the continued segregation of prisoners is processed in sufficient time to enable Rule 45 Board reviews to comply with the Supreme Court Ruling in *Bourgass and Hussain*.
- 4.2.3 To review the excessive period of time being taken for the completion of security clearance for High Security prisons which is having a serious impact on staffing levels.

4.3 For the attention of the Governor

- 4.3.1 To ensure that delays in risk assessments for candidates for positions as listeners are reduced. (see para 5.2.4)
- 4.3.2 To encourage every department to attend all meetings as required, with specific reference to the Rule 45 Review Board. (5.3.5)
- 4.3.3 To keep under review the changes to the Rule 45 review process to ensure an efficient and effective process in accordance with the recent Supreme Court Ruling.
- 4.3.4 To keep under review, as a matter of urgency, the condition of the areas outside cell windows (see para 6.7.1 to 6.7.4) which was reported in last year's annual report.
- 4.3.5 To look at the possibility of having a dedicated visits team for the visits area who can develop the high level of expertise and knowledge required for this vital and sensitive area.

SECTION FIVE REPORTS ON ASPECTS OF THE PRISON

5.1 EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

- 5.1.1 Diversity is a challenge for those who live and work in the prison environment. 41% of the prison population register an ethnicity other than White British which is a slight reduction on the 45% registered in the last reporting year. There are 104 prisoners who are registered as Foreign National, the majority of whom are housed on mainstream wings. Foreign National meetings are scheduled to be held every month and the IMB looks forward to the prison ensuring that these meetings are facilitated.
- 5.1.2 There is considerable diversity of religious beliefs which causes additional pressures for the kitchen management; however these requirements are dealt with extremely efficiently by the management considering that the daily financial allowance for each prisoner is very low.
- 5.1.3 The three main religious groups remain the same as reported last year, being Muslim 30%, Church of England 16% and Roman Catholic 16%. 39 men changed their religious registration during the year across a range of faiths. As evidenced by our reported statistics, and through conversations with the chaplaincy team, it is safe to suggest that there is little evidence of prisoners being forced to convert under pressure within any of the recognised faith groups in HMP Long Lartin.
- 5.1.4 There are currently 121 offenders over the age of 50, which equates to 19.9% of the population. A survey of older prisoners was recently conducted by the IMB and a report with recommendations has been submitted to the Governor for consideration. The Board questions whether every single one of these men requires a place in an expensive High Security prison.
- 5.1.5 201 prisoners have disclosed disabilities in various forms. Prior to Benchmarking, one member of the Safer Custody Team had a designated area of responsibility for the care of disabled prisoners. This is no longer the case, which the IMB believes is a retrograde step.

5.2 SAFER CUSTODY

- 5.2.1 There were two deaths in custody in the reporting year compared with the four reported for the previous year.
- 5.2.2 Following investigations by the Prison and Probation Ombudsman (PPO), recommendations have been acted upon. One main area of concern was the delay in calling for an ambulance when a Code Blue was called. It is now a mandatory action that paramedics are called whenever a Code Red or Blue is called.
- 5.2.3 The Safer Custody Management team are now preparing an in-depth analysis of all incidents within the prison to enable management to identify reasons for unexplained spikes, with a view to addressing the causes of the incidents.

- 5.2.4 Within the reporting year, HMP Long Lartin has been part of a pilot scheme in which officers are supplied with body worn video cameras. It is believed that this has had a positive effect in assisting in the reduction of violent incidents within the prison. Both prisoners and staff appear to have confidence in the system.
- 5.2.5 Listeners (prisoners trained by The Samaritans) provide an important service for their fellow prisoners. However, there is concern at the length of time it takes for suitable candidates to be risk assessed, which has had a negative impact on the number of volunteers available.
- 5.2.6 The Samaritans provide an invaluable service for the prisoners at Long Lartin. However, serious concern has recently been expressed by prison staff and the IMB following the refusal of the Samaritans to provide names of men alleged to be bullying other prisoners, on the grounds that this would breach their rules of confidentiality.

