



ANNUAL REPORT

HMP RANBY

1ST APRIL 2015 - 31ST MARCH 2016

Section 1

Statutory Role of the IMB

The Statutory Role of the IMB

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

The Board is specifically charged to:

- (1) Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
- (2) Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern the Board 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.

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3.1 Location

i) HMP Ranby is situated in North Nottinghamshire, mid-way between the towns of Worksop and Retford. The Category C male adult working prison was converted in 1971 from its previous function as a Forces Army Camp.

3.1a Accommodation / Capacity

i) The Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) at HMP Ranby as at the end of March 2015 was 892 and its Operational Capacity (OC) 1038. During September and October 2015 the population was reduced by 120, as recommended by HMIP, to stabilise the prison population. The population has since increased by 60 with the Population Management Unit providing support to the DDC and the establishment.

3.1b Buildings/Facilities

i) The residential accommodation consists of seven house blocks. Located on the house blocks are: the departments for the Induction of new prisoners, Resettlement, Skills for Life and Safer Custody. Street Works, Trackwork and Gardens are located within the wider establishment. One Houseblock has prisoners on Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy (IDTS).

ii) There is no provision for a 24-hour healthcare service as HMP Ranby has no hospital unit. The single storey Healthcare building, which has been extended, accommodates other functioning departments such as Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DARTS), Integrated Drug Treatment Strategy (IDTS) and Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT). Healthcare is provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

iii) The Segregation unit; located in one of the old buildings has sixteen single cells. Attached to the Segregation is a small, paved exercise area which is contained by a high wall.

iv) Education is allocated within two buildings, one of which holds the library and one the chaplaincy. For prisoners in the Segregation Unit, there is in-cell learning and teachers visit them as appropriate. Education is provided by Milton Keynes College.

v) The workshops in Ranby, which are run both by the prison and Education, include:

Textiles; Painting and Decorating; Woodwork; Woodmill; Wood Assembly; Plastics; Industrial Cleaning; Officers Mess; Data Input; Laundry; Powder Coating; Engineering; Plumbing; Gardens; Trackwork.

vi) Physical exercise takes place within two buildings and the sports field. One building instructs prisoners mainly on weights and also treats prisoners who have physical disabilities/stroke complaints.

3.2c Changes from last year's report

Buildings/ Facilities

Responsibility for maintenance and cleaning of the establishment was taken over by Amey in June 2015.

A new Barber's Shop is under construction but was not ready by the end of the reporting period.

A new Industrial Cleaning workshop opened in January 2016 and offers the British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICS) qualification.

SECTION 4 Executive summary

4.1 Main Concerns

- 1) bullying and self-harm arising mainly from debts
- 2) number of attacks on and threats to prison staff
- 3) low morale among prison staff
- 4) the number of Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) documents opened
- 5) failure to provide sufficient work
- 6) increasing presence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in the prison
- 7) difficulties in obtaining prisoner transfers
- 8) difficulty transporting prisoners after transfer agreed

4.2 Particular issues

Segregation

1. the number of prisoners admitted to Segregation
2. the number of disruptive incidents
3. increased workload due to disruptive behaviour of prisoners
4. prisoners with mental health issues in Segregation

Education, Learning and Skills

1. regular redeployment of uniformed staff resulting in fewer library and gym sessions for prisoners

Healthcare and Mental Health

1. lack of 24 hour nursing care
2. inappropriateness of having prisoners with severe mental health issues in this prison
3. demands on staff owing to high numbers of ACCT documents

Purposeful Activity

1. insufficient work coming into the prison
2. unacceptable number of prisoners still remaining on house blocks during the day
3. indiscipline in some workshops.
4. too many prisoners allocated to workshops where there is not enough work
5. incidents involving drugs occurring in the workplace

Resettlement

1. ongoing difficulty of finding suitable accommodation for some prisoners on release
2. the number of outstanding OASys
3. the number of prisoners who do not know their Offender Supervisor

Kitchen

1. poor state of some flooring areas
2. early arrival of lunch trolleys and the practice of providing breakfast packs the night before

House Blocks

1. poor state of showers in large house blocks

2. heavy workload for staff particularly on larger house blocks
3. practice of doubling up in cells
4. inadequate thickness and short life of mattresses and pillows

