



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at

HMP Gartree

for reporting year
1 December 2015 to 30 November 2016

Published
19 June 2017



Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

STATUTORY role of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB)

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison to be monitored by an Independent Board appointed by The Secretary of State for Justice from members of the community in which the prison or 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 to prepare them for release.
- (2) Promptly inform the Secretary of State, or any official with delegated authority, 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 the impact these have had on those in its custody.

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

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3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

Category / purpose / population

HMP Gartree first opened in 1965 as a category C training prison, and has seen its 50th anniversary in the past reporting year. In 1992 its role changed when it became a category B male prison with an emphasis on housing prisoners with indeterminate and long-term sentences. It remains a category B prison.

The prison is located just north of Market Harborough in Leicestershire, just off the A6, and is roughly equidistant between Northampton and Leicester. The prison remains within the public sector and is operated by the prison Service.

The Certified Normal Accommodation is 708 with an Operational Capacity of 714 as of the 30/11/2016.

On the 30/11/2016 the breakdown of the prisoners held at Gartree was:

- Life sentenced prisoners 638
- Indeterminate sentenced prisoners 68

The layout of the establishment is now based upon 9 wings. The original 4 are laid out in a 'H' block style forming A, B, C and D wings, each containing around 100 cells on three landings. The two most recently built wings; G and H are located south of the original complex, are much longer and have cells on two levels. The smaller E wing provides a 12 cell Separation and Progression Unit (SAPU), F wing is now dedicated to hold the Gartree Therapeutic Community (GTC) and an additional unit: Therapeutic Community Plus (TC+) holds up to 12 prisoners with particular learning disabilities and low IQ. Part of H wing now houses the Psychological Informed Planned Environment unit (PIPE) which holds 58 prisoners and the other spur of H Wing is now a dedicated over 50's unit for 60 of Gartree's older prisoners. G wing has historically been a designated 'drug free' wing but was not a substance free and drug recovery wing during this reporting period. I wing, which had been the Induction wing for new prisoners, was given a new role during the year and now accommodates prisoners who are awaiting transfer to a Category C prison. The accommodation on I wing is in shared cells and the wing also has a TV lounge.

For most of the reporting period B wing has been the dedicated 'Induction wing' where new arrivals were placed alongside other men on the wing. However, towards the end of the reporting period new arrivals are now dispersed throughout the establishment

4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Matters for the Minister

Purposeful Activity.

As before, the Board continues to be concerned about the lack of meaningful employment in some workshops, with many men found to be in the workplace with nothing to do. The Industry Manager's attempts to build partnerships with external industries and suppliers of material are often frustrated. It is recognised that some external industries are challenged by current economic conditions and that work may not be supplied into the prison because they themselves need to find new markets. However, instances occur where the workshop is questionably accused of poor quality output as justification for withdrawing work

There are shining examples of good practice nevertheless. The Braille workshop excels, The Gardens Department is expanding its operation, the Woodworking workshop produces quality products and the textile workshops are impressive.

The Board notes and understands the policy to allocate work to prisoners who do not apply for vacancies of their choice but where there is no work coming in, it becomes self-defeating. The lack of work in some workshops spills out onto the Wings where those prisoners who are 'Confined to Cell' have no in-cell work for a distraction.

The Board would like to see the Minister do more to encourage and incentivise industry to work across the prison estate.

Property Losses.

There has been a 20% rise in the number of prisoner complaints relating to property. The problem is acute where the prisoner is transferred from another establishment and the property doesn't follow. This is often because the transport is not equipped to carry the number of property bags a prisoner serving a long sentence accumulates so it gets left behind. Communication between the sending and receiving prison has all but broken down. Requests for information are often simply ignored. The Board will be following the lead taken elsewhere and ask the prisoner to refer his complaint to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman rather than the IMB. It takes an inordinate amount of time with very little chance of success.

The Board will however continue to investigate losses where they have occurred within the home establishment. Responses to requests for information are poor with lengthy waits, probably because the contact is usually an SMT Manager who perceives these to be low priority issues. They aren't. It produces a lot of anger and frustration amongst the prisoners.

Issues for the Governors

Illegal Substances.