5.3 SEGREGATION UNIT

- 5.3.1 The Segregation Unit has continued to represent a significant element in the work of the Board because of the Unit's particular features. It is sizeable: there are 34 standard cells apart from those adapted as safer cells, for constant watch and as special accommodation. There is a consistently high occupancy level: in 2015 the average weekly roll was 27; in no week was it less than 24; in eight it was 30, and in four it was 31. Many of the prisoners held in segregation have complex needs. The essential IMB duties include visiting every prisoner in segregation each week, and attending three Rule 45 Review Boards each week.
- 5.3.2 However the Segregation Unit is an integral part of the prison community, and its work is in essence no different to that of a wing: the provision of a safe, decent and humane environment for those detained there. Equally the level of occupancy is not in any simple sense a barometer of the stability of the prison as a whole. Sometimes there is a short-term peak because of a particular discipline or security incident on a wing, but the most significant factor is consistently a group of prisoners who present a range of complex long-term needs and risks both to themselves and to others, which prevent them from returning to normal location.
- 5.3.3 The Board considers that the Unit is well led and managed, and it continues to benefit from having a discrete specialist staff group. This contributes greatly to an atmosphere of order and calm, despite the presence of some disturbed and potentially violent prisoners, whose behaviour has included persistent noise, damage to cells, and dirty protests. The Board commends the professionalism, humanity, and remarkable good humour of the officers working in this difficult environment day by day.
- 5.3.4 The Board has previously expressed concern at prisoners being segregated while subject to an open ACCT (Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork) documents. This has continued although the numbers have remained small. The Board is satisfied that there has been no reasonable alternative to segregation for these prisoners, and that

there are robust procedures in place to assess risk when they are initially segregated and to monitor their condition while they remain in segregation.

- 5.3.5 In general the Board believes that the Unit is faithful to its stated purpose of preparing prisoners for return to normal location as soon as reasonably practicable. However there is a significant group of prisoners for whom this is not possible for reasons which are often largely beyond the control of the Unit and indeed of the prison as a whole. These prisoners typically have complex psychological problems or mental health needs, and not infrequently come to the Unit on transfer from other segregation units in the dispersal system. The Board is concerned that little or no psychological intervention has been available for this group within HMP Long Lartin, although recently a limited amount of work has been done with a small number of prisoners. The difficulty in sustaining and developing this valuable work in the Unit is reported to be a lack of resources in the Psychology Department. The Board is also concerned that the effectiveness of local provision to Manage Challenging Behaviour (MCB) is questionable (see 6.3), and that the process for psychiatric assessment is painfully slow.
- 5.3.6 There is another significant and challenging group of prisoners who come to Long Lartin on transfer from other prisons not in the dispersal system, and then refuse to locate on a wing. Indeed, at any time, many of the prisoners in the Segregation Unit have never been on normal location in Long Lartin.
- 5.3.7 The Board is greatly concerned by the continued failure to make any educational provision for segregated prisoners. It is understood that the provider has lacked the resources to meet this contractual obligation. The Custodial Manager has made a separate arrangement for in-cell work for a small number of prisoners which is welcomed, but it is not a substitute for the contracted educational provision.
- 5.3.8 The Board has continuing concerns about the conduct of Rule 45 Review Boards. These are now routinely held three times each week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and this has enabled a more sensible distribution of the work. However, the continuity of information for each prisoner is still not always readily available to successive Boards. This is at times compounded by the failure of the healthcare representative to come properly briefed and by delays by the Security Department in completing risk assessments.
- 5.3.9 The Rule 45 review process has also been complicated by the revised procedures introduced by NOMS as a result of the Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Bourgass and Hussain*. These provide for the review of prisoners segregated beyond 42 days by the Deputy Director of Custody (DDC) and beyond 182 days by the Director of Custody (DC). These reviews run in parallel with continuing local 14 day review Boards. After initial teething problems this system is operating satisfactorily although it has imposed a significant additional administrative burden on the prison. The Board reserves judgement as to whether this review of long-term segregation by the DDC and DC will result in effective initiatives to break the cycle of segregation for this problematic group of prisoners. This will probably depend upon whether resources are available

to provide practical solutions – for example additional places in close supervision units.

5.3.10 The Board has been represented at the monthly meetings of The Segregation Monitoring and Review Group (SMARG). The meetings are well prepared and resourced but their effectiveness is limited by poor attendance, with one or more departments such as healthcare, chaplaincy and the Offender Management Unit (OMU) often not represented. The Board believes that this is symptomatic of the pressures on effective working caused by the revised staff structures introduced by Benchmarking. This has been observed in many areas of the prison. For example it can result in offender supervisors from the OMU being deployed to wings for significant periods to the detriment of their core task of sentence planning and management.