Safer Custody

1. six deaths in custody in the reporting period
2. pressure of time on staff due to the practice of relocating staff to other duties
3. high number of ACCTs
4. too few safer cells

Drugs

1. increasing presence of NPS
2. the role that drugs are playing in the increased violence to prisoners and staff and debt in the prison

Property

1. failure to standardise property allowances for all prisons
2. failure of prison systems to ensure safe transfer of property when prisoners are moved around the prison and between prisons

Transfers

1. growing problem of obtaining transfers out of HMP Ranby for some difficult-to-place prisoners

Security

1. contraband a continuing problem

SECTION 5 Mandatory Reporting Areas

During the reporting year HMP Ranby had an announced inspection by HMIP. The recommendations from that inspection were incorporated into an Action Plan. The majority of the target dates for completion of the action points are not within this reporting year. However, any completed action points are mentioned in this section.

5.a Equalities and Inclusion

The Board wishes to acknowledge the amount of excellent work done by the Equalities Team for the benefit of all prisoners in the establishment.

The 2015 HMIP report stated that One Ranby provided an accessible drop-in facility for communicating with prisoners, disseminating information and resolving issues. One Ranby was set up in February 2014 as a response to the changes being brought about by Benchmarking. It was a temporary measure and the Board is disappointed to report that it was disbanded in February 2016.

Older Prisoners

Older prisoners are based on House Blocks 5 & 7 the majority of times. There was an older prisoner workshop which is currently closed due to no work. This was also used for prisoners who have health care issues, helping them get back to work. There are older prisoner gatherings occasionally in Equalities to enable them to get together which they thoroughly enjoy.

The gym provides 2 sessions, one during the week and one on Friday afternoons which is often cancelled due to staff shortages, this includes walking football, bowling etc. On

House Block 5 an older prisoner library/games room has been set up and this is open as and when required for the prisoners to socialise. The Older Prisoner meetings take place quarterly, however they can pop in to see Equalities at any time during the week. Quite a few of the older prisoners were attending the yoga however, this has now been put on hold.

LGBT

Four meetings have taken place since June last year. A 'Gay Pride' event took place last year. There has been an increase to the numbers of this group since starting this meeting up again. All the prisoners know that they can speak in confidence which is good and they have enjoyed speaking to each other.

Travellers

Four meetings took place during the reporting period with another scheduled. For St Patrick's Day celebrations all W2's (Irish) and W3's (Irish) Travellers, together with staff were invited to celebrate in Equalities with DVDs to watch followed by Irish stew and Colcannon and smoked mackerel on the following week's menu for all prisoners.

On a weekly basis they can put in a request for £20 to be put onto their PIN from their private spends to enable them to maintain family ties.

Disability

Equalities questionnaires are completed by prisoners on Induction which is required to be updated by the Equalities Team on a daily basis on NOMIS to ensure there are no data gaps. There is a full time paid Equalities Mentor who goes to Induction on a daily basis (Monday – Friday) and delivers Equalities Training to the new inductions.

Race

Equalities are working closely with Security. Pathfinder meetings ensure prisoners with racial elements are identified. This is also done with the Equalities Training. Equalities also work with Safer Custody regarding CSRA and prisoners who are high risk and are starting to work with them attending the Equalities Training and completing a Discrimination Workbook.

Veterans in Custody

Veterans meet on a regular basis to offer mutual support. They also have regular visits from the Royal British Legion.

The Board commends the exemplary work done by the Chaplaincy team. They work consistently in very demanding circumstances to provide compassionate pastoral support to prisoners and their families.

5.b Education, Learning and Skills

Lincolnshire County Council took over the running of the library from Nottinghamshire County Council in April 2015. The transfer did not go particularly well. The Library Management System was not operational until November 2015. This had a huge impact on the provision of material as no stock could be issued and new orders were backlogged. There are still some anomalies in the system which are being worked on by staff. Library provision is due to change again in the next reporting period when a new provider will be taking over.

Congratulations to HMP Ranby in achieving a Gold Award for the 6 Book Challenge run by The Reading Agency; 153 prisoners completed the challenge.

Unfortunately, there is still an ongoing problem with redeployment of officers away from the library owing to staffing demands elsewhere in the prison. This results in prisoners being denied access to library services. From April 2015 to March 2016, the library was closed 131 times, slightly up on last year's figure, owing to no officer being available. This is around 15% of all sessions. The Board regrets that this very important service is so frequently interrupted. Similarly gym sessions have been curtailed because of staff redeployment.

