



Independent Monitoring Board

**Annual Report
2015-16
For
HMP Wymott**

**Reporting Period
June 2015- May 2016**

Statutory Role of the IMB

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

The Board is specifically charged to:

1. Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release.
2. Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concerns it has.
3. Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody
4. 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 the prison's records.

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Section 1

1.0 Description of the Prison

1.1 HMP Wymott is a male Category 'C' closed training prison with an operating capacity of 1176 prisoners. It opened in 1979 and houses both sex-offenders and other prisoners. It comprises 8 separate buildings holding 11 discrete groups of prisoners plus a segregation unit. The prison has been re-designated and now accommodates only those prisoners who have 4 or more years to serve.

The Prison is effectively split into two sides allowing sex-offenders to be separated from other prisoners with segregated movements and accommodation.

1.2 The Prison comprises a number of specialist wings including 3 sex-offender wings, an elderly and disabled wing (including an elderly activities centre delivered by the Salvation Army), a drug therapeutic community wing, a PIPE wing (to support a drug-free return to the community) and an integrated drug treatment wing (managing prisoners on a controlled Methadone programme) and 4 other wings.

1.3 The Prison workshops offer a range of employments which can lead to nationally-accredited qualifications including Welding, Paint Spraying & Powder Coating, Aluminium Windows manufacture, Recycling, Horticulture, Catering, Tailoring, Laundry, Waste Management, computing, Printing, Warehousing and Distribution and Gym Instructor qualifications. Some of these employments are operated on a commercial basis providing quality services to external clients and effectively constitute a 'Working Prison'. There will be 2 new Contractor activities starting in July 2016: Recycling Lives and a Call Centre.

1.4 A full Education Programme is on offer on a part-time basis. Subjects include Literacy and Numeracy from Pre-Entry to Level 2, Information Technology from basic to advanced, Art and Design, Food Studies, Production and Cookery, ESOL, 'Building Positive Futures', Family Pathways (Creating and Managing Effective Relationships) and Access to Higher Education (Open University courses). Regular Parenting Days are linked to the Family courses. Vocational Courses are run on a full time basis and include Bricklaying, Painting and Decorating, Engineering, Industrial Cleaning, Laundering skills, aluminium construction fabrication, warehousing and distribution and Joinery.

1.5 An external organisation provides the prison with a 'Resettlement Officer' who works with prisoners who would be classed as 'No Fixed Abode' on release. 'Achieve North West' works with offenders prior to their release, offering help and support with accommodation, preparation for release, employment, education and training, substance misuse, lifestyles and relationships and will signpost to other external partners as required. Bank account applications are arranged 16 weeks prior to release when required (normally, prisoners due for release are transferred to a 'local' prison in their 'home' area just before their release date).

1.6 A Chaplaincy team employs staff in a range of faiths as well as sessional ministers and volunteers.

1.7 The Lancashire Care Foundation Trust provides healthcare services including GP surgeries, dentistry and a range of health-promoting activities.

1.8 The PE department consists of a large sports hall, weights room, CV room, training classroom, remedial suite and full size outdoor sports field. An extensive PE Programme

provides accredited courses and sessions for remedial exercises, Smoking Cessation programmes, elderly and disabled exercises.

N.B. The information given in Section 1 above refers to the reporting year.

Section 2: Summary and Issues for Attention

Monitoring Board's Overall Summary

The Board considers that management and staff continue to work hard to overcome the lack of finance and manpower and are maintaining a safe and developing prison. However the Board has noted that this lack of manpower and finance is having a detrimental effect on staff morale, particularly with officers who are reassigned to different duties sometimes within the same shift or to duties they are unfamiliar with. The increasing use by prisoners of New Psychoactive Substances has led to an increase in the care and management of users further adding to the stress of officers and healthcare staff.

Issues Requiring a Response

J. For the attention of the Justice Secretary

J.1 The Board is seriously concerned about the increasing use of New Psychoactive Substances by prisoners, often resulting in hospitalisation and urges the Minister to accelerate the solution to the testing of its use before a death occurs. (3.3.4)

J.2 The Board is very concerned that the Healthcare Service provided by the Lancashire Care NHS Trust falls far below what the Secretary of State for Health would expect. (3.3.6, 3.3.7, 3.3.9)

J.2 The reduction in available finance to make major improvements in the prison fabric and therefore the deterioration of the wellbeing of prisoners is evident to the Board. As several prisoners have remarked 'Some little things would make life better'. (3.8.1)

N. For the attention of the Director of NOMS

N.1 Visits to the prison by the UK Border Agency are erratic and often unhelpful. (3.1.5)

N.2 Wymott is no longer required to provide 'preparation for release' programmes since such prisoners are transferred to their 'home' area for release. However in practice, for various reasons, the Board has been informed that the 'home' prison cannot, or will not, accept some prisoners. The effect of this is that these prisoners are released from Wymott with little or no preparation. Additionally transferring elderly prisoners to their own local area for pre-release preparation is a source of stress for these prisoners who may find it difficult to adjust to a new prison environment particularly since the 'home' prison may not have appropriate facilities or specialist care. (3.5.1, 3.5.2)

L. For the attention of Lancashire Care Foundation Trust

L.1 The Board is concerned when medications prescribed by an NHS doctor on a hospital visit are removed from the prisoner on returning to the prison and may not be reissued until several days later. There have also been instances of discontinuity of supply of certain

medications by the prisons Pharmacy, notably to patients who require it on a regular basis, including some chronically ill patients. (3.3.6)