The Board recognises that the increased quantity and nature of illegal substances entering prisons is a national one. The Board also accepts that although the most likely point of entry is during Visits and that great improvements have been made to manage these sessions, illegal substances are still entering the establishment. It is with some considerable alarm and amazement that the Board even finds that illegal substances have been found in the Segregation Unit and would urge the Governors to increase efforts to make the movement of these drugs as difficult as possible.

TV Monitors in the Visits Hall are seldom if ever all fully operational, making it even more difficult for or staff to check for passes and TV monitors in Communications designed to watch for 'throw-overs' around the perimeter are also affected. Some throwovers have been brought to the attention of the prison by the general public to alert the prison to suspicious activity. With the advent of the use of drones this is likely to continue.

Segregation and Progression Unit.

In the reporting period, the Board has become increasingly concerned about the lack of consistency in the way the prison has implemented the changes to the Reviewing and Authorisation of Continuing Segregation. There is a lack of consistency in which Governors chair the Boards and they are sometimes not fully prepared. An electronic recording system suggested/developed by one Governor to better prepare other Governors for the Reviews seems to have been largely ignored.

The Board is also concerned about the growing use of segregation for prisoners under Rule 45 and Rule 53. In some instances, these men are segregated for long periods of time and have little contact with other people. Many refuse to attend their Reviews. Staff shortages make it difficult to escort the prisoners for showers, exercise and telephone calls.

We are also concerned as to why on occasion some men are allowed to designate themselves as self isolating and as such get no access to daily routine visits from Healthcare, Chaplaincy, IMB Rota etc.

Staffing Levels.

The Board continues to be concerned about the changes to the prison population including younger men and those arriving earlier in their sentence. This has had a destabilising effect and instances of staff sickness that are stress related are reported as being high. Escorts for hospital visits, constant watches, escorts for prisoners confined to cell for exercise, showers etc. are impacted. The Board recognises the difficulties of recruitment and staff retention in the current climate but urges the Prison to continue its efforts to recruit and manage staff absences.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Equality and Diversity

The Equality Action Team (EAT) was set up to deal with a range of issues which impact upon many areas of prison life. These issues are monitored to assist in building an overarching view of equality and diversity issues throughout the establishment.

The EAT should meet every two months but the meetings have not been happening on a regular basis. At the start of the reporting period the then Governor (Phil Novis) had expressed concern that the system allowing prisoners to raise issue had not been operating effectively. He introduced a 'secret shopper' exercise to test whether Discrimination Incident Report Forms (DIRFs) submitted by prisoners on various wings were actually arriving at their intended destination. Some issues were found and addressed. A subsequent Governor (Ian West) also acknowledged that there had been some issues with the DIRF procedures.

The Board has been concerned about the lack of resource given to dealing with equality and diversity issues at Gartree over the reporting period but as mentioned in previous reports this area suffers because uniformed staff within the team are not full time and therefore more often than not are pulled off to cover general duties throughout the establishment. This has caused problems for some of the men prisoners are waiting for clothing or other items which they have been prescribed through medical referral and are not processed by the Equalities Team because of lack of staff resource.

Prisoners have also expressed some concerns over the effectiveness of Equality monitoring but are aware of the staff resource issues.

5.2 Healthcare / Mental Health

Over the past twelve months the healthcare provider Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) was retained to provide primary healthcare services within Gartree, following a delay in the contract renewal. This decision allowed several new members of staff to be recruited, which has seen some much needed stability and a boost in staff morale.

As part of the Quality Review carried out by NHS England in 2015 *Service User Engagement Forums* were held to allow the local patient community to raise issues and concerns. An Action Plan was drawn up and a timetable for monthly forums was published. The healthcare staff have worked hard to communicate and consult with the service users and feedback received via the Prisoner Council is that these Patient Forums have had positive benefits.