Following on from the 2015 HMIP report the following key initiatives have been introduced or undertaken:

- Significantly improved the quality systems that underpin performance
- Introduced 'confidence barometers' to measure the starting point of each learner in each programme and then to assess progress during the course
- Increased the quality of learner assessment and the provision of feedback
- English and maths success rates have improved significantly – particularly maths
- Extended range of Level 2 provision to include units in Cookery and Business, NVQs in the Woodmill and Laundry, increased Level 2 provision in Officers Mess and Painting & Decorating.
- About to introduce NVQs at Level 1 and 2 in the textiles workshops through KTL
- Discussing a call centre programme with Rempex who have a number of clients (including EON) who are willing to employ ex-offenders subject to full disclosure

Storybook for Dads continues to be popular with 108 prisoners having completed the activity. The Board commends this scheme which provides support to families and enables prisoners to maintain a rewarding bond with their children. Help is available to prisoners with low or no literacy ability so they can take part in the programme and produce a story tape for their children.

The Toe by Toe scheme has had a change of name and is now the Shannon Trust Reading Plan which supports prisoners with no or very low literacy skills. It continues to develop with 7 mentors available to support prisoners. A library orderly also acts as a mentor. However, there are still issues with recruiting learners as there is understandable reluctance on the part of prisoners to acknowledge their need for literacy and numeracy support.

There is increasing emphasis on the mandatory provision of Functional Skills of Literacy and Numeracy. There is some resistance by prisoners to Functional Skills courses owing to their compulsory nature and this has some adverse effect on attendance.

Vocational training is managed internally by the prison. 32 prisoners are engaged in distance learning of which 5 are studying with the Open University. Students are positive about this opportunity to study. OU students are entitled to 2 library sessions per week to use computers to write up and research their work and send work to their

tutors. The prisoners meet regularly with the manager and are fully supported in their studies.

Education has been able to increase attendance, delivering attendance against planned figures of 93%.

5.c Healthcare and Mental Health

The Board commends the Healthcare staff for their continuing hard work and commitment to prisoners' wellbeing. They have dealt with six deaths in custody during this reporting period and have supported many prisoners on ACCTs with severe problems in a caring and professional manner.

Healthcare at HMP Ranby continues to be provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, including Mental Health, Physical Healthcare and the Substance Misuse service.

The use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) within the establishment places pressure on staff and resources, from responding to incidents, to an increase in subsequent referrals to the Mental Health and Substance Misuse teams. The Substance Misuse staff continue to work closely with the Drug Strategy staff in their focus on increasing awareness around the use of illicit substances within the establishment. However, despite this focused approach, the problem around the use of NPS continues to grow.

The Board continues to be extremely concerned at the large number of prisoners with mental health problems in the prison only some of whom have been able to be transferred to more appropriate facilities. Prisoners entering Ranby are getting younger and they are presenting with more mental health issues. The Healthcare team is central to the ACCT process where many prisoners at risk require frequent monitoring and support and this has implications for the time commitment of the Mental Health team. *Despite staff's best efforts, some prisoner's mental health needs cannot be met in a timely way in the prison environment.* The prison is involved in an initiative to provide peer support from prisoners with mental health issues to other prisoners in need and this initiative has created national interest. Nurses see all new prisoners promptly for a comprehensive assessment, and appropriate referrals are made.

Prisoners submit applications to request services and these are processed promptly but prisoners sometimes do not receive a response, so many think that no action has occurred. Average waiting times are roughly as they are outside the prison. An out-of-hours GP service has been introduced and the service is monitored. The GPs have access to the health team's Clinical IT notes. There is a wide range of clinics, and waiting times for most were good, and those that were not are being addressed. Nurses with specialist training provide regular clinics for lifelong conditions but there was no coordinated monitoring and support of prisoners with cardiac conditions. This has been addressed and Healthcare now have a nurse in post who manages those prisoners.

The new pharmacy leaflet has been completed and is handed out at Reception.

In July 2015 the National Screening programme for over 55s was implemented, with the first session of diabetic retinopathy screening delivered in house.

