



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

1 OCTOBER 2015 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

HMYOI Deerbolt
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Co. Durham
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Section 1: Statutory Role of the IMB

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

The Board is especially 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 their programmes preparing them for release.
2. Inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
3. **Report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.**

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

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Section 3

Description of HMYOI Deerbolt

A maximum of 513 sentenced male offenders aged 18-21 are accommodated at HMYOI Deerbolt, Barnard Castle in County Durham. The intake used to be limited to prisoners with a maximum sentence of six years. Since this limit was relaxed, the intake now includes young men serving long sentences often for violent offences and this has had an observable effect on the atmosphere within the prison. The purpose-built establishment includes an administration centre, nine residential wings with exercise yards, industrial workshops and education classrooms, a gymnasium and chapel and a separate Reducing Reoffending Unit (RRU). One wing is dedicated to helping prisoners overcome alcohol and drug abuse, which have clearly been a factor in the criminal activity of many if not most prisoners, not just those on the special wing. There are extensive areas of grass, and cultivated plots of flowers and vegetables, making the whole area most attractive.

Prisoners are received from a wide catchment area: Young Offenders from the local north east region are in a minority and prisoners are transferred in from all points south, either because prisons are full further south or there are staff shortages there or gang members have to be separated, but sometimes also because Young Offenders should benefit from the good range of education and vocational training that Deerbolt offers.

Section 4

Questions for the Minister

The Board is very concerned that **45% of prisoners are released direct from Deerbolt rather than being sent first to a Resettlement Prison, and furthermore very few of those released from Deerbolt actually live in the north east.** Sam Gyimah MP, in his letter to Jenny Blackburn of the IMB National Council, dated 9th October 2016, summarised the theory by which Through the Gate (TTG) services should be offered in non-resettlement prisons as well as in resettlement prisons. The Board would like to know whether extra funding has come forward to pay Community Rehabilitation Companies to provide TTG service at non-resettlement prisons outside their area? The Board would like to be assured that there is not in effect a two tier system in which prisoners lucky enough to transfer to the right prison at the right time, receive a far more effective TTG service than those released elsewhere?

The Board have observed **an increasing number of prisoners with mental health problems**, with a rise in the number of incidents of self-harm. This year, Deerbolt have had five prisoners that required assessment for section under the Mental Health Act. These prisoners were held under segregation conditions for extended periods, whilst awaiting assessment and transfer to secure mental health facilities. The length of waiting times appears excessive, and it seems there is a national shortage of facility designed to look after this category of prisoner. Is the Ministry of Justice putting pressure on the Ministry of Health to remedy this, or should the MoJ look to provide a suitable facility for the severely mentally ill within the prison system?

Executive Summary

Overall, the Board's observation is that Deerbolt has a much improved regime, compared to that we have reported on previously. This is because the Governor has taken vigorous practical steps to tackle the problems of too many drugs in the prison and too many prisoners choosing to spend their days in their cells rather than taking part in Education or other Activities.

Drugs create problems for the people who use them, particularly Psychoactive Substances (so-called NPS) which have devastating effects on some individuals who try them, leading to emergency ambulance calls to Deerbolt on several occasions. In addition, drugs coming into the prison are then traded, which leads to debt and accompanying violence.

Prisoners who refuse Education and Activities miss out on learning life-skills which would help them keep in employment and out of trouble in later life. Also, prisoners staying in their cells get bored and resort to displacement activities which are usually negative and ultimately disruptive to other prisoners and the regime.

Whilst the Board are very pleased to recognise the improvements the new policies have brought about, unfortunately, it seems as though they are operating against a contrary tide from a more difficult prisoner population. The average sentence being served is longer, which means usually for a violent crime, and the number of prisoners with mental health issues has certainly increased. A symptom of this is that 5 prisoners were kept under segregation conditions for extended periods during the last year awaiting assessment for transfer to a secure mental health unit.

A suicide occurred in May 2016, the first at Deerbolt for at least 20 years. The inquest has yet to be held, but one Board observation would be that staff reaction to this tragic event showed that Deerbolt is, at heart, a very caring environment.

The Board would again wish to record its observation that Deerbolt staff perform extremely well in often trying conditions, which require them to face up to violent threats one moment and to react empathetically to a prisoner's personal problems and concerns the next. Deerbolt has a high proportion of relatively recent recruits in its staff, but the Board has observed a growing competence and confidence in the great majority of instances.