L.2 Problems associated with the erratic and untimely dispensation of medication noted in the Boards' previous report continued and escalated for the whole of the 2015-16 reporting period. When will the problems with the healthcare service provided improve? (3.3.7)

G. For the attention of the Governor

G.1 The Board is concerned that some prisoners with mental health problems have remained in the CSU for significant periods of time. (3.1.4)

G.2 Diversity and Equality training is not included in the general staff induction programme and the Board finds the lack of equality awareness amongst some officers is concerning. The Board understands that POELTS do receive some training but non-uniformed and Healthcare staff do not. (3.1.5)

G.3 The Board is concerned that the Education Prospectus states that a prisoner's behaviour in other aspects of prison life may affect their access to education. Surely disciplinary measures should not affect learning. (3.2.5)

G.4 There is a high level of disruption on C and D wings including debt and bullying issues. The Board is concerned that this may have an adverse effect on the 'Building Futures' programme on that wing. (3.3.1)

G.5 The Mandatory Drug Testing programme for 'standard' opiates has frequently been at risk due to officers who have not been trained to do such tests being assigned to this duty. (3.3.4)

G.6 The Board is concerned that hospital appointments are regularly being cancelled due to a lack of escort staff with the risk of causing serious health complications. (3.3.9)

G.7 Incidents of prisoner self-harm have further increased over the reporting year and the required ACCT arrangements are placing a workload burden on trained staff. (3.3.10)

G.8 During the reporting year the Board reported that there were frequent occasions when the care workers provided by the local authority did not attend the prison as expected causing care problems (3.3.16)

Section 3: Reporting Areas

3.1 Equality and Inclusivity

3.1.1 The Board has noted the continued progress in promoting equality and inclusivity over the reporting period. The Equality Impact Assessment programme has identified three key areas to focus on and risk assessments around equalities issues have been carried out in these areas. There are now nine Diversity Champions in place to cover each of the protected characteristics and two Foreign National Liaison Officers have been identified during this reporting year.

3.1.2 The Diversity and Equalities Action Team (DEAT) meetings have continued to take place bi-monthly. Prisoner representatives from the wings attend these meetings, which are usually chaired by the Governor. The meetings discuss data on Equalities Impact Assessments, Equalities Monitoring and Discrimination Incident Report Forms. The meetings are minuted and prisoner representatives are encouraged to contribute. The

direct involvement of prisoners through these meetings is consistent with the requirements of Prison Service Order (PSO) 2800.

3.1.3 Each wing has a diversity and equalities representative who can raise issues at the DEAT meetings, and DIR forms are available on the Prisoner Information Desks (PIDs) on each wing. During the reporting year, to date there have been 48 DIR forms submitted; the most commonly occurring characteristics represented are race, religion and disability. A sample of the DIR forms was scrutinised by a member of the Board and the responses were found to have been proportionate and timely, in accordance with Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 32/2011.

3.1.4 The current Equalities Monitoring Tool data are discussed and analysed at the bi-monthly DEAT meetings. Most areas have improved, but segregation days by prisoners with a disability deteriorated as a few prisoners with mental health problems have remained in the Care and Separation Unit (CSU) for a long time. Equalities Impact Assessments are focussing on the areas of Prisoner Complaints, Applications and PE provision. Information for these is gathered from existing sources including the Mapping Quality of Prisoners' Lives (MQPL) survey. The assessment of PE revealed that this is not offered to prisoners in the CSU. The board understands that this is being addressed, and an in-cell physical education programme will be included in a CSU induction booklet. The Board will monitor progress with this.

3.1.5 There are now Diversity Champions in place to represent all nine protected characteristics, and forums have been held for most of the areas. A calendar of dates has been produced for 2016. New officers (POELTs) receive an overview of diversity and equalities and how it relates to staff and prisoners, as part of their induction. However, diversity and equality training is not included in the general staff induction programme, and the board still finds that knowledge and attitudes of staff are very variable.

3.1.6 At the time of writing there are 23 foreign national prisoners (FNPs) compared to 46 reported in 2014-15. There has been a significant reduction in numbers over the last few months due to the prison tightening up on its acceptance criteria. Two Foreign National Liaison Officers are now in place. A representative of the UK Borders' Agency (UKBA) comes into the prison, but visits are erratic and they don't always have lap-tops with them which means they are not as effective as they should be. Due to lack of funding some education courses are not available for FNPs who cannot work in the UK. A FNP Strategy is now in place, part of which focuses on information which will be available via TRACKS, a national resource accessed via the virtual campus in the Library. The prison's Welcome booklets are now available in six languages.

3.1.7 The Board's 2014-15 Annual Report highlighted a lack of specialised information for ex-servicemen in custody. The prison has now identified two 'Veterans in Custody' (VIC) champions and holds regular focus groups. A VIC folder is available in the library identifying a range of support agencies via SAAFA and the British Legion.

3.1.8 A new stair lift and ramp for older and disabled prisoners have been installed on I wing. At the time of writing there are 36 prisoners requiring personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPS), and there are emergency evacuation chairs on all wings. Some older prisoners have recently been relocated on to B wing, whenever the accommodation is more suitable for them.

3.2 Education, Learning and Skills

3.2.1 As the prison now takes mostly prisoners serving sentences of over four years, the focus of education, learning and skills is moving towards planned progression and

sequencing. The aim is that prisoners will follow a pathway that allows them to develop their knowledge and skills in a co-ordinated manner linked into their sentence plan, involving closer working with OMU (Offender Management Unit) and offender managers.