The Board has noted on its routine rota visits that the Healthcare environment is generally clean, well-organised and orderly; the waiting room can get very stuffy in the summer months due to the large number of prisoners waiting for their appointment. The IMB receives few applications from prisoners regarding healthcare concerns as Healthcare now operates its own internal system to handle complaints. The prison has

now to monitor its use of the Care Act and this is now on-going. The prison has a designated social worker. Once a referral is made an assessment takes place which instigates a personal plan.

Healthcare has recruited a Learning Disability nurse, whose remit will be to work with the ADHD population at Ranby. The Health Needs Assessment undertaken last year identified this to be a significant number given the size of the overall population. Unfortunately, until now there has not been the resources to work with this group. The Integrated Mental Health Team are therefore very keen to get this pathway underway. The Team have also recruited an additional Senior Nurse post and await a start date.

A weekly MDT is held where all prisoners with complex physical issues are discussed and a plan of care put in place.

5.d Purposeful activity

Ranby has not been able to meet its performance target as a working prison, achieving an average of 61.8%. This is disappointing when the target was set at 80%.

However, as a Working Prison Ranby has a commitment to place all prisoners either in full-time education and training or meaningful work. From the Board's observation during monitoring, there are far too many prisoners remaining on the houseblocks during the working day, many of whom are not older prisoners, those reporting sick or those mentally incapable of work at the present time. Lack of work within the prison has left prisoners in some workshops with too much time to waste and there have been many incidences of alarm bells sounded, equipment tampered with and threats to instructors who bear the brunt of these occurrences.

The Board deplores the practice of allocating too many prisoners to a workshop for the work available, the number of machines or the suitability of the workshop for observation and adequate supervision. This over-allocating would seem to be a way of increasing the number of prisoners who are 'employed' but has deleterious effects upon the workshops' ability to manage. It is alarming to find that incidents of drug-taking are now occurring in various workshops and the Board is extremely concerned at the dangers to prisoners, instructors and machines when such incidents occur.

The workshops at Ranby are generally at a low ebb. Ranby is not tendering for any external work and all work is being awarded by Prison Industries providing items for other prisons or government departments.

The workshops work on a high employment target regime; this mean that efficiency figures tend to be low which does not impress Prison Industries when awarding a contract. There is currently a requirement for 9 instructors; these vacancies are being advertised only on the Government Job website and sometimes in the local Job Market.

The sand bag facility that was performing extremely well has been moth-balled for the time being and there is no sign that it will be reinstated in the short term.

The NVQ testing ability for the polymer processing workshop has been withdrawn, efforts are being made to have it reinstated, but this appears to be a long process.

The on-site waste management facility, in addition to the City & Guilds qualification, introduced a new qualification in December 2015 – Waste and Management Industry Training Advisory Board (WAMITAB) which deals more with the actual process management of waste rather than the C&G course that deals mainly with general issues. WAMITAB courses are organised by Milton Keynes College.

From December 2015 to the end of March 2016 some 33 prisoners attended the WAMITAB course with 28 reaching the required level, two were removed because of behavioral issues and three will re-sit the exam. This appears to be an excellent and well run course and should be promoted more throughout HMP Ranby.

There are numerous qualification available under the British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICS) all prisoners wishing to work as cleaners must qualify at certain levels before they are allowed to work on the wings.

Domestic cooking classes are available and are well attended. These courses provide prisoners with the ability to cook and feed themselves once they are released. The course provides a foundation should they wish to continue to a formal qualification available in the Officers Mess or main kitchen.

5.e Resettlement

The Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) started work in Ranby in May 2015. There was an overlap period with the existing agency staff who left the establishment at the end of June 2015. The CRC has 3 full time case workers, housing and welfare officers and a part-time administrator. They see every prisoner within the last twelve weeks of their sentence and devise a bespoke plan for each one.

Provision of housing on release is an ongoing problem as there is a shortage of suitable accommodation in the area, including supported accommodation. Many government/local authority sources stipulate that prisoners must have local connections. Many organisations only take referrals through local councils. Lots of hostel/housing places have been victims of cuts in funding and effects might be, for example, that they now only deal with under-21's. Some councils/organisations can provide "floating support", e.g. financial advice, help with applications etc., but quite a few prisoners leave Ranby with nowhere to live. This is not a satisfactory situation.