Questions raised last year:

The Board asked for funding of window replacement in the residential wings that face the prison outer walls to be prioritised in 2016.

Funding was provided and the windows have been replaced. This was a very important measure so as to close off one of the main routes by which dangerous drugs were entering the prison.

The Board asked that either prisoner movement to a Resettlement Prison at 12 weeks is guaranteed, or resettlement resources be restored at Deerbolt.

Deerbolt is not a Resettlement Prison, so it is supposed to transfer prisoners 12 weeks before their planned release date to the Resettlement Prison nearest their home, so that they can be given resettlement training and establish contact with the Probation Officer who will be their mentor when they are released on licence. In practice around half of prisoners have to be released direct from Deerbolt because Resettlement Prisons refuse requested transfers. This problem persists and is dealt with in Section 5.e.

The Board observed that the specification of the Education contract did not seem to incentivise the provider to offer courses that would meet the actual needs of the full range of prisoners and of the prison regime.

The Education contract has not been changed, but education provision at Deerbolt has improved considerably over the last year, as covered in Section 5.b

The Board observed that many prisoners were kept in their cells all day because too many of the education and other activities were classified as not suitable for higher risk prisoners of which Deerbolt is receiving increasing numbers. The Board requested that steps be taken to reclassify activities (often by providing more supervision) or introducing new activities that can be offered to higher risk prisoners.

Some activities, for example the Print Room have been reclassified to allow “Medium” risk prisoners to take part so this problem has been alleviated at least.

Section 5.a. Equality and Inclusion

The 2010 Equality Act requires the board to monitor equality and inclusion within the prison based on the protected characteristics. This is accomplished in part by attending the bi-monthly Diversity and Equality Management meeting (DEMT) where the statistics, which the prison gather on these themes are analysed. Unfortunately, these statistics are not as helpful as they might be because national statistics are too long delayed, while figures for Deerbolt alone are not statistically significant due to the low numbers involved.

The prison uses the DEMT meeting and its statistical work to fulfil its obligations under the 2010 Equality Act, so it is unfortunate to observe that attendance at these meetings is low due to pressures on staff time. If staff don't have the time to attend the meeting or provide reports then points for action continue to be carried forward. One example where lack of staff hours inhibits the work, is the exit surveys that prisoners complete which could be a very helpful source of information but they are not analysed due to lack of resources. Another is that the Diversity and Equality newsletters which were produced last year have been dropped for now. Nevertheless, it is clear from Board observation that the prison management are concerned not just to fulfil legal obligation but also to improve lives of prisoners.

Despite these difficulties much good work has been done in this area this year:

Induction questionnaires are now completed in a more private setting to allow prisoners confidentiality when completing them. It is hoped that this will encourage more honest self-reporting.

Discrimination Incident Report Forms (DIRFs) - 37 received January to June 2016 - are generally investigated within timescale. Diversity and Equality communications are sent out to staff, to develop staff understanding and knowledge.

Chaplaincy continues to provide a good service across the prison, to a wide range of faiths, although currently there is no Hindu sessional chaplain on the books. It has been agreed to employ a new managing chaplain which should enhance their work. The prison respects and encourages prisoners to observe and celebrate their religious festivals

Each wing has a Diversity champion and bi-monthly meetings are held of the BME reps and Diversity champions to give the prisoners a voice.

Section 5.b. Education, Learning & Skills

In the last two years the Board has expressed great concern over the numbers of prisoners remaining in their cells all day rather than attending Education or any other Activity. The average percentage in cell was running at over 30%.

The prime reasons for this were a shortage of education staff leading to course sessions being cancelled, and the unpopularity of the courses offered so that prisoners either declined to enrol or, in some cases, deliberately mis-behaved in the class room so as to be sent back to the wing for the day or so as to be excluded from the course altogether.

The Board is pleased to report that considerable improvement has been made, such that the percentage remaining in cell is now regularly below 20%.

The Prison took steps to make it much more difficult for prisoners to "opt out" of Education. An Activities Committee meets weekly to allocate prisoners to available courses and activities, and refusal to attend leads to loss of privileges. Misbehaving prisoners are not simply returned to their

wing but rather sent to a holding area within the Education Building. At the same time the Education provider, Novus (previously known as The Manchester College) has recruited instructors, though vacancies remain, and has taken some steps to offer education in a form that better meets prisoners' needs.