3.2.2 The Education Manager considers that the rebranding of 'Manchester College Offender Learning' as NOVUS has not impacted significantly on provision. The prison is focusing on strengthening the core education provision, and funding is now more consistent, allowing for more effective planning. The 2015 MQPL (Measuring the Quality of Prison Life) survey contained 'a large volume of positive comments' on education and training in Wymott.

3.2.3 The Board's 2014-15 Annual Report highlighted problems with identifying prisoners' needs at their Induction stage. The prison has developed its induction programme and the education manager considers that it is improving. Before being transferred to Wymott most of the prisoners will have taken diagnostic tests at other prisons, so prisoners' needs are assessed through individual meetings with education and activities staff. A few prisoners do get overlooked and the Board finds difficulty in monitoring the scale of this. The Board commends the recent publication of an Education Prospectus to make prisoners aware of the range of courses on offer.

3.2.4 The low skills level of some prisoners remains a cause for concern, although prisoners with literacy and numeracy levels below level 1 are required to attend education for at least half of their day. The revised pay rates have helped prisoners to recognize the value of education and make it a more attractive option for them. At induction prisoners are made aware of the 'Shannon Trust Reading Plan' although very few are willing to identify themselves as non-readers. In an attempt to widen access trained mentors are being introduced on to the wings and prisoners may be referred to them via the workshops or PID (Prisoner Information Desk) workers.

3.2.5 The Board notes that there are still waiting lists for some courses, particularly STEPS but progress has been made in ensuring that prisoners are on appropriate courses. Efficiency of filling courses is around 90%. In MQPL focus groups some prisoners expressed concern over unfairness in access to courses. The Board is concerned that the education prospectus states behavioural issues in other aspects of prison life may affect a prisoner's place on a waiting list. The Board is concerned that this could further hinder their rehabilitation. The results of the Student Satisfaction survey are not available at the time of writing. However the Board has received only 2 complaints relating to education and training over the reporting period – suggesting that prisoners are generally satisfied.

3.2.6 The year-to-date attendance rate from August 2015 is nearly 78%, slightly below target, but the figure for April 2016 shows an encouraging 83%. During 2015-16 the prison has developed a more accurate system for monitoring non-attendance in education. Non-authorized absences may be subject to disciplinary measures. Ofsted assesses the provision on welfare and behaviour and the Education Prospectus sets out expected standards of prisoners' behaviour. Repeated non-compliance can result in removal from courses.

3.2.7 The Board feels that the balance of provision is appropriate across strands, levels and types of qualification. Just over half the provision is at Level 1 and one-third of provision is at Level 2. The remainder is distributed between Entry Level 1 and Level 3, with a very small amount higher than Level 3. The MQPL referred to a lack of resources for education. To address the limited provision of vocational courses for VP's (Vulnerable Prisoners) a new level 2 Diploma in Site Carpentry Diploma has been introduced for VPs. In Horticulture a new 0.5 post has been created to oversee qualifications up to Level 2, following the success of this model in Engineering.

3.2.8 All prisoners are now enrolled in the 'Virtual Campus' on entry to the prison. At present it is limited because it is only accessible via the education area and the Board would welcome the consideration to extend this facility to the workshops thus enabling

greater access for prisoners at other times.

3.2.9 The prison continues to support an excellent student council and a system of mentoring for learners is being developed, with bespoke training for prisoner mentors, a job specification and a Code of Conduct. The Board considers that this is progressing on the VP side of the prison but more needs to be done on the Cat C side.

3.2.10 The Board commends the prison in strengthening its enrichment and pastoral provision through the 'Family Pathways' programme. The content of this programme may be modified wherever necessary to meet individual learners' needs and its focus on relationships could be developed to provide a useful preparation for Offender Behaviour programmes

3.3 Healthcare and Mental Health

3.3.1 The drugs and alcohol strategy continues to be delivered by Phoenix Futures and the GMW NHS trust under the heading of 'Discover' which is responsible for the Therapeutic Community (TC) and 'Building Futures'. This delivers groups tailored to prisoners' need and case management issues. Prisoners may move on from 'Building Futures' to 'Discover. Alternatively they may undergo other activities within the 'Building Futures' structures. The Board considers that this integrated approach has had beneficial effects. However, high levels of disruption on C and D wings (nominally Drug Free/ Methadone Dependant wings) due to drugs (NPS), debt and bullying is of particular concern to the Board because the 'Building Futures' programme is based there.

3.3.2 TC staff makes full use of both internal and external agencies such as St John's Ambulance, Red Rose and particularly FLAMES (Family Liaison and Mediation Service) which seeks to improve family relationships. TC initiatives include art classes, a music group, guest speakers, a Well-Man clinic and yoga as well as an IT room, all of which have high levels of use. Some of the initiatives in the 'Building Futures' scheme have been adversely affected by a lack of staff. However the Board understands that this is to be addressed.

3.3.3 The more robust approach to selection for TC has continued. In the current reporting year there have been 91 starts and 47 completions and 48 deselections. The former figure exceeds the completion target by 5. There are currently 57 prisoners in treatment.

3.3.4 The Board is seriously concerned by the prevalence and quantity of the use of 'New Psychoactive Substances' (NPS) throughout the prison. There have been numerous serious incidents which have, at times, required the hospitalisation of prisoners with a consequential effect on the already stretched Prison's Healthcare Department. The Security Department continues with its policy of intelligence-led searches which have been shown to yield better results. Prominent prisoners are monitored and all Serious Incident Reports (SIR) are collated. There is an NPS strategy in place in an attempt to combat the use of these drugs. Prisoners found to be under the influence will be videoed as evidence which will later be shown to them so that they can see the harm it does to behaviour and health. The recent evidence of the use of drones to import drugs over the perimeter of the prison is an additional difficulty in preventing drug use. Tests for the use of NPS have yet to be established by the Prison Service. The mandatory drug testing (MDT) for 'standard' opiate use has frequently been affected due to officers who have not been trained to carry out such tests being assigned to this Unit.