Over the reporting period the contract for the provision of mental health care services has been split between LPT who are responsible for primary mental health and In-Reach (Northants Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) who

provide secondary care, including specialist mental health services, appointments with a psychiatrist and transfers to outside hospital under sections of the Mental Health Act. Both mental health teams work together to meet the needs of the population and send representatives to the prison Safer Custody Meetings and attend Assessment Care in Custody team (ACCT) reviews. IMB members have often been advised that referrals to mental health care services can take time. This can cause issues particularly for those men with more serious mental health issues, who are segregated and awaiting appointments or referral to an outside hospital

Healthcare figures

	2015	2016
Successful hospital appointments	706 (80%)	714 (72%)
Cancelled hospital appointments <input type="checkbox"/> Appointments can also be cancelled as a result of prisoner refusing to attend / transfers / re booked	169	266
Cancelled by hospital		81
Cancelled by prison		90
Unplanned hospital appointments		108
Bedwatches	21	18

Following the introduction of E- Prescribing (in January 2015) and changes to the way prison officers oversee and regulate the attendance of men in the healthcare department, queues for medications have reduced as have incidents related to bullying of vulnerable prisoners. A separate dispensary hatch was finally opened on G Wing in 2016, enabling the men on the 'drugs free and recovery' wing direct access to their medications and also making it easier for some of the older prisoners from H Wing to access their prescriptions.

Healthcare waiting list figures

	2014	2015	2016
Average wait for dentistry appoint (10 weeks	2 weeks	12 weeks
Wait for Opticians appointment	15 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks
Number of men on waiting list for smoking cessation	138	57	5

Figures provided by the healthcare team at HMP Gartree

Healthcare issues

As with the previous reporting year there is concern that the growing number of older prisoners combined with the increasing numbers of men requiring operations or hospital treatment (especially for those diagnosed with terminal illness) continue to increase the pressure on prison staff for hospital escorts and bed watches. If staffing issues are not resolved then the number of appointments cancelled will continue to grow.

In addition to meeting medical needs there are also challenges of meeting the social care needs of a growing number of ageing prisoners within the secure environment. Leicestershire County Council is now visiting the establishment to work with Healthcare and the prison to ensure that where prisoners meet the criteria for social care a suitable care plan is provided.

As violence continues to increase and drugs continue to enter the establishment it does appear to be impacting on healthcare services at Gartree. Daily briefing reports show that healthcare staff are called to incidents where men are believed to be under the influence.

It has been reported that users 'look after each other' when they have taken New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and behaviour becomes erratic. The drug reduction and advisory service (STaRT) ensures prisoners (and staff) are kept informed of issues/problems relating to drugs and work hard to promote reduction of drug usage and rehabilitation.

The smoking ban due to be introduced in 2017 may place additional demands on healthcare services.

5.3 Safer Custody

There is a worrying increase in the incidence of actual self harm by 24% from the previous year and threats to self harm up by 33% (as shown in the table below). The rise in actual self harm matches almost exactly the rise seen across the prison estate. If the causes of self harm are the same as elsewhere, the main factors are attributed to drug taking, bullying and violence.

There is also an increased preponderance of self harm amongst those prisoners who are serving indeterminate sentences (IPP). According to the Prison Reform Trust, 81% of IPP prisoners are being held longer than their original tariff, which on average is for a period of 44 months, although many are held for much longer. Again according to the Prison Reform Trust, an IPP prisoner is more than twice more likely to self harm than one who has received a life sentence. At Gartree, the Offender Management Unit recognises that the lack of clarity on IPP sentencing leads to a great deal of anger and frustration amongst those who are so sentenced, and who are without any target to work towards in terms of progression.

Debt is a major problem within the prison and where it occurs, it is largely due to drugs trafficking. Men under threat because of non-payment seek to achieve protection within the SAPU or Confined to Cell on the wings and they may self isolate and seek transfers out. The debt however will generally follow or even be attached to the vacant cell from which the prisoner has been transferred. As said elsewhere, in this report, there is a paramount need to make the entry of drugs into the prison as difficult as is possible.

Method of self harm		
	2015	2106
Razor	35	47
Scratching	2	2
Head butting	1	0
Punching	3	2
Burning	1	1
Protest	3	1
Various tablets	5	15
Bedding/clothing/various electrical leads	6	6
Unknown	82	110
Pen / pencil	1	0
Plastic cutlery	0	2
glass	3	2
Swallowing razor blade	0	0
Figures provided by Safer Custody Team HMP Gartree		

As the table below shows, it is encouraging to see that the number of ACCT's opened (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork) during the reporting period has reduced slightly from the previous years. As above, whilst the number of prisoners threatening self harm has increased, the number of ACCTS opened because of prisoners in low mood has fallen. Credit to all those staff who would be involved in the management of that.