The Board is still concerned about the number of prisoners who do not have an OASys. Figures show that approximately 23% of prisoners have either no OASys or an out of date OASys. The backlog is, in part, due to prisoners arriving in Ranby with an overdue OASys. Redeployment of staff, as in other areas of the prison, has also contributed to the backlog. One impact of this is delayed access to courses but this is kept to a minimum with those who appear suitable for a course being prioritised to have their OASys completed. Another issue brought to the Boards attention whilst monitoring is the number of prisoners who state they do not know their Offender Supervisor. However, since December 2015 all prisoners are given written information on arrival in Reception detailing the name of their Offended Supervisor. This should reduce the number who say they do not know who they are. When applications are submitted replies take an unacceptable length of time. However, there is no specific timescale for replying to applications unlike complaints.

5. f i) Residential

Ranby is a large, dispersed site with 7 residential units that range in size, physical security, designated services and staffing levels and this produces its own challenges.

Although the Operational Capacity has reduced, the Board is still unhappy with the amount of cell sharing. The HMIP report of 2014 recommended that single cells should not be used to accommodate two prisoners. The 2015 HMIP report noted that this recommendation had not been achieved.

Ranby has a high turnover of offenders with an average of 250 new receptions per calendar month (known as 'Churn' within the service). This places a strain on the services in residence but also on other functions such as activities, discipline, safer custody and overall stability. In effect this can be statistically measured as the changing the whole population of Ranby every 6 months. All new receptions are initially located on one houseblock designated the reception wing.

The houseblocks range in occupancy from 240 down to 60 and this has an effect on the feel and services that are offered on each. Services for older and/or more vulnerable offenders are located on the smaller, quieter units thus giving the necessary support and flexibility that is needed within a controlled and managed environment.

Ranby has only 2 constant watch cells between all the houseblocks and the Board believes this is contributing to the issues in the Segregation Unit.

Fire risk assessments have been completed and actions will be taken to meet their recommendations.

Communication continues to be a concern between houseblocks, Activities, and Healthcare. A recent review of the application process has identified non-confidence in this. The Board has been informed that red bands will be used to deliver appointment slips and this will hopefully improve communications between these areas.

The Board has had concerns regarding the securing of prisoners' property. The prison has implemented a policy of locking all cells with coroner's locks until the opportunity for a cell clearance has been completed.

There has been an investment in the cells by a cell furniture replacement programme. However, the Board remains concerned at the poor state of the showers in all the Houseblocks.

The poor quality of mattresses and pillows continues to be a concern. The Board continues to be very concerned at the practice of doubling up in cells intended for only one person. This has an impact on prisoner behaviour and well-being and staff-prisoner relationships. Some cells still have no privacy screens for in-cell toilets and the Board feels this is a decency issue which needs to be addressed urgently.

A new canteen system started during the reporting period and this will be reviewed at a later date regarding delivery.

5.f.ii) Kitchen

The catering function at Ranby is within the Residence and Services function and this is a well-managed process. Despite the pressures of food inflation the kitchen came in on budget whilst producing 3000 meals a day. The Board receives few complaints about the food and this is supported by the continuing work of the food focus groups and regular menu reviews. There have been 2 inspections on food safety management and one on menu provision during the reporting period and both resulted in green status.

The Board still has concerns over the poor state of parts of the kitchen floor.

The Board still has reservations about the time the lunch trollies arrive at the house blocks. In the report of 2014-2015 the Board highlighted the early arrival of lunch trollies on the Houseblocks at 11.30 for service at 12.15. Due to recent changes in the regime, trollies are now leaving the kitchen at 10.30am for service just after 11am, when the prisoners are returned from work.

5.g Safer Custody (includes ACCTs)

The Board is saddened to report 6 deaths in custody in the reporting period. These deaths have been investigated by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO). The Board have received five final reports. The recommendations within these reports have been added to the Live Action Plan for the prison.

The offender population at Ranby contains a high proportion of vulnerable individuals, many of whom have experienced negative life events including drug and alcohol abuse, mental health problems, family background and relationship problems, social disadvantage or isolation and previous sexual or physical abuse. Self-harm often results and is stated by some prisoners to be a coping mechanism.

The offender intake increasingly comprises younger, more disruptive individuals. This contributes to an atmosphere of concern for the safety of both staff and prisoners. An endeavor to alleviate the problem of noise etc. for older prisoners has been to allocate a dedicated residential wing for those over 50.