3.3.5 The misuse of medications by prisoners continues to be of much concern the Board. Locked boxes have been provided for prisoners with 'in-own-possession' medication and the supply of these has improved but there are still too many instances of bullying on the wings to obtain in-possession drugs from approved prisoners.

3.3.6 The supply of prisoners' medication has improved. However there remain problems when medication prescribed by an NHS doctor on a hospital visit are removed from the prisoner on returning to the prison and may not be reissued until several days later. This delay causes unnecessary worry and concern for those prisoners. There have also been instances of discontinuity of supply of certain medications by the prisons Pharmacy, notably to patients who require it on a regular basis, including some chronically ill and indeed terminal patients. The prison is seeking to remedy this with a new electronic system which will go live in June 2016 and which will order medications monthly. The staffing profile in Healthcare has been improved. There are now five pharmacy technicians dealing with the dispensing of medications and this is now taking place much earlier in the evening and taking the pressure off the nursing staff. There are still however two nursing vacancies being covered by external agency staff.

3.3.7 The problems associated with the poor and untimely dispensation of medication noted in the Boards' previous report continued and escalated for the whole of the 2015-16 reporting period with some medication even being given out during the night. This has safety implications both for staff and for prisoners. The difficulties are exacerbated by chronic staff shortages, unreliable agency staff, combined with the number of times nursing staff were called upon to deal with prisoners under the influence of NPS. This in turn has led to an extremely stressful working environment and poor interactions between staff and prisoners. However the staffing profile in Healthcare has been improved.

3.3.8 The general healthcare situation noted in last year's report deteriorated further when in September the published waiting list for the GP reached 43 working days. The waiting list for the Dentist remains currently at seventeen weeks. During the latter half of the 2015 reporting period it was often difficult for the Board to obtain detailed information about the levels of service being provided. In the Boards' opinion the service provided by the Lancashire Care NHS Trust fell far below the standard of care required from the Secretary of State for Health and the duty of care placed on the Secretary of State for Justice.

3.3.9 The Board is further concerned that hospital appointments are still regularly being cancelled due to the lack of escort staff, with the Board aware of some prisoners' appointments being cancelled four or five times if they are considered by officers not to be urgent. The Board is concerned that the use of this practice is a potential for serious health complications.

3.3.10 Self-harm incidents, a concern in the Board's 2014-15 report, have further increased as have the numbers of prisoners with serious self-harm or behavioural issues who are closely monitored by wing officers using ACCT (Care) arrangements. This has placed pressure in a number of wings where staff have had to manage the extra workload involved with as many as eleven or twelve of these cases at one time, with some requiring hourly observations of prisoners. This has not been helped by reductions in staffing and is potentially dangerous.

3.3.11 Despite the above ongoing concerns, the Board is pleased to note that in the latter third of the reporting period there have been significant improvements in the overall situation, due in large part to the active involvement of the Governing Governor.

3.3.12 There is one full-time GP and two nurse practitioners which has now led to a reduction in a maximum waiting time of ten working days. New arrangements for 'Special Sick' are now in place; the Board will evaluate its effectiveness.

3.3.13 Appointment slips are now being delivered by night staff and it is hoped that this will ensure their receipt and hence reduce the number of prisoners who do not attend a

medical appointment. Empty appointment slots have been a major factor in lengthy waiting times.

3.3.14 There is an active Healthcare Forum enabling direct communication between the providers and the prisoners which has improved communications. Participation in these by vulnerable prisoners (VP's) has been excellent but the involvement of Category C prisoners has been very poor. It has been disappointing to note however that there has not always been participation from the prison staff.

3.3.15 Palliative Care within the prison is considered by the Board to be an example of good practice. At the time of writing there are seven patients using this service. The development of this facility continues in association with St Catherine's Hospice.

3.3.16 Responsibility for social care within the prison has transferred to the Local Authority. Whilst assessments have been carried out on a regular basis, the attendance by carers has been less than satisfactory. There have been a number of occasions when some carers have not attended when expected, thus leaving gaps in the provision. The Board considers that prison management should ensure an adequate number of carers are provided at all times.

3.3.17 Whilst the Board accepts that there have been significant improvements in the provision of Healthcare it would also point out that there is still progress to be made in the provision in ancillary care including dentistry, opticians, rapid distribution of medication on return from hospital, provision of sufficient escorts for hospital appointments and the continuity of medication for those who require it. Currently there is no provision for elderly prisoners with dementia but the Board understands that Healthcare is planning to change this situation.

3.4 Resettlement

3.4.1 HMP Wymott has been reclassified as a prison which only accepts prisoners who have 4 or more years to serve and often these prisoners are some distance from their 'home' area. Normally, sometime before their release date, prisoners will be transferred to a local prison closer to their home area to undergo pre-release preparation. Wymott is no longer required to provide these 'preparation for release' programmes. However in practice, for various reasons, the 'home' prison cannot or will not accept some prisoners. The effect of this is that these prisoners are released from Wymott with little or no preparation for release. As a snapshot, the April 2016 data showed that out of 24 releases 16 were within the Lancashire area and 8 were returning to other regions in England and Wales and of all releases, 3 prisoners had no fixed address. Only one of the 24 releases was going on to education or training and only 1 prisoner was indicated as having a bank account.