Reasons ACCT document is opened		
	2015	2106
Hanging	4	2
Cuts minor	42	41
Cuts major (require sutures)	6	3
Overdose	5	13
Food refusal	5	0
Threats to self harm	20	31
Low in mood	57	45
TOTAL	139	135
Transferred in open ACCT	3	3
Figures provided by Safer Custody Team HMP Gartree		

5.4 Segregation and Progression Unit - SAPU

The Board has taken note of the changing nature of the residents of the SAPU in that the incidence of violence and mentally ill men has increased dramatically. This has put enormous strain of the SAPU staff who have coped very well under extremely challenging circumstances.

The Board has been concerned about the increasing number of men in the SAPU and those segregated (and confined to cell) on the Wings. When the SAPU is full, as many as 14 to 15 men can also be segregated on the wings, putting additional pressures on staff who are required to escort them for exercise, showers, telephone calls etc. Many of these men are there because they believe themselves to be under threat, largely because of unpaid debt, adding more pressure to staffing.

The Board notes the difficulties of transferring some men from the SAPU to other establishments because of behavioural problems either current or historic. In some cases, men have been in the SAPU or segregated for many months. We would like to see a more scientific approach to prisoner exchanges based on specific criteria rather than what feels like informal conversations. We urge that prisoners who are clearly mentally ill are

afforded more support from health professionals in order to move them to more suitable establishments.

We do not understand how drugs continue to find their way into the Segregation Unit. Similarly, implements that enable fires to be started are also being imported. In both cases, this has to stop. The Prison needs to find ways of achieving this.

5.5 Education

This continues under a contract with Milton Keynes College which is a major provider of education to the Prison Service.

The mandatory requirement is to undertake Level 1 & 2 English and Maths for those prisoners without these qualifications. The Level 1 maths has recorded a 100% pass rate, whilst the Level 2 maths and Levels 1 & 2 English have pass rates of 80-85%. The Education department is working on increasing the engagement of those who should be taking these courses but are not doing so.

Eleven GCSEs are now on offer (arabic is a new addition) and during the year 79 were completed – 4 A* grades, 7 As, 14 Bs and 15 Cs were attained. A course for gym instructors is nearly complete – in future this will be run by the Gym staff. The Board is pleased to note that the level 3 PETALS course for Teaching Assistants has been reinstated and that prisoners are once again able to apply for funding for this and other courses at Level 3 and above. The Education Department are introducing an element of Citizenship training, focussing on British values, in their training with the intention of boosting levels of tolerance. This is a commendable initiative.

Another praiseworthy initiative is that the Department are striving to offer qualifications which are work-based and can be gained by those in employment – an example is an NVQ in textiles which can be taken by those working in the Textiles workshops. Similarly qualifications can also be achieved by those working in the Painting and Decorating Workshop.

5.6 Reducing reoffending

For the reporting period 2015 -16 the following programmes have been delivered at Gartree

TSP - Thinking Skills Programme - 2 groups with 10 men starting on each
RESOLVE (Not an acronym) - 3 groups with 27 men completing
HRP - The Healthy Relationships Programme (High Intensity) - 2 groups with 8 men starting on each
VRP - The Violence Reduction Programme - 2 groups with 10 men starting on each
NMS - New Me Strengths - Pilot group run with 7 men completing

There continue to be some challenges in terms of the referral process which is used to identify the most suitable Offending Behavior Programme (OBP) for the right prisoner at the right time, which can affect the waiting lists across all of the programmes. This has led to issues in achieving the targets set out in the Service Level Agreement for the period regarding the number of men completing OBP's.

Several NoC's (notification of change) have been submitted during the period to request in year changes to be made to the SLA targets. All of these have been agreed and authorised by the commissioners.

So despite challenges the programme delivery model has been met but we believe that there needs to be more work done in ensuring the referral process identifies the right prisoner for the correct programme.