5.4 PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

5.4.1 During the year the prison has continued to focus on the two enduring problems which have been commented on in previous IMB reports; the first is the amount of engagement experienced by each man in the working week and the second is the purposeful nature of this activity for men, many of whom will remain in prison for many years to come.

5.4.2 All but a handful of prisoners held at HMP Long Lartin are serving long sentences and a select few have very long sentences. For these individuals, the acquisition of skills to prepare them for the world of work on release is unrealistic. The best one can hope for is a working environment that enables them to acquire work-related skills which encourage them to mature as individuals and also provides meaningful time outside their prison cell.

5.4.3 For a number of years the IMB has been critical of one activity which has been deemed to be employment but which involved repetitive and mindless activity i.e. the destruction of redundant CDs. Whilst the task involved the occupying of hands and provided a semblance of routine to a prisoner's day, it did nothing to merit the description of meaningful activity.

5.4.4 The abrupt cancellation of this contract held by Long Time Ventures at the end of November resulted in a loss of employment for 117 men for the best part of a month, which left the prison struggling to provide activity for these individuals and to meet its employment targets. Out of such adversity has come a more positive situation and credit should be given to prison staff for rising to the challenge and sourcing alternative contracts which have provided more gainful employment and an improvement in the work regime.

5.4.5 After a prolonged delay, the prison has successfully introduced an eight week accredited course on industrial cleaning which will be available for any prisoner wishing to undertake it.

5.4.6 In addition, the woodcraft shops continue to provide purpose and engagement and a clear sense of pride amongst the men for the products they produce.

- 5.4.7 The prison has been successful in sourcing a contract which involves prisoners assembling plastic and metal components for use when mounting fixtures on walls. A second contract, which is of a more sedentary nature and therefore of particular benefit for older prisoners, involves the assembly of plastic files for the NHS. The prison is also hopeful of a third new contract involving the dismantling of wooden pallets.
- 5.4.8 The arrival of these new contracts has provided the opportunity to introduce a more meaningful work regime and has improved working practices. Managers have introduced a team-based approach together with a system of piecework which rewards increased productivity and offers the possibility of high wages if targets are exceeded. Job descriptions are also being developed for all roles and a system of appraisal reviews is planned for the near future which will provide progression for the men. The new contracts will enable the men to experience more varied tasks as they move from contract to contract, thus introducing some variety into the working environment. Feedback to date has been positive as the prisoners recognise the more purposeful nature of the work and the opportunity it provides to increase their income.
- 5.4.9 Underpinning these new developments has been the piloting, on a voluntary basis, of 'Passport to Employment' in two workshops with a view to eventually rolling out the scheme across the prison estate. With the support of workshop instructors, prisoners use the 'Passport' to self-assess against key work-place skills such as team work, time keeping, effective communication etc. A positive performance over a designated period can be 'signed off' by a workshop instructor, resulting in a positive entry on the prison computer database, CNOMIS.
- 5.4.10 Whilst there is much to be positive about, even more could be achieved if money could be found to repair some of the workshop equipment which has been standing idle, in some instances, for a considerable time.

5.5 EDUCATION

- 5.5.1 Current Government policy and Ofsted rightly stress the importance of educational achievement and employability as key factors in the rehabilitation of prisoners. Whilst the Board at Long Lartin agrees with these aims, it remains a concern that the needs of men serving very long sentences in High Security prisons are very different from those in other prisons and that a different approach is needed.
- 5.5.2 Progression routes for long-term prisoners are virtually unattainable. There is no funding beyond Level 2, which means that the only provision is an Open University course by distance learning. As these degrees are self-funding, it is unrealistic to regard this as a feasible opportunity for further study for any but the few who have private funds to support their studies. Student loan regulations make this an unrealistic alternative as they stipulate that a loan will not be given until the prisoner is within six years of release.