3.4.2 Removal to a prison in their own local area for pre-release preparation is a source of stress for many elderly prisoners who find it difficult to adjust to a new environment. On their dedicated wing at Wymott they are settled with prisoners of their own age group and officers who are sympathetic and understand their physical needs and have easy access to carers who know them and provide a specialist service. Most local prisons have either no, or limited, facilities for the elderly and their individual health and social care needs. In the Board's view, with an increasing elderly prison population the practice of transferring elderly prisoners to local prisons needs to be reviewed.

3.4.3 It is often difficult for the prison to find space in local prisons for pre-release prisoners and they then have to leave Wymott with little preparation for the 'outside'. The Board considers that Offender Management urgently needs to address the problem of poor

preparation for release of prisoners who cannot access a resettlement prison in their home area, especially for those who have no fixed address.

3.5 Safer Custody

3.5.1 One of the top 10 deliverables for action in 2015-16 for the prison was to embed the SMARG (Segregation Monitoring and Review Group) and to introduce a reintegration plan for prisoners held on that Unit. The SMARG meets at regular intervals chaired by the Governing Governor at which the individual cases of difficult prisoners are discussed with a view to re-integration or suitable transfer. At these meetings a quarterly report is presented which analyses 16 issues associated with the segregation of prisoners including Occurrence logs and Initial Health screens. Initial health screening statistics show that all prisoners entering the CSU are screened within 2 hours of admittance and this is checked by the Board at every CSU rota visit. Within the reporting year a reintegration plan was developed by which prisoners located in the CSU for a lengthy period either for refusing to relocate or as a result of adjudication could be progressed. The CSU staff skills set is regularly reviewed.

3.5.2 Over the reporting year the population of the CSU has been increasing to the point where it is not unusual to have all of the cells occupied. This has led to the necessity of transferring more prisoners held on the Unit back to the wings or to other prisons wherever possible or prudent. This is applauded by the Board who were very concerned that in the recent past some prisoners were being held in the CSU longer than was considered conducive to both prisoner mind-state and/or delay in progress. The introduction of new integration plans was one of the achieved Deliverables in the 2015-16 action plans.

3.5.3 Monthly 'Safer Prisons' meetings are led by the Head of Safer Prisons and include Security Analyst, Substance Misuse Team Manager, Mental Health representative, C of E Chaplain, Healthcare, safety representative, prisoner Samaritan and IMB representative. Statistics and trends in violence, Security Information reports, Deaths in Custody, violence reduction and recent legislation are discussed and analysed. Data are discussed at length and decisions reached in order to improve the safety of prisoners and staff. Each incident of violence is investigated by the monthly meetings of the 'Safer Prisons' team and the causes of such analysed and recommendations for reduction formulated. At the January 2016 meeting a summary of the recommendations of the Harris Report on the deaths in prison of 18 – 24 year olds was provided as an aid to staff development. Over the recent past the incidents of violence occurring in Wymott are lower than other comparator prisons in the estate.

3.5.4 There is an increasing amount of self-harm and threatened self-harm occurring on G Wing (induction wing) as well as prisoner-on-prisoner assaults, particularly generated by younger or first-time offenders. The Board is concerned that the poor behaviour and bad attitude of prisoners on this wing, if not challenged more strongly, will affect other prisoners and may be acting as the norm for behaviour when these prisoners are transferred to other wings. However staff have recently attended a training session at HMP Thorne Cross on this area of work and this needs to be developed at Wymott. The ACCT documents for G and H wings represented 32% of all documents opened in the prison over the previous 12 months. On an encouraging note the good quality check for ACCT documents is around 94% despite temporary but frequent re-assignments of staff.

3.5.5 Plans and actions to reduce violence are also discussed at Safer Prison meetings and it is to the credit of staff that a 'prisoner discharge anti-bullying' survey carried out in December 2015 showed that none reported being subject to bullying whilst at Wymott. It should be noted that in the MQPL prisoner survey 58% of prisoners stated that 'Staff respond promptly to incidents', 58% of prisoners 'Did not fear for their physical safety' and

nearly 50% felt 'Safe from injury, bullying and threats' and the Board hopes that this trend will continue.

3.5.6 There was one death in 2015 from natural causes and 2 deaths at the time of writing in 2016. It should be noted that staff called to give evidence in such cases undergo a massive amount of stress and the prison is to be applauded in developing the provision of support and training for them.

3.5.7 The Safer Custody team believe that they are being supported by management but financial resources need improving in order to develop this important aspect of work. There appears to be a need to increase the frequency of ACCT checks but this is being hampered by officers regularly re-tasked to cover other duties caused by minimum staffing levels.

3.5.8 In summary the Board is encouraged by the positive attitude and dedication of management and staff in developing a safer prison despite financial constraints.

3.6 Segregation (Care and Separation Unit)

3.6.1 The Board considers that the managers and staff of the Care and Separation Unit (CSU) have worked extremely hard to maintain the regime over the last year due to reduced staffing levels and frequent changes to staffing. This has had an impact upon the efficiency of the processes related to review boards and adjudications. The unit requires officers who are experienced in this specialist work, and at times inexperienced officers have been detailed inappropriately to provide cover. However, officers remain committed to providing a high standard of personal care for prisoners. The work on the unit generates a large volume of paperwork which takes up considerable time and officers become frustrated since this prevents them from providing the level of care that they believe is needed.