It is estimated that up to 40% of the prisoners are functionally illiterate and/or innumerate, albeit only a much smaller percentage actually report themselves as being unable to read, write or do essential maths. It is clear that the school system has failed these young men for one reason or another and it is hardly surprising that they do not take kindly to being invited to sit in a classroom with others to be taught to read and write in a traditional way. Novus have made a start at mixing English and Maths teaching into activities, so that for example a student of Bricklaying can at the same time be helped to learn how to work out the number of bricks needed for a project, the quantity of water required, etc. This teaching method, in very small groups or even one-to-one has also allowed teachers to discover if there are underlying issues like dyslexia that have stopped students acquiring basic skills earlier.

Whilst these basic steps have clearly been beneficial, at least in reducing the numbers of prisoners choosing to remain in their cells all day, the Board believes much more needs to be done to improve the education offer in ways that are attractive for prisoners to engage with and relevant their needs post release. To use prison time to improve employability or create skills for self-employment after release is surely one of the most likely chances of reducing reoffending. The Board has therefore been very pleased to observe that over the last several months the Prison, NOMS at Regional level and Novus have started working constructively together on major changes that should totally transform the prisoner Education experience at Deerbolt, hopefully leading to prisoners showing much more enthusiastic and effective engagement with the learning opportunities available to them. . In the opinion of the Board an appropriate target for prisoners remaining in cell all day should be less than 10 percent

The new arrangements will integrate education and activity together in Work-based "Academies" with a new emphasis on enterprise, so that work inside the prison can more closely mirror the workplace outside, and to help prepare prisoners for possible self-employment and entrepreneurship after release. The Board has some doubts **whether the changes will actually have the hoped-for effect day-to-day** and expects to monitor this developing situation carefully through 2016-2017.

Section 5.c. Healthcare and Mental Health

The 'significant' issues from last year's healthcare and mental health section of the annual report have either not been raised this year or, as in the case of dental waiting times, resolved.

The areas of concern for 2015-2016 are: Psycho-active Substances (NPS) and the rise in number of prisoners with serious mental health problems

In January and February, the number of prisoners requiring medical attention due to the ingestion of an NPS reached a critical level, with almost daily incidents. This has largely been resolved due to the measures to prevent access to these drugs that have been implemented at Deerbolt. At the time of writing the number of incidents relating to NPS ingestion are about three per month. The Governor is continuing his efforts to eliminate access to these drugs and credit should be given to the proactive approach in addressing this serious problem.

In last year's reports it was noted that no prisoners had been sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983. This year the number of prisoners that have been 'sectioned' stands at five. The number of prisoners with serious mental health issues is a growing trend. Whilst

Deerbolt provides good access to primary mental health services it does not have any dedicated in-patient facilities, for physical or mental health patients. There is a national shortage of high secure mental health places, causing delays in transfer for prisoners from Deerbolt to those institutions that may provide the appropriate levels of care for the seriously ill.

Access to a dentist and general practitioner is good, with waiting times the same or better than in community settings. Whilst waiting times for counselling services are in excess of ten weeks, this is comparable with equivalent access in the community.

Deerbolt healthcare team have demonstrated good links with hospital services. This has been very evident in the case of one prisoner who travelled to a hospital, three times a week for dialysis.

Health promotion is firmly established within the prison. Various initiatives take place throughout the year and a calendar of events is worked through. Smoking cessation programs are well delivered, although relapse of smoking status is an issue. It is anticipated that a smoke-free wing will be achieved in the coming year.

A number of prisoners accessing healthcare were interviewed. There were no complaints and prisoners reported that they had experienced short waiting times and easy access to appointments. Some of them had been assisted by members of the prison staff, on their accommodation wings, in making appointments. Prisoners also commented on the helpful nature of the staff within the healthcare team.

Section 5.d. Purposeful activity – including work.

The Board is pleased to note considerable progress made by the prison in encouraging prisoners to leave their cells and engage in Purposeful activity. A number of admirable programmes are in place that seek to offer activities to prisoners that either meet specific needs or engage their interest and enthusiasm

The Library continues with the very successful “6 book challenge”, “Story Book Dads” (prisoners reading a book for their children which is recorded on CD or DVD and sent home), and a range of quizzes including one based on Harry Potter, and a spot on prison radio.