- 5.5.3 Funding from the Skills Funding Agency has been cut by 10% since the last report. Emphasis is given to English and Maths with 80% of funding based on retention and the other 20% on a successful outcome. The Board continues to make the point that this approach is inappropriate at Long Lartin. Prisoners with lengthy sentences, where prison is virtually their home for large periods of their lives, would benefit from learning activities which are stimulating and enjoyable and which they can take forward for as long as they wish to do so. Employability and qualifications are not a serious priority for many of these men, but meaningful activity certainly is. One example is art classes which have not been available now for many months since the teacher left (a new teacher is expected to be in post at Easter). This has left a considerable vacuum for these prisoners, for whom art provided a source of inspiration and an opportunity to reflect on their lives and offending through their work.
- 5.5.4 The Board is pleased to note that there have been developments during the current reporting year in Education provision in the wider prison due to initiatives introduced by Regimes working with Education and others. The purpose is to address the gap referred to in 5.5.1. by providing an internal progression route for men whose long-term future is within the prison environment and for whom prison life is their only reality. There will be courses and opportunities to gain qualifications towards employment within the prison, such as woodwork, kitchen work, and library orderlies. The men will have access to a professional pathway towards jobs for which there will be a clear job description, qualification criteria, and a route to enable them to progress and succeed. There will be interviews and all the usual procedures for obtaining employment which exist in the world of work outside the prison system. This innovation should give the men goals and ambitions, something to aim towards and to plan for, and eventually they will have constructive employment which in turn should improve the stability of the prison.
- 5.5.5 The Board continues to be concerned about the poor education provision for men in Healthcare and the Segregation Unit. The teachers do what they can, such as providing work packs and giving feedback in Healthcare, and they would like to give more time to these very vulnerable prisoners but the funding restrictions do not allow this. Mental stimulation for these men is invaluable and, whilst the Board appreciates that there are real challenges in providing educational support in these two areas of the prison, we would like to see some serious consideration given to this issue.
- 5.5.6 This year there have been three teacher resignations and new teachers are currently going through security clearance. However this process inevitably leads to lengthy periods before the vacancies can be filled, with serious consequences for education provision. The Board would like to see developments in the speed of clearance and ideally a pool of CTC cleared teachers. Administrative support staff have also left for other posts, which is currently causing considerable challenges.
- 5.5.7 The Board would like to give credit to the managers and staff in the Education Department, who, in spite of the obstacles described above, have achieved very sound success rates. This year they stand at 68% compared with last year's 62%. This is partly due to having a more stable staff, but the Board have witnessed excellent practice

whenever we have visited Education. The staff are very committed to the prisoners, classes are quiet and orderly and the men are fully involved in their studies and always enthusiastic when talking to us about their work. The atmosphere is one of positive and enjoyable learning.

5.6 HEALTHCARE

- 5.6.1 Healthcare is an important part of a prisoner's life, yet it is probably the area of the prison that the Board finds most difficult to monitor, owing to the confidentiality of the Unit.
- 5.6.2 For the first half of the reporting year, the Healthcare Unit was without its Senior Manager due to her serious illness. During this time there were significant staff shortages due to staff leaving and problems in recruiting staff, which has been particularly difficult, exacerbated by long delays in security clearance which is a common problem across the High Security Estate. Within the Healthcare Unit this has resulted in a reliance on more expensive agency staff and long patient waiting times for appointments. Despite all these challenges and uncertainties over the 12 month period there were improvements in most areas.
- 5.6.3 The appointment of a new Senior Manager in June has contributed greatly to better and more effective care and treatment. Staff morale has improved and the IMB are assured that there will be a speedier and more helpful response to prisoners' queries on health treatment issues in future.
- 5.6.4 It was reported that by the end of November waiting times had been reduced and records show that the positive efforts to deal with problems are succeeding.
- 5.6.5 It has been a concern for the IMB that, at times, Healthcare appears to have been used as an alternative to the Segregation Unit but without the safeguards provided by R45 boards.
- 5.6.6. Due to environmental factors, limited staff resources and the range of prisoners with greatly differing needs in Healthcare, there is a lack of a meaningful regime. This can impact on all prisoners in Healthcare and particularly upon those residing there due to their mental health needs.
- 5.6.7 An imminent challenge for Healthcare lies with the change in contract from NHS England (Worcestershire Health & Social Care Trust) to Care UK and the need to implement new working practices.
- 5.6.8 The proposed changes are, inevitably, causing a degree of uncertainty amongst staff within the department and the IMB will continue to monitor the situation to ensure patient care is not compromised.