3.6.2 The Board notes that the number of prisoners held in the CSU remains high, with an average of 20 prisoners per week between October 2015 and March 2016 (Segregation Monitoring and Review Group Report). Recent changes to the regime are helping to reduce this and the Board hopes that this reduction will be maintained. The average length of stay per prisoner over the same period was 18 days (SMARG report), and this too has fallen in recent weeks. The Board welcomes the new protocol requiring prisoners being held under Rule 45 for more than 42 days to be reviewed externally by the Deputy Director of Custody (DDC)

3.6.3 The duty Board member visits each prisoner on the unit as part of the weekly IMB rota, and a Board member attends all scheduled Rule 45 Review Boards. SMARG reports indicate that these Review Boards are compliant with required timescales, and the Board's independent records confirm this. When notified, a Board member attends 72-hour Review Boards, although there has been some slippage in notifying the Board when these are taking place.

3.6.4 The Board commends the work of the 'Safer Prisons' team in strengthening their data collection and monitoring of the CSU. Regular SMARG, Adjudications and Use of Force meetings review the data, which is used to inform local policy and practice. A member of the Board attends most of these meeting as observer. Over the reporting period the 'Use of Force' figures fluctuated between May 2015 and January 2016, but the Board is concerned that they have shown a significant increase over the first quarter of 2016 from 9 per month to 30 (Use of Force Report, April 2016). This would seem to reflect the increase in incidents of violence in the prison as a whole.

3.6.5 The introduction of new furniture into the cells in CSU has been slow. At the time of writing all cells have chairs, but most are still awaiting the fitting of tables. The Board understands that new flooring referred to in the Board's 2014-15 Annual Report will soon be fitted. The Board is pleased to report that a second shower is now in use and this has eased the pressure on the regime.

3.6.6 New healthcare management and an increase in staffing have helped to improve the prisoners' access to healthcare and medication, although the Board does still receive some complaints from prisoners about late receipt of medication. This is a source of stress on prisoners held in the CSU.

3.6.7 The Board welcomes the re-introduction of a comprehensive CSU induction book for prisoners, and prisoners are soon to be provided with information on how to maintain an exercise regime whilst on the unit. Following concerns raised by the Board, the prison is continuing to work on a system of reintegrating prisoners in the CSU safely onto the wings. It is intended that this will form part of a prisoner's regular review. The prison has recently introduced a new regime in the CSU, aimed at reducing the numbers of prisoners choosing to remain on the unit to gain personal safety from the wings. Prisoners often place themselves in vulnerable situations through the use of NPS and/or debt and the Board welcomes the work that is being done on re-educating prisoners on how to avoid such situations.

3.6.8 The Board is pleased to report that the 'gated' cell (prisoners held safely for their own protection) has been relocated back on to I wing annex following concern from both the Board and Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons (HMIP). This location provides a much quieter and calmer environment for a distressed prisoner. The Board has some concern over an increase in the numbers of prisoners deemed to require constant watching in this cell.

3.7 Residential Services

3.7.1. The reduction in available finance to make major improvements in the prison fabric and therefore the deterioration of the wellbeing of prisoners is evident to the Board. As several prisoners have remarked 'Some little things would make life better'. The least habitable wings are A and B despite the efforts prisoners make to maintain their environment the best they can. The Board has reported on the poor condition of these buildings in all of its recent reports but without comment from the Minister. Of most concern to these prisoners is the coldness of the buildings during the winter months and overnight periods. The major source of coldness appears to be the cell windows which being made with metal frames transfer coldness into the cells together with the fact that many cell windows do not close tightly. Added to this is that prisoners' report their heating is turned off every night around 1930 hours. On a more positive note the condition of showers and toilets in these houses have been somewhat improved by replacing missing or cracked wall tiles, and prisoners themselves making these areas clean and tidy.

3.7.2 Serveries on the wings are maintained in a very clean and tidy state by prisoners. However on G wing and D wing the fly-screens covering the servery external vents are either missing or ragged, leaving these food areas vulnerable to the ingress of flies and vermin and hence a potential source of prisoner ill-health.

3.7.3 Prisoners on G wing report that some air-vents in cells are jammed either open or closed causing the cells to be too stuffy in summer and cold in winter. During a recent visit the Board noted that some shared cells on that wing do not have privacy curtains around their toilets; an offence to privacy and self-worth.

3.7.4 The accommodation on the Elderly and Disabled wing (I Wing) is generally clean and tidy, including passageways, as are the shower and toilet areas. Some prisoners complained that shower handles on some level 2 showers are difficult to turn 'off' and 'on' for those elderly with less strength. The servery is maintained in a hygienic condition despite it being used at times to provide a work area. Of great concern to prisoners on this wing is the thinness of mattresses and pillows. These things matter when you are old. Additionally some wheelchairs are not able to go through cell door openings and the chairlift is often out of use.

3.7.5 The kitchen building accommodation is showing signs of its age and is in need of an upgrade. Power feeds for food distribution trolleys are currently hanging from ceiling fittings which appear unsafe. These feeds should be on wall fittings. There is a no-mans-land area between food preparation bins and cooking cabinets which is difficult to clean and presents a hygiene hazard. Prisoners complain that the showers in the kitchen ablutions are unusable because the water is always only tepid, as is the water in the washroom sinks. In some kitchen areas the lighting is dimmer than others providing a gloomy working environment.

3.7.6 The roof above the Print shop and tailors workshop leaks water. In the printer's there is a bucket mounted on the top of a very expensive printing machine to avoid damage by rainwater. In the adjoining tailor's workshop staff have to take precautions to avoid cloth being damaged.