A twice-weekly safeguarding meeting takes place to identify vulnerable individuals and assess their risk to self and/or others. This meeting and the safer custody monthly meetings are well attended and the Governor and Deputy Governor place great emphasis on these meetings.

The high number of ACCTs, which continues to give the Board cause for concern, has inevitably led to a greater workload for staff. There is particular pressure on staff where prisoners require multiple observations/conversations. Whilst for the most part these are carried out efficiently and conscientiously this is not invariably the case. Also, staff do not always have time to write up recorded observations of the required quality. Fewer quality conversations and entries means there is a reduced possibility of officers becoming aware of prisoners' day to day anxieties. Following the HMIP report of 2015 the quality of assessment, planning and monitoring for prisoners on ACCTs is being improved to include effective care planning and better attendance at review meetings. The Head of Safer Custody is charged with completing this by the 31 May 2016 and will be reported on in the next reporting period.

There are still no extra safer cells on the Houseblocks despite the fact that such provision would help the management of prisoners by staff.

Within the reporting period there has been an average of 20 well trained Listeners available who provided a sensitive and effective service to the prison population.

5.h Segregation.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the on-going high standard of duty and care demonstrated by officers working in the Segregation Unit. The staff/prisoner relationships are extremely good with officers going out of their way to help the prisoners in their care. They have coped very well with a very high number of prisoners passing through the unit in this reporting year.

Following on from the HMIP Report the unit has been redecorated and is as bright as it can be given its construction and age.

There is high demand for segregation spaces with some vulnerable prisoners housed there on open ACCTs. Some have been there for over 28 days because no other facility will take them. Other prisoners are housed in Segregation for long periods

whilst waiting to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act. This of course then is an ongoing problem for the rest of the prison.

There continues to be large numbers of 'own interest' prisoners admitted to Segregation. Some prisoners deliberately create incidents in order to force a move to Segregation which puts considerable pressure on the staff in the unit. There are many disruptive incidents and staff are often physically threatened. Damage to cells and surrounding areas is often an outcome of such disturbances. One such incident involved a prisoner who had tunnelled his way out of his cell and gained access to the adjudication room where the medication trolley was housed. The prisoner gained access to the trolley, which is locked and chained to the wall, and took a quantity of prescribed medication.

The Segregation unit is frequently full to capacity and staff are left with the task of trying to find alternative suitable locations for prisoners in need of segregation. This is not satisfactory. A Virtual Segregation monthly meeting is held between Ranby, Humber, Moorland and Lindholme to facilitate the rotation of problematic prisoners. However, this is not resolving the problems, only moving them somewhere else.

The continuing use of NPS and its behavioural and health related consequences puts considerable pressure on staff and systems. *As in previous years, the Board STRONGLY repeats its belief that the Segregation unit should not be used for those with mental health issues.*

SECTION 6 Other issues

6a Drugs

In this reporting year there has been an increase in drug concerns at HMP Ranby. Drug intelligence has raised apprehension and disquiet amongst the reduced number of staff on each Houseblock. Closed visits and drug tests are useful deterrents against illicit drug use along with prisoners being downgraded to a basic regime, which includes the loss of a TV and canteen.

The reaction to NPS is to give prisoners a false sense of confidence accompanied by violent tendencies. This increases the likelihood of assaults on other prisoners and staff alike. It has also been an underlying factor in some barricades and violence in the workshops. The drug dogs have proved invaluable in giving support to intelligence-led search teams. They are used regularly during cell searches, visits and to check the incoming mail for drugs.

6b Property

Property issues continue to generate many prisoner applications. Discontent arises over the varying amounts of property a prisoner is allowed in a prison, each of which sets its own limits. When the property of a prisoner transferred from another prison is beyond that allowed in HMP Ranby, the excess is stored away and prisoners find themselves without items they need or want and are obliged to purchase again at their own cost. The Board's specific concerns are with the failure to standardise property allowances in all prisons and the failure to ensure safe transfer of property when prisoners are moved around the prison. The Board feels that staff at HMP Ranby do the best they can under very exacting circumstances.

Another issue relates to complaints to other prisons regarding prisoner property that has failed to arrive at Ranby. All too often the Board receives complaints that the previous prison does not respond to a prisoner's complaint even though the Complaints Clerk sends reminders that complaints are overdue. Some complaints

have been unresolved for many months. It is not the responsibility of the IMB to resolve these issues but that of the prison service.