SECTION SIX OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PRISON

6.1 USE OF FORCE

- 6.1.1 The Board has again attended monthly meetings of The Use of Force Committee during the reporting year, and continues to be impressed by the robust way in which the group monitors this important and sensitive area of the prison's life. As part of this process the IMB representative has reviewed video footage of significant incidents to monitor procedures.
- 6.1.2 The use of force remains commendably low; only marginally higher than that recorded last year, the increase being attributable to one particularly volatile and violent prisoner. The pattern of the use of force, measured by the protected characteristics of ethnicity, religion, and age, remained consistent with the size of those groups within the population of the prison.
- 6.1.3 This performance compares very favourably with other high security prisons. HMCIP noted in his report of the unannounced inspection of Long Lartin in October 2014 that: *'The use of force was much lower than that at similar establishments and had reduced since the previous inspection (in 2011).'* This remained true during 2015.
- 6.1.4 The Board recognises that this is an outstanding achievement given the character and complexity of the population of Long Lartin. It is a tribute to the professionalism of the staff in their daily working relationships with prisoners, and in particular to their skill in de-escalating potentially violent incidents where anger and aggression are displayed.
- 6.1.5 During the year Board members have again observed the Control and Restraint training given to officers. The Board continues to be impressed by its rigour and professionalism in teaching well-developed techniques of disciplined physical restraint using the minimum of force.

6.2 LIBRARY

- 6.2.1 The library is managed by Worcestershire County Library Service.
- 6.2.2 The Board believes that good library provision is essential for men who are detained on long sentences and although there is optimism for the future, there have been problems over the period since the HMIP Inspection in 2013.
- 6.2.3 The prison management take library provision seriously as they appreciate its value to the men in offering not only enjoyment and stimulation but also, to some extent, an escape from the reality of their lives. The library is of particular value to the older prisoners who in general attend all the sessions which are available to them. Unfortunately the library has not escaped the impact of Benchmarking, and there have been difficulties with the County Council's contract.

- 6.2.4 Changes to County Council staffing and management structure during the reporting year resulted in a shortage of full-time staff and the post of full-time Manager no longer exists. This has resulted in a loss of services as new books and CDs are not being requested from other libraries, overdue books are not being followed up and the backlog is unresolved.
- 6.2.5 During the year there has been volunteer help and some support from HMP Hewell, and CTC clearance for new staff is ongoing. The Board would like to praise the efforts of the library orderlies for their commitment which has kept the library functioning with a basic service.
- 6.2.6 Since Benchmarking, instead of two designated officers there is now a pool of around ten, leading to a loss of consistency and experience. One notable loss was the very popular creative writing course which gave a considerable number of men much needed stimulation and an opportunity to reflect on their lives.
- 6.2.7 The Board would like to commend the hard work of management and staff who continue to look for innovative solutions to the problems outlined above.

6.3 MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

- 6.3.1 The past year has seen further change to the procedures and ambitions of the local programme for Managing Challenging Behaviour (MCB). The process of routinely reporting on the prisoners concerned is now shaped by a more specific structure. If exploited thoroughly, this should make for more methodical observation day-by-day and support a better assessment of progress at the monthly reviews.
- 6.3.4 Progress has also been made in linking the local scheme for managing challenging behaviour with its national equivalent and, in turn, with segregation itself. At the time of writing the benefits of this coherence have yet to be felt, but they could eventually be significant.
- 6.3.5 Continuity and consistency are two of the essential elements in managing this section of the population, yet the very nature of these men's behaviour means that moves within the prison or between establishments tend to be frequent. The more coherence there is between different locations and institutions, the more effective their work is likely to be in the longer term. This is an area where further improvement is still needed.
- 6.3.6 Underlying all of this, however, is the work which is done with the individual prisoners. All too often the individual care plans lack the specialised insights which could come from Programmes, Psychology or Mental Health. Reports from wings and places of work can also be sketchy, making it difficult for the monthly review to acknowledge progress or define a problem that needs to be confronted.

6.3.7 The MCB programme, in summary, would be more effective if it had a higher priority in the minds of all those who have a part to play in understanding and responding to some of the prison's most complex individuals.

6.4 VISITS

6.4.1 This has been a difficult year in visits. In November 2014, the dedicated visits team, who had a high level of expertise, was disbanded following the benchmarking process.

6.4.2 The team were replaced by officers who lacked the necessary specialist knowledge and expertise required for working in this area of the prison, which presented both security and logistical problems that impacted on the visitor arrangements.

6.4.3 Initially there were delays in getting visitors through security and into the prison as well as in arranging for prisoners to be brought to the visits hall. Sometimes visitors were waiting in the visits hall in excess of 40 minutes.