Additionally, the Library staff worked with a group of prisoners, representatives from the army and the local Bowes Museum on a project based on The Battle of the Somme. This entailed prisoners digging a wartime trench, using authentic tools. The army provided appropriate uniform for the prisoners working on the project and there is a photographic record of the progress of the work, which has been sepia tinted to look authentic. The kitchens were involved, supplying war-style food rations for the prisoners to try. This project was greeted with great enthusiasm by all involved, prisoner engagement was impressive and, following on from that, the project has now extended to teaching the prisoners wartime songs which they will be singing at the Remembrance Day service in November.

In September 2015, in order to improve the effectiveness of out of cell provision Deerbolt commenced weekly Activity Boards to review performance data for allocations and attendance. The Activity Board reviews prisoners with more complex cases, and those prisoners with a significant barrier to learning, including those who feel they would be at risk if they joined the bulk movement of prisoners to activities. A Gateway programme was launched in March 2016 to aim to address some of these issues as historically such prisoners would have had to stay on the wings to access learning. The Gateway initiative means they’re encouraged off the wings and are moved to class and back before

main movement. Gym staff and student workers are involved with engaging the prisoners to encourage them to join the Gateway initiative. This initiative is divided into two specific groups, one that is offence related, the other for those prisoners who are more difficult to manage.

It is clear that Deerbolt is now striving to tailor its provision to better suit the needs of prisoners. Prisoners much prefer active practical activity over academic study, and these activities can provide training relevant to the job market in the outside world. Some of the existing provision has been re-vamped, for example the recycling workshop now mends broken furniture within the prison so that it can be re-used and is saving some of the costs of buying replacements. There are plans to introduce some new initiatives, including the launch of a new Enterprise Academy. This will include a range of new activities to give “life skills” including simple cookery and general household tasks.

The new Motiv8 strategy was launched in September 2016 with the implementation of academy based working areas. The first one to launch was the Construction Academy. This will mean prisoners engaging in a full programme that meets academic needs within practical work rather than pulling prisoners out to attend stand-alone classes. The next one to be rolled out is the Horticulture Academy and there are plans to develop produce to sell to staff and visitors. There is currently a pop-up shop in the Visitor’s Centre which is being extended into the gate area, promoting social enterprise. A Hospitality Academy will then follow on to include catering and a new community café or bistro area is being considered. A Facilities Management Academy is also being planned, including waste management, recycling and cleaning services. Wing workers will be working in conjunction with NOVUS and the Industrial Cleaning tutor.

A new IT Academy launched in summer 2016 incorporates 22 learners of all levels delivering Entry level up to Level 2. This will expand to include the Virtual Campus. Each Academy will include their own functional and employability skills to improve overall outcomes for learners.

The print shop is looking to move towards a new direction within the work shop itself, and this will take time to embed. Although Deerbolt already does a lot of work for other prisons they are looking to develop more external contract work. The intention is to move the print shop and incorporate it in the IT Academy area.

The Laundry has changed the work it delivers. Prisoners are now able to wear their own clothes on the wing and these are washed using individual bags. The laundry is also seeking external work. In addition to the everyday activities, Deerbolt has made a range of other initiatives, e.g. prisoners and staff football matches, a sports day, and better use of the gym. Once again the kitchen staff organised a Christmas cake competition for prisoners which, as usual, showed very high standards of work.

As reported last year, the risk assessment of prisoners does make allocation of suitable provision quite difficult. The provision for prisoners classed as high risk (about 10%) is very limited. They can only access the gym, IT skills, Gateway and Employability courses. The IMB is aware of prisoners who have complained that they have done all the courses available to them.

Deerbolt has a fairly low number of prisoners who refuse activities and insist on remaining in their cells. However, with high levels of inter-prisoner violence, the Segregation unit has held quite high numbers of prisoners during the year who are kept segregated for their own protection, thus missing out on Education and other Activities. Some prisoners are there for a considerable time whilst the prison tries to arrange for them to be transferred to another prison and then awaits transport. It is disappointing that there hasn’t been any noticeable improvement in this situation over the past year.