Section 4: The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board

4.1 During the reporting period the Board completed the training of two members who became active on rotas. However one of these members resigned at odds with Board procedures and one resigned due to pressure of work. A further new member decided not to complete the probationary year. Another member had to relocate to another area for career reasons. One member had reached their tenure period and left at the beginning of 2016, and one further, long-standing member, resigned without providing a reason to the Chairperson for doing so. The Board is currently undergoing a recruitment campaign.

4.2 The principal method used by the Board to meet its primary function of monitoring fairness and respect for those in custody is the weekly rota visit. The Board has been able to meet its commitment to monitoring duties even though below normal membership numbers and, through the use of effective documentation, has been able to efficiently report on issues of concern and good practice identified at each of those visits. Prior to each Board meeting the Chair presents these issues to the Governor. The Governor continues to be active in promptly addressing the issues raised and reporting back to the Board. The Board is appreciative of this and the information provided by the Governor at each meeting. Important issues raised during the Board meeting are noted and followed up by members during their rota visits. The Board recognises the need to ensure that issues are not simply logged and forgotten and reviews its previous activities at every Board meeting

4.3 Board meetings have been generally well attended (until resignations), and a full coverage of duties continues reflecting the level of commitment of remaining members. The Governor or, on occasions, his deputy always attends the meetings to update members on current issues and developments and provides feedback on issues raised by the Board as a result of carrying out Rota visits. Board minutes are circulated to members via CJSM. The Board also receives daily, via CJSM, a copy of the minutes of the Prison's morning operations meeting and any other documents that the Board's clerk considers of importance.

4.4 For reporting purposes each member of the Board is allocated to at least one specialist monitoring area; thus improving the Board's overall knowledge and depth of monitoring. However this has been made more difficult to achieve due to the number of resignations within the reporting year. In addition, Board development is supported by regular pre-Board meetings at which either particular aspects of the Board's work are discussed or talks provided by members of Prison staff on particular areas of work. These meetings are also used to discuss other Board issues of concern. During the reporting year the Board reviewed and confirmed its Constitution and held its own performance review in November 2015 led by the Board Development Officer.

4.5 The Board makes every effort to attend all Rule 45 reviews. There is an agreement with the Prison that, where possible, Rule 45 reviews, other than the initial 72 hour review, occur on Wednesday afternoons allowing the Board to attend reviews as part of a normal rota visit. The Board maintains its own record of individual reviews and is thus able to have a continuous overview of each prisoner held under Rule 45. The increase in the number of prisoners held on the CSU during the reporting year and consequently the increase in prisoners under review each week has increased considerably. This led, at one point, for the need to have a separate rota to attend reviews. The Board also attends a sample of internal and independent adjudications and has attended several incidents.

4.6 A team of Board members have taken part in the induction programme for new prisoners and usually the induction of new staff in order to explain the work of the Board and how prisoners may make Applications. However over the reporting year the prison has made it more difficult for the Board to carry out this important role due to the haphazard manner in which it organises its induction programme for new prisoners. Frequently the Board is not informed of changes of timings or location with the consequence that some prisoners are not aware of the existence of the Board. During the year the Board has also attended, as observers, a range of Prison meetings in order to extend its depth of monitoring and to inform itself of events and changes.

4.7 Table 1 below gives a detailed analysis of the work of the Board during the reporting year:

Table 1: The work of the Board over the reporting year

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	12
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	6
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0
Number of members leaving within reporting period	6
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	469
Total number of segregation review sessions held (Rule 45)	No data
Total number of segregation review sessions attended (Rule 45)	55
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	Nov 2015

Section 5: Applications to the Board

5.1 The following, table 2, shows an analysis of the issues raised by prisoners in their applications to the Board over the reporting period.

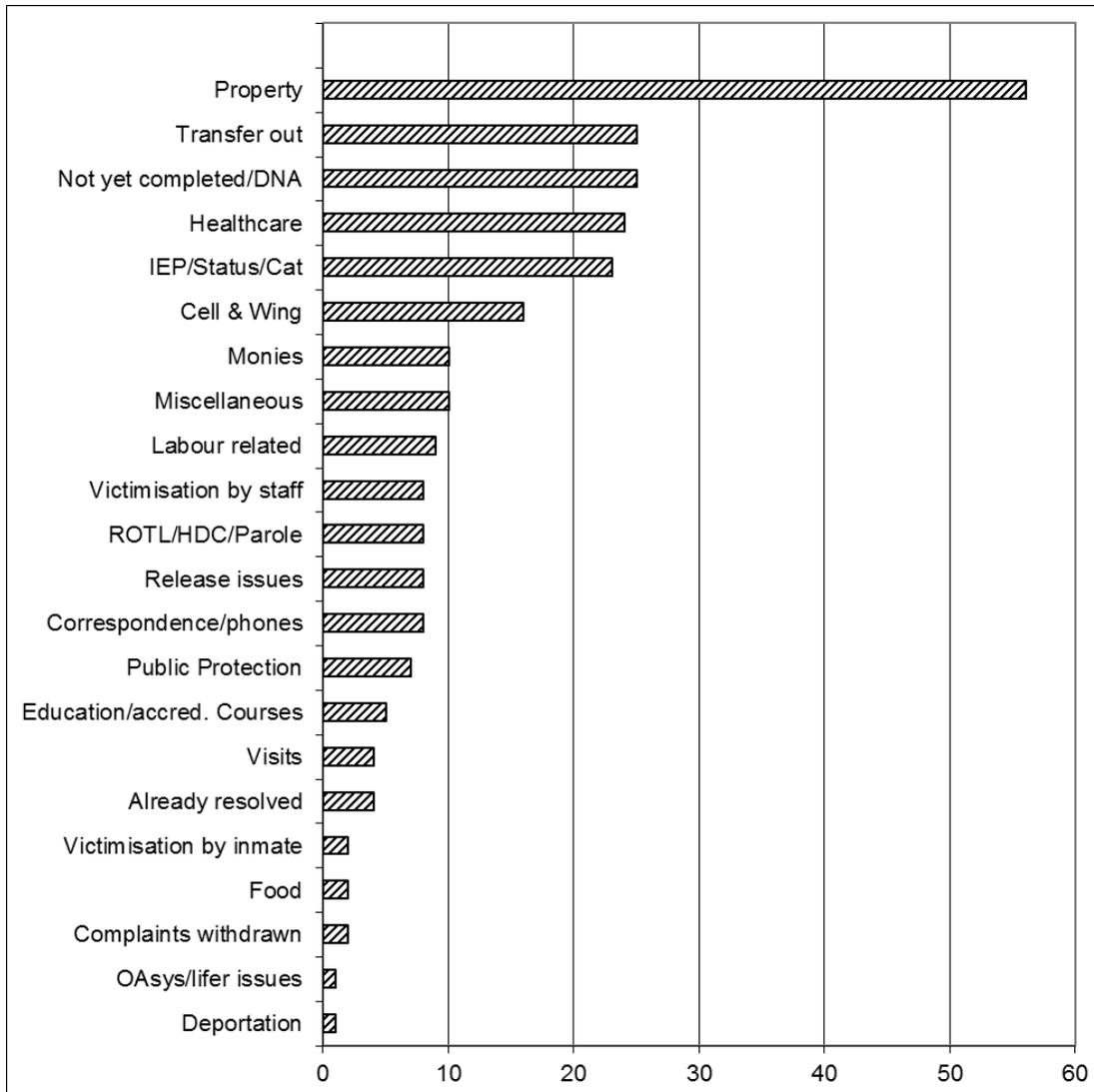
Table 2: Analysis of applications under national key headings