6.4.4 During the course of the year, these problems have declined as staff have gradually acquired the specialist skills, knowledge and a compassion required for this area of work. However it is of concern that, other than the allocated Custodial Manager, there are no uniformed staff with a consistent commitment to improving visitor opportunities, which should be a key part of the rehabilitation culture of the prison.

6.4.5 Over the past year the role of the part-time families' team has been vital. They provide light refreshment from 'the hatch' and activities for children and young people who visit the prison and they have an excellent rapport with visitors, both young and old. It is easy to forget that the prison is a daunting place and a visit can be a stressful and emotional experience. Familiar faces and a friendly welcome can undoubtedly help to ease tension. At a time when the staffing of visits was going through transition, these two members of staff were critical in providing continuity and maintaining positive relationships with visitors. There have also been positive changes for family visits with the introduction of events in the Gym for older children. These events have proved to be extremely popular and a resounding success.

6.5 CHAPLAINCY

6.5.1 The chaplaincy team at Long Lartin is diverse, made up of ministers not only of the Christian churches but also those of other faiths including Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. The team works well together and is well organized under the direction of the chaplaincy team leader. The prison is covered 24 hours a day by the team on a call out system and during the week a chaplain is always present in the prison during the working day. At weekends a chaplain is there at least during the morning.

- 6.5.2 Chaplains are seen frequently on the wings and in the workplace. They are respected both by prison staff and prisoners for their diligence and professionalism and play a vital role in helping to maintain the smooth running of the prison.
- 6.5.3 The highlight of the year must be the BBC Radio 4 Sunday Service broadcast from the prison chapel in January. Chaplains, staff and prisoners took part, with one prisoner singing a solo and the prisoners' choir led some of the singing. The service has been greatly appreciated by prisoners, staff and members of the general public, many of whom have written to the prison praising all those who took part.

6.6 PROPERTY

- 6.6.1 Prisoners are allowed certain property in their possession, regulated by Prison Service Instruction 12/2011 (PSI 12/2011). This restricts property to items deemed suitable and totalling a fixed volume, the 'Volumetric Control'. Exceptions to this rule are legal papers and other items listed in Annex A of the PSI. Prisoners' property is supposed to accompany prisoners on transfer or, if this is not possible, to follow 'soon after' in exceptional circumstances. In the reporting year, the Board has dealt with 54 applications from prisoners regarding property. Many of the applications are due to property lagging behind them on transfer which represents a significant proportion of the total number of applications the Board has received. In numerous instances, the time lag between prisoners arriving and their property catching up is several weeks.
- 6.6.2 The contractor with responsibility for moving prisoners and their property operates under PSI 12/2011. This limits the quantity of property a prisoner can take on their transport to the bags containing property held under the volumetric rule, but takes little or no account of exceptions under the PSI. There is not always room on the contractor's transport to accommodate all the prisoners' bags, and on occasions there is barely room for property within the usual limit and any exceptions will nearly always necessitate property being left behind. The problem is thus self-perpetuating as the extra bags pile up in the Reception areas of prisons. In one example monitored this year, a prisoner had been transferred twice in a short time and had no idea where his property was. It transpired it was in the Reception area at Long Lartin and was transported by Long Lartin staff in Long Lartin transport to the correct establishment. This situation, to say the least, is unsatisfactory from both the prison's and the prisoners' point of view.
- 6.6.3 In Long Lartin, because of the long-term nature of the sentences served by many of the prisoners, the position is made worse by the large quantity of legal documents which can accrue over time and be held in-cell. These papers and other associated items are not included in the calculation of property limits which further exacerbates the situation. The current arrangements for keeping prisoners in possession of their property are inadequate and cause the men, prison staff and the IMB a great deal of unnecessary frustration.