The IMB is pleased to note that, although there is still some way to go, it is clear that there has been a real emphasis on getting prisoners out of cells and, at times, a tough approach has been adopted, the loss of IEPs for non-attendance at classes, etc. The tighter movement regime has retained prisoners in classes more effectively. Unfortunately, the prison does not routinely compile statistics on the

number of prisoners who don't leave their cells however this is something that the IMB has been monitoring and it appears that there has been a significant improvement over the year. The information which is available shows a much higher occupancy of provision, with only 50% attendance from those allocated last September to in excess of 80% from June 2016. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of all the new initiatives that are in the pipeline.

Section 5.e. Re-settlement

As highlighted in last year's annual report and further emphasised in our presentation to the 2016 IMB Annual Conference, Deerbolt YOI is not a Resettlement Prison, yet in the 12 months to 31st August 2016, only 55% of prisoners leaving Deerbolt went to resettlement prisons to be prepared for release. To repeat, this means 45% of prisoners were released direct from Deerbolt, having received quite limited preparation for re-entering the outside world, and having had no face to face contact with the Community Resettlement Company (CRC) in their home locality, which is charged both with supervising them during their licence period and also helping them to find accommodation and possible employment. The re-organisation of the Probation Service and introduction of CRCs was heralded as being a route to reducing re-offending, but as an IMB observing what happens in practice we can only report, that the new arrangements are not working nearly as well as they should.

The Deerbolt Offender Management Unit does its best to move prisoners to the Resettlement Prison in their home locality at the appropriate time. The obstacles they come up against include:

1. The receiving Prison does not respond.
This is a very common problem affecting up to 40% of applications. Either the receiving prison does not respond at all, or takes so long that the correct time for transfer has passed which is then given as a reason not to take the prisoner. Anecdotally one reason Resettlement Prisons are reluctant to take prisoners from their locality prior to their release is that in fact the prisoner has already passed some of his sentence in his local prison, and may have caused a lot of trouble in his time there including even assaults against staff. Such reluctance is of course understandable, but the fact is such troublesome (or troubled) prisoners may be even more in need of pre-release preparation and post release support than others, in order to lower their risk of re-offending.
2. Lack of Transport
It is frustrating that where a Receiving Prison has agreed to take an individual, the transfer often does not take place within the necessary time period, due to "Lack of Transport". Obviously it is very expensive to arrange transport for a single prisoner at a particular point in time, and evidently the transport contract with Amey was scoped before the concept of Resettlement Prisons was introduced. This issue could and should have been anticipated when Resettlement Prisons were announced.
3. Variable Resettlement Timing
The generally accepted plan is that prisoners should be at a Resettlement Prison local to their home 12 weeks before their release date. Some prisons (e.g. Hindley) require 12 months and do not want to take prisoners when they have less time to serve. By contrast Doncaster will only take prisoners one month before release. There is meant to be a national policy for resettlement but it would seem that not all prisons comply.
4. Sex Offenders
It seems to be virtually impossible for a Young Sex Offender to be accepted at a Resettlement Prison anywhere in the north of England. There may well be good reasons for this but it only

underlines the fact that Deerbolt, which houses such prisoners, must be equipped to provide full Resettlement training and services.

5. Prisoners sent to Deerbolt with less than 12 weeks still to serve.

Quite regularly, prisoners are sent to Deerbolt, who are found on arrival to have less than 12 weeks to serve. Again, there may be good reasons for this, but it means Deerbolt needs to be properly resourced and supported to release prisoners.

Section 5.f. Safer Custody

The first six months of 2016 has unfortunately seen a significant rise i.e. 300%, in self-inflicted deaths in custody in the North East and Yorkshire Region and it is with great sadness that we report a self-inflicted death at Deerbolt this year. Although the Inquest will not be held until well into 2017 we note that there has been no criticism of the actions taken by the prison before, during or after the incident by the external reviewers and our observations note a very professional and caring response by all the prison staff concerned. The Board welcomes the fact that the Deputy Director of Custody (DDC) for the North East and Yorkshire has made Safety one of his top priorities for the Region. The Listener Service in Deerbolt works effectively with a rota of Listeners in place and a Listener suite on E wing. In July 2016 there were eight Listeners compared to seven in July 2015.

We note that there were 218 recorded incidents of self-harm among prisoners during the reporting year compared with 165 the previous year. Regrettably this is an increase of 32% equating to more than one additional case every week. In conjunction with this 234 Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) documents were opened this year compared to 167 last year which is an increase of 40%. There are a number of prisoners who have multiple self-harm incidents which is a new feature for Deerbolt and significantly contributes to this increase. The new Distraction Box began to be used in April and the information is being collated on its usage with prisoners with Mental Health problems. The project has come to an end in August and the Board look forward to see the project review.