We have still received some complaints where men have expressed frustration that this has not happened.

5.7 Purposeful Activity

The issue which we raised in last year's report and which has been highlighted previously by HMIP, namely that of the mundane level of the work available and the frequent lack of material supplies leading to insufficient work for the prisoners to undertake continues to bedevil the Industries division. The Board's visits to the workshops often reveal the workforce to be reading their newspapers, playing cards etc. because there is insufficient material for them to work on. The staff from the Industries Department report frustration in their attempts to get external suppliers to maintain continuity.

There is a hard core of about 100 prisoners who refuse to engage in employment and there is a proposal to remove their daily £0.50 payment unless they take on employment. It is debatable whether this will provide a sufficient stimulus to encourage these prisoners to take up employment. The rest of the population is engaged in employment except for those in education, those who are over 65 years of age or those who are excused on health grounds.

The Braille workshop, which was just commencing at the end of the last reporting period is now underway, employing 15 prisoners, 6 of whom now have RNIB qualifications, with more to follow. The woodworking workshop continues to demonstrate the high quality of work that can be produced. They produce a catalogue of goods which can be ordered by staff, visitors etc. Half of the proceeds from these sales, currently some £600, are due to be given to charity, the remainder covering the material costs. Prisoners in the textiles workshops, which now appears to be less affected by intermittent material supplies, are now able to undertake an NVQ. The Gardens department is expanding the area of land under cultivation and has recently taken delivery of some fruit trees which will form the nucleus of an orchard which is intended to

supply fruit to the prison kitchens. These are all examples of good practice which is to be commended.

Industries staff are rolling out a scheme to award certificates to prisoners who engage meaningfully in employment in the hope that these will aid employment applications on eventual release.

5.8 Residence

The Board believes the conversion of I Wing into a residence for prisoners awaiting transfer to a C Category prison to be a major success. The amenities include a television room, dining room and small garden, all contributing to a relaxed atmosphere. Prisoners' attitudes towards the wing have always been very positive, there is a good community feeling prevalent. The unit is well managed.

During the reporting period B Wing became an Induction Wing, onto which new arrivals were placed (on transfer from other establishments) before dispersal to other wings. There were reports of problems with the regular residents of the wing being disrupted by the turnover of new arrivals coming and going. Some of these incoming prisoners can be more challenging men, who may have been exchanged for some of Gartree's more difficult men, causing problems on the wing. There were also times when, because of increased movement across the prison estate, the arriving numbers at any one time were difficult to manage. The use of B Wing as the induction wing has now ceased and new arrivals are now dispersed across the wings following consultation with staff and prisoners.

The shower areas on G Wing are a source of perpetual complaint. The flooring lifts, the paint peels away with mould coming through and there is an unpleasant smell. In summer, it attracts a lot of flies. There have been several attempts to rectify this problem but without any lasting success, perhaps through use of cheap materials or poor workmanship. The Board would like the necessary improvements made to solve these issues once and for all.

The equipment in the prisoners own kitchens on the wings are variable in their condition. There are too many examples of hobs, grills, microwaves and fridges either not fully operational in some way or simply not working. Whilst understanding budget constraints, we would like to see a review of all kitchen equipment. When they don't function it is a source of frustration for prisoners who have to queue to use the remaining functional items in very limited available time.

5.9 Food, Catering and Kitchens

The prison kitchen is visited regularly on the IMB weekly Rota and the food sampled is found to be appetizing. Some of the men have commented on the portion sizes, but new arrivals into Gartree have also said that the food here is much better than what they have had elsewhere.

The kitchen staff are working with limited budgets and yet are able to provide a wide range of healthy meals to accommodate various dietary and cultural needs.

At times they have had vacancies for workers but this seems to have resolved itself. There have been issues raised by the kitchen staff in terms of getting broken equipment repaired or replaced, and this continues to be a problem as it seems that there is confusion as to whether it is the prison or AMEY who is responsible.

During the reporting period the kitchen has started to offer a selection of bread and cakes for sale to staff, under the umbrella of their "Reform Bakery", an initiative that is to be applauded.