6c Security

The Board is concerned by the amounts of contraband such as phones and drugs entering this prison. The long perimeter fence bordering open countryside, which is approximately 1 mile long, is a real challenge. The Board also notes the increase in Intelligence Reports (IRs) completed in the reporting period. In the last reporting year (2014/2015) there were 7679 IR reports. This year there have been 7888. In addition, the amount of weapons found in the prison, usually crudely made, is a cause for concern.

Body worn cameras have been trialed at Ranby and a total of 56 cameras have been introduced. These have proved useful in evidence gathering and are an effective tool for the adjudication process.

Work has been carried out to manage the threat of throwovers. For example, where possible, trees are being cut back to improve camera coverage, along with improved signage to raise awareness. The prison is also working closely with Nottinghamshire Police in supply reduction.

6d Staffing

Ranby has addressed its staffing issues through the year with some level of success. However, many of the starters are new officers rather than transfers in from other prisons, and are therefore new to the prison service and regimes. Inevitably this creates a pressure on the time available to existing experienced prison staff to mentor so many new staff whilst at the same time carrying out their already onerous duties.

6e Transfers

The Transfers Department is faced with a very heavy workload due to the increasingly difficult task of arranging, in a prison system where some prisons are closing and others already at capacity, urgent transfers for prisoners at risk, prisoners who request a transfer on compassionate grounds and prisoners who need to be re-categorised after extreme disruptive behaviour. In addition, the workload is further increased by arranging for prisoners on production (court visits), hospital appointments and those transferred from other prisons. The Department is also involved in Reconfiguration. The inevitable slowness in securing transfers puts departments such as Segregation under great pressure. Staff in the transfer department do a remarkable job. Transport (or lack of) is of concern to the Board as GeoAmey/London is constantly cancelling transfers due to limited availability of transport. The Board acknowledges that this problem is outside the remit of Ranby staff.

6f Reception

The Board again must bring to your attention the excessive activity that the Reception building at HMP Ranby deals with as there are almost 3000 prisoners each year arriving and departing to other establishments. The prisoner movement occurs six days a week. In addition, Reception deals with prisoners attending court, prisoners who have served their sentence, police production, hospital appointments and security moves. The property brought in by prisoners from other prisons does not conform to the rules set by HMP Ranby and is almost always excessive. Staff then have to spend time storing it away. This activity takes up the already insufficient time available to staff, especially when they are relocated to other duties around the establishment.

SECTION 7 BOARD STATISTICS

Appendix 1

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

BOARD STATISTICS 2015 / 2016	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	15
Number of Board Members at the start of the Reporting Period	6
Number of Board Members at the end of the Reporting Period	9
Number of New Members joining within the Reporting Period	4
Number of members leaving within the Reporting Period	1
Total number of Board meetings during the reporting period	12
Total number of Visits to the Establishment	440
Total number of Segregation Reviews Held	Not known
Total number of Segregation Reviews Attended	202
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	9/12/15

Appendix 2**PRISONER APPLICATIONS TO IMB DURING REPORTING PERIOD**

CODE	SUBJECT	2015/ 2016	2014/ 2015	2013/ 2014	2012/ 2013	2011/ 2012
A	Accommodation	12	13	51	32	35
B	Adjudications	17	9	13	18	12
C	Equality & Diversity	0	12	9	12	9
D	Education / Employment / Training inc IEP	33	38	61	40	53
E1	Family / Visits inc mail & phone	8	37	34	40	34
E2	Finance / Pay	11	11	3	6	
F	Food / Kitchen Related	4	8	4	12	4
G	Health Related	36	66	112	69	81
H1	Property (within current establishment)	59	91	39	43	
H2	Property (during transfer / in other establishment)	19	43	69	71	117
H3	Canteen, Facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	7	20	33	25	
I	Sentence Related	48	72	116	60	81
J	Staff / Prisoner Related	11	15	23	21	26
K	Transfers	40	95	103	69	68
L	Miscellaneous	65	77	96	40	81
	Total Number of Applications	370	607	766	558	601
	Total number of Confidential Access	21	10	21	12	12

Signed for on and behalf of the Independent Monitoring Board
At HMP Ranby

J Harrison