The Board makes every effort to speak to prisoners on open ACCT's and the reviews we have been able to attend have been well managed although some necessary improvements have been identified by the staff, such as the handover not always signed, healthcare not always asked to attend and feedback not always requested from workplace instructors. The Board has received training in the ACCT process and encouraged to open ACCT documents if required. It has been noted that there has been an increase in the number of prisoners being transferred into Deerbolt on open ACCT's without the prison being notified, preventing Deerbolt from making arrangements to support these new admissions with higher dependency needs.

Violent incidents in the prison are a concern for the Board with assaults on prisoners spiking at 75 in February 2016 during the year September 2015 to August 2016. By September 2016 this has reduced to 14, the same number as September 2015. Assaults on staff went from 0 in September 2015 and peaked at 10 in May 2016 but are now down to 2 in August 2016. There has been an increase of prisoners being placed on the Basic Regime under the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme (IEP) with 46 in June 2016 compared to 10 in June 2015. The Board would have thought that this would result in an increase in referrals to the Independent Adjudicator but this has in fact remained fairly constant with 280 this year and 287 last time. The Board is concerned about the ongoing safety in the prison and has noted that the serious assaults i.e. those requiring medical attention in hospital, for this reporting period, is fifty.

The change to the ad hoc movement of prisoners to a controlled supervised process has now been

in place a year (started October 2015). This was expected to:

Reduce prisoner on prisoner violence

Reduce assaults on staff.

Reduce the opportunity to distribute illicit substances, drugs and mobile phones.

Ensure prisoners remain in education/industry for the duration of their lesson.

The system appears to be embedded in everyday practice now although there are still some teething problems with nurses and tutors left with groups of prisoners for longer than the planned sessions awaiting the movement officers to take the prisoners back to their wings as well as during the Induction process with prisoners being left for long periods in the library with only the library staff and IMB members supervising them. This will be discussed as part of the Induction process review which the IMB have asked the Governor to undertake.

The twelve-month post of the Violence Reduction Co-ordinator has been a success and this has now been secured for a second year. Since September 2015 the Command Suite has not been opened and there have been no major incidents. The Violence Reduction Co-ordinator is working face to face with the prisoners on Violence Reduction restriction and is linking with security and residence to support his work. He also attends Rule 49 Boards, with the IMB, and has close interactions with those segregated for violence working closely on reintegration plans. The Board welcomes the additional funding which has been secured from Safer Prisons to fund this post as well as funding Mobile Phone Detectors and some Photo-chromatic Doors on the constant watch cells, which will now be dispersed around the prison instead of being concentrated on one wing. It is hoped that some of this funding can be used improving the exercise yard on Segregation with the inclusion of some exercise equipment.

The Governor is also investigating the procurement of a drone to support the reduction in the drug supply over the fence. Much of the violence in the prison has a basis in drug supply and use. The funding for the replacement window scheme to reduce access to illicit drugs thrown over the wall is welcome and the scheme is well on track. The additional fence patrols and the regular presence of Tactical Support dogs has also improved the situation and it is hoped they can continue.

Bullying continues to be an issue and the Board welcome the tougher stance the Governor is taking on the application of the stages of the Bullying process where there is a lower threshold for perpetrators to be brought to account.

Overall the violence is managed well and we note that within our comparator group of Brinford, Glen Parva and Aylesbury, as at August 2016 Deerbolt is the lowest for Staff Assaults, Prisoner Assaults and Use of Force, the second lowest for Fights but regrettably the highest per 1000 prisoners for self-harm. The prison finished this reporting year with a green rating for both Safer Custody and Security Audits.

Section 5.g. Segregation, Care and Separation, Close Supervision

‘2013-2014 was reported as a difficult year - 2014-2015 was no different.’ This was the opening line of our 2015 report, but this year we can report improvement. The **Board is pleased to note** that the number of Governor adjudications has returned to a normal and acceptable level – and this can be considered as a barometer of prisoners’ behaviour overall. For the previous reporting year adjudications averaged 9/10, sometimes as high as 13/14 per

day – for the current reporting period the average was much lower, varying between 3 and 8 per day. The regime has continued to work on the basis that the Care and Separation Unit (CSU) only holds those prisoners that cannot reasonably be returned to normal location. A **recent innovation** is to keep prisoners under CSU rules on residential ‘G’ wing, being one step to their return to normal location.