6. ADDITIONAL REPORTS

6.1 Staffing levels

In the Annual Report for 2014/15 the Board noted concerns about the adequacy of staff resources. Nevertheless pressures remain significant and the allocated resource provides insufficient contingency for the inevitable escorts, constant watch requirements and hospital bed watches.

The Board is concerned that there are still not enough staff on duty, especially at weekends and bank holidays, to maintain control and a safe and secure environment in which to enable the men to benefit from a full regime. Imposition of a restricted regime denies prisoners time out of cell, affects activities such as employment, education, healthcare appointments and results in otherwise avoidable changes to the daily regime including

Staff sickness levels are high and cause some concern in relation to the added pressure placed on the staff left to cover and the effects this has on the regime and prisoners activities. The staff compliment is 138, and at the time of writing there were only 107 available for work. Much of the sickness absence is stress related and staff often return on light duties.

The Prison has continued to recruit through out the reporting period and has made every effort to manage staff absences. A new core day is to be introduced that should result in more staff being deployed on the wings at busy times of the day.

It is apparent to the IMB on their regular visits that the contingency needs are not adequately provided for in terms of staff resource allocations. Failure to adequately resource establishments like Gartree creates frustrations for prisoners, adds additional pressures to hard working staff already undertaking a stressful role, and is in the Board's view a false economy.

6.2 Security

In the past year the main issues have been;

- Positive introduction of CCTV cameras on B Wing
- Repairs to cameras on the perimeter and around the establishment
- But, there have been some issues with monitors in the Visits Hall and in Comms
- Dogs (no local dedicated team on site all the time) but the East Midlands Team routinely visit Gartree and have played an important role in intercepting and finding drugs and hooch within the establishment.

The reported finds of phones / drugs / hooch / weapons has increased since last year. There have also been several incidents involving passes in the Visits Hall.

6.3 Chaplaincy

The Board is pleased to note that, after a very long gap, the vacant Anglican Chaplain post was finally filled during the reporting year. This has greatly reduced the load on the other chaplains and ensured that all of the faiths are now covered. At a time when levels of drug usage, assaults on staff, self-harm etc. are all on the rise the role of chaplain assumes an increased importance and it is noteworthy that the new Anglican Chaplain has adopted a very visible profile in the prison.

6.4 Works / AMEY

We reported last year that the Amey contract had provided problems across all operational areas as well as kitchen equipment and general maintenance. This year has seen improvements but there have been too many instances of complaints from the Kitchen regarding service levels in maintaining and repairing equipment. There was no clear direction as to what were Amey's responsibility what service or equipment should be ordered directly from supplies. The defining criteria seem to centre round whether the equipment has a plug on it or not.

Planned improvements are regular meetings and improved communications with Amey which will go a long way improve this partnership.

There is a major rodent infestation in the prison. Although professionals have been called in this remains an on-going issue with a far greater degree of intensive waste management required. Food waste and packaging are all too often seen piling up and left to sit around outside.

6.5 Supply of drugs into the prison / Substance Abuse

Mandatory Drug Testing figures continue to show that drugs are available and used inside Gartree. These drugs can fuel aberrant, irrational and violent behaviour, which means that they not only present substantial dangers to

those who use them, but also to other prisoners and staff.

The prison makes efforts to prevent these drugs entering the prison. The Security Department regularly carry out cell searches and monitors intelligence, and there have been some successful interceptions. However, a supply of drugs is still finding its way into Gartree and the Board is concerned that over the past reporting period the prevalence of drugs appears to be increasing.

The Board was encouraged by the new legislation introduced in the past year to deter those dealing or assisting in the distribution of drugs and addictive substances. However, legislating and applying sanctions to those who supply and use the drugs is only a part of the necessary and urgent response. The Board believes that the testing equipment for NPS is expensive, but if it not adequately provided the benefits of the recent legislation will be diminished. Similarly, it is important that adequate staff resources are made available to allow frequent searching and close monitoring of behaviour to be undertaken. In addition staff numbers need to be sufficient to ensure that they can maintain a strong and challenging presence which makes the illicit use and passing of drugs much more difficult.

Over the reporting period there has also been an increase in the number