Subject	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Accommodation	3	2	6	16
Adjudications	0	4	4	1
Correspondence	6	10	7	8
Equality related	0	1	8	0
Education/employment/training	17	18	25	14
Family/visits	7	15	12	4
Food/kitchen related	2	3	3	2
Health related	10	17	25	24
Property	43	40	52	66
Release/resettlement	11	18	19	8
Request/complaint procedure	6	1	3	0
Sentence related	25	22	22	30
Staff/prisoner related	9	1	7	10
Transfers	35	18	22	27
Miscellaneous*	61	69	85	50
Total number of applications	235	244	300	260
Total no. confidential access	12	14	10	11

* 'Miscellaneous' includes Applications regarding issues that had already been resolved, duplicated, withdrawn, prisoner did not wish to continue with application, duplicated applications or where a prisoner had not appropriately used the formal Request and Complaints procedure

5.2 The Board maintains a more detailed count of Applications received over the reporting year. Figure 1 below shows the distribution by subject

Figure 1: Number of applications by subject for reporting year 2015-16



5.3. Issues concerning prisoners' property continues to occupy much of the Board's work as it does every year. A significant proportion of these refer to property lost on transfer between prisons. Despite having its own complaints procedure, the number of prisoners' apparently not accepting replies from Healthcare and subsequently making application to the Board has remained at the same level as in its report of 2014-15. Many of these complaints concern the late issue of medications (see 3.3.6 and 3.3.7 above).

5.4 There has been a significant increase in the number of complaints to the Board regarding accommodation (see table 2 and section 3.8 above). The Board considers that the significant reduction in Government funding for prisons has prevented improvements to the prisons fabric.

5.5 The Board has observed an increasing concern by prisoners that the IEP system is not being used as its intended purpose, being thought to be punitive rather than a process to improve conduct and this has led to complaints to the Board about its apparent unfairness.

Section 6: Abbreviations

ACCT	Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork
CARATS	Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare
CAT C	Security categorisation of prisoners (Cat A highest, Cat D lowest)
CALM	Crisis, aggression, limitation and management
CNA	Certified Normal Accommodation (number of prisoners who can be accommodated without overcrowding)
CSRA	Cell Sharing Risk Assessment
CSU	Care and Separation Unit (Often known as Segregation)
DEAT	Diversity Equality Action Team
DIRF	Diversity Incident Reporting Form
DLO	Disability Liaison Officer
FNP	Foreign National prisoner
HMCIP	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons
HRP	Healthy Relationships Programme
IDTS	Integrated Drug Treatment Service (Methadone maintenance)
IEP	Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme
IMB	Independent Monitoring Board
IPP	Imprisonment for Public Protection (indeterminate sentence)
KPT	Key Performance Targets
MDT	Mandatory Drug Testing
MQPL	Measuring The Quality of Prison Life (survey of prisoners)
NACRO	National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
OASys	Offender Assessment System
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
OLASS	Offender Learning and Skills Service
OMU	Offender Management Unit
PASRO	Prisoners Addressing Substance Related Offences
PCT	Primary Care Trust (Central Lancashire)
PIPE	Psychologically Informed Planned Environment
ROTL	Release on temporary licence
Rule 45	Removal from association either for own interest/own protection or in interests of good order or discipline
SIR	Security Information Report
SMARG	Segregation Monitoring and Review Group
SOTP	Sex offenders' treatment programme
TAB	'Tackling Anti-Bullying' (Prison name given to anti-bullying policy and its documentation)
TC	Therapeutic Community (drug rehabilitation)
TSP	Thinking Skills Programme
VP	Vulnerable prisoners