Board Members try to see all prisoners held in the CSU on their rota visits. Staff contact Board members by phone to inform them about special accommodation use, although the previously efficient system of alerting us to up-coming 72 hour Rule 49 Reviews **continues to be erratic**.

A total of 87 Rule 49 reviews were held, 17% down on the previous year, almost all attended by the IMB. It is a requirement of the IMB that they visit prisoners in their cells prior to Reviews to advise them of the role of the Board during the review, but, just as it was last year, this was hard to achieve due to staff not having time to escort the Board members to open cell doors.

The visiting Judge attends Deerbolt once per month and dealt with 280 cases compared to 287 in the previous year – an interesting figure when compared to the significant reduction in adjudications carried out by Deerbolt’s Governors. This implies a rise in cases of actual violence with fewer instances of “mis-behaviour”. IMB members continue to be very impressed with the professional, expeditious and ultimately fair manner in which the Judge deals with the cases presented to him.

The work of the staff in the CSU **continues to be challenging**. The IMB note that this year fewer of the prisoners in segregation were colloquially categorised as “poor copers”, but rather more of them had either committed violent acts and/or displayed clear signs of mental illness. Deerbolt Senior Management have not lost sight of this and give the staff their full support. The Governing Governor continues to make it his business to visit the Unit on a very regular basis, much to the **satisfaction and morale of the staff** on the Unit.

It was reported in the 2013 - 2014 period that the showers were in a poor state. Funding was received in October 2015 to refurbish the showers, but the work has not been carried out, although it is planned for November 2016. On a positive note, all of the windows of the units’ cells have been replaced with the non-opening venting type, and all of the cells and corridors have been decorated. The staff room promised this time last year has yet to materialise.

The Segregation Monitoring and Review Group (SMARG) meet quarterly with IMB in attendance. In these meetings individual cases are discussed in detail and plans for each segregated prisoner are developed, with the objective of a return to normal location. The date and time of the meeting continues to be subject to far too many changes leading to attendance problems.

Section 5.h. Residential Services

During the year under report, the reporting line and location of the catering manager have been placed within the management centre for residences. This move has facilitated communication about the domestic needs of prisoners and has improved day-to-day resolution of problems.

The Governor and management have taken advantage of a shortfall in the prisoner roll to make improvements to security and facilities within the wings. In particular, the occupants of cells adjacent to the perimeter fence were moved to a wing away from the perimeter, in order to interrupt a supply route for drugs and mobile phones. This temporary measure was followed up by the installation of new, secure windows in the relevant cells in B and C wings, as funds allowed, and with the fitting of protective grills where new windows could not yet be funded, for the medium term. In our judgement these changes have had a transformative effect on the life of the prison, bringing about a significant reduction in drug and phone related debt and violence. It has also led to a reduction in the quantity of litter and rubbish left on the grass around the wings: it is hoped this may help to reduce the rodent population around the prison.

Since our last report, funding has become available for the refurbishing of showers in F wing, and the work has been undertaken. The showers on B wing still require renewal.

Last year's report identified a problem about damage to prisoners' kit. This has been addressed by the introduction of new kit issue bags which enable the individual prisoner's kit to be identified and kept together through the laundry process. The effect of this change has been a dramatic cut in the cost of kit replacement, which had been at an unacceptably high level. The laundry is now able to offer residents a twice-weekly kit wash.

In April a new policy allowing residents to wear their own clothes while in the wings was introduced. Consideration is being given to the extension of this policy to include other areas in the prison.

A programme of wing refurbishment has been begun; this includes minor changes to the furnishing of cells, the installing of new curtains, and re-decoration. This is proceeding rather slowly owing to the difficulty of securing staff (either from the prison works department, or from the normal wing staff) to undertake the work. The Board would urge that this work be prioritised in order to improve the environment in which prisoners spend so much of their time.

A start has been made in implementing the non-smoking policy in the prison, with the designation of a few landings as no-smoking areas. Preparations are in hand to extend this the whole of one wing.

Within the strict limits imposed by funding and by the age and condition of the prison buildings, we believe that those responsible for the Residences are now making adequate provision for the domestic needs and living conditions of young offenders.