6.7 RESIDENTIAL AREAS

- 6.7.1 For many years the IMB has reported that four of the eight residential wings do not have in-cell sanitation. Prisoners on these wings have to rely on Nightsan, an automated queuing system which allows one prisoner at a time the opportunity to leave his cell for fifteen minutes to use the toilet and washing facilities.
- 6.7.2 As an alternative to waiting their turn, or through necessity, residents of these wings can use containers provided in their cells. These are not airtight and prisoners can spend considerable time sharing a small living space with a bucket of bodily waste. All too frequently, the contents are disposed of in the only direction available – out of the cell window.
- 6.7.3 The external areas are not cleaned every day resulting in the accumulation of ‘standard’ litter, urine, stale food and faeces. A hose is occasionally used to wash down the concreted areas outside cell windows to reduce the smell of excrement. During observation of the cleaning routine, it was noted that to access different external areas and to access the bins, the cleaner walked through the communal areas where prisoners congregate to cook and eat. There is often a delay of several hours before the internal floors are then cleaned, which has caused a number of prisoners to complain about hygiene standards over the course of the reporting year.
- 6.7.4 The above is in stark contrast to the high level of cleanliness of the non-residential areas and corridors.

6.8 GYMNASIUM

- 6.8.1 The gymnasium at Long Lartin is very well run and was praised by Mr Michael Spurr, Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service, on a recent visit to Long Lartin. It is well utilized and valued by the majority of the prisoners and offers not only an outlet for any pent-up frustrations but also affords them the opportunity to work with one another as a team. The instructors are keen to utilize every part of the gym, including the outside areas such as the AstroTurf, which is especially important during the summer months.
- 6.8.2 Prisoners who use the gym integrate very well and greatly enjoy the gym courses which are run by the instructors and last for approximately 12 months. During this time, the prisoners learn and work alongside different faiths and cultures without issues. Although it has recently been announced that the number of gym staff is to be reduced by two, it is hoped that this will not have a negative impact on the availability of the gym course.
- 6.8.3 The Gym staff have also been instrumental in organising activities for the older children on family visits days. These arrangements have been extremely successful and it is very satisfying to watch prisoners playing football and other games with their children, which makes the day much more meaningful for them all.

SECTION SEVEN

7.1 THE WORK OF THE BOARD

- 7.1.1. Over the course of the year the Board has lost one of its most experienced members who has taken with him his vast knowledge which cannot easily be replaced. Two new members have joined the Board, but only after a prolonged delay in obtaining CTC clearance. This causes problems for volunteers, as they wait and in some instances take, other opportunities which come their way.
- 7.1.2 During the year the Board has responded to 333 applications, which is a slight increase on the previous year. The Board, however, believes that the prison systems are working effectively, as very few of these applications refer to non-compliance with the prison's own complaints procedure. One of the main areas of complaint concerns prisoners' property, which has been highlighted within this report. It is very frustrating that so much time is spent by Board Members reacting to and resolving these problems rather than spending it in a more proactive way monitoring conditions across the prison.
- 7.1.3 There is a great deal of commitment from the volunteers who form the IMB Board at HMP Long Lartin, which must be commended. High security prisons are not the easiest places in which to work. They can be extremely frustrating but also very satisfying when we feel that, in some small way, we have made a difference.
- 7.1.4 The Board is grateful to the prison staff at all levels for their support and assistance in ensuring that the presence of the IMB is valued. The Board also values the comments and views voiced by the prisoners, which results in everyone working together to ensure that HMP Long Lartin remains a fair and decent place for prisoners to serve their sentence.

Christine Noden

Chair IMB

HMP Long Lartin

APPENDIX ONE

ANALYSIS OF APPLICATIONS

		2014 -2015	2015- 2016
A	Accommodation	2	5
B	Adjudications	5	1
C	Equality & Diversity (inc. religion)	4	7
D	Education/employment/training (inc. IEP)	23	18
E1	Family/visits inc. mail and phone	29	50
E2	Finance/pay	11	20
F	Food /kitchen related	5	2
G	Health related	25	18
H1	Property (within current establishment)	49	47
H2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	13	7
H3	Canteen facilities, catalogue shopping, Argos	2	10
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, recat etc.)	21	12
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc. Bullying	13	37
K	Transfers	19	6
L	Miscellaneous	22	16
	Confidential Access (36 of which were from 2 prisoners)	46	77
	Total number of IMB applications	289	333

APPENDIX TWO

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD 2015 - 2016

	2014-2015	2015-2016
Recommended Complement of Board Members	18	18
Number of Members at the start of the reporting year	13	13
Number of members at the end of the reporting year	10	14
Number of new members joining within the reporting year	Nil	2
Number of members leaving within the reporting year	3	1
Total number of board meetings during the reporting year	12	12
Total number of visits to the establishment	685	633
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	30.10.14	27.1.16

A member of the IMB attended every Rule 45 review held by the prison. These reviews are held three times weekly.