The kitchen staff has been subject to a good deal of stress and change over the last year, partly through members moving on and partly through sickness and the effect of personal bereavements. This has not been allowed to impair the standard of provision, though it has meant that the training kitchen has not always been in operation and that food safety controls have been tested to the limits. The year under report ends with staffing almost complete and with the kitchen machinery in working order.

The use of Food Comments Books has almost completely ceased. This makes it more difficult for the Board to monitor the perceived quality of food provided to prisoners. Wing staff claim that the books are no longer relevant, since complaints are rapidly relayed by word of mouth. They also point to the opportunities provided by the PCC meeting and the normal complaints procedures for the expression of prisoners' reactions to their meals. Nonetheless, this remains a cause for the Board's concern.

The provision of 'themed nights' has been extended by the introduction of a competition between wings: the wing judged to be cleanest after a hygiene inspection is given the opportunity to choose its own themed night.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that many residents think the breakfast provision inadequate, in quantity at least. Current proposals for weekly packs of cereals and powdered drinks will result in an increase in quantity, though there are legitimate concerns about other consequences of this proposal.

The kitchen keeps an up-to-date Food Log book, recording the temperature of food at the point of production and distribution. Statistics from this data are drawn up and published.

There is no communal eating for prisoners at Deerbolt: all meals are eaten in cells. Though there are several hurdles in the way of making communal eating possible, the Board believes that this should be explored as a means of improving the quality of residents' social life and interaction with one another and with officers.

The kitchens are to be congratulated on making good and effective provision for Ramadan, altering the staff detail in order to facilitate the provision of hot food to participating prisoners.

Section 6 The Work of the Board

The work of the Board in monitoring and observing all aspects of prison life to ensure fair and humane treatment of Prisoners could not be done without co-operation from members of prison staff in all departments. We remain very grateful for the help we receive despite the considerable pressures imposed on staff in the present environment.

We said goodbye to one member during the year, because she has a number of important and responsible voluntary roles in the community locally and reached a point where something had to give. Unfortunately for us it was IMB, but knowing well all her other commitments we respect her decision unequivocally, and are very grateful for the many years work she did at Deerbolt. Another member was "on Sabbatical" throughout the year. Her husband was extremely ill, and sadly died in November 2015. I am pleased to say that she is now taking up the IMB reins again and we are very glad to welcome her back.

Meanwhile we ran a recruitment campaign, attracting 4 excellent new members, thanks to support in publicity from local newspapers.

The work of the Board is ably supported by our Clerk, who as well as providing administration for all our activities, is an essential mine of information, helping us to know which member of prison staff we should approach to follow up on Prisoners' problems. The Board is extremely grateful for the work she does and the efficient and cheerful way she does it. We appreciate that being IMB Clerk is only one of many important duties she has in the prison,

As Chair I want to thank each and every one of my IMB colleagues for their unstinting efforts for the prison and for their support to me.

John Stoney -Chair

Section 7. Statistical Appendices 2015/2016

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Recommended Board Complement	14	14	14	14
Number of Board Members at start	11	10	11	10
Number of Board members at end	10	11	10	13
Number of new members joining	3	4	0	14
Number of members leaving	1	3	1	1
Number of attendances to the prison (other than Board Meetings)	274	226	296	259
Number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	362	310	408	356
Total number of applications	74	101	129	85
Total number of Rule 49 Reviews held	135	109	105	87
Total number of Rule 49 Reviews attended.	135	107	103	86

Applications analysis

Code	Subject	Year 12/13	Year 13/14	Year 14/15	Year 15/16
A	Accommodation	0	0	5	0
B	Adjudications	4	4	9	4
C	Equality & Diversity (inc religion)	1	0	8	0
D	Education/employment/training inc IEP	9	7	9	12
E 1	Family/visits inc mail & phone	10	10	7	12
E 2	Finance/pay	7	6	6	2
F	Food/kitchen related	2	3	3	3
G	Health related	0	1	0	5
H 1	Property (within current establishment)	7	7	8	10
H 2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	3	7	5	5
H 3	Canteen, facilities, Catalogue shopping, Argos	0	0	2	2
I	Sentence related (inc. HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-cat etc)	2	9	10	3
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee concerns inc bullying	3	10	22	16
K	Transfers	5	10	24	4
L	Miscellaneous	24	27	12	7
	Total number of IMB applications	77	101	129	85
	Of total: Confidential Access	0	1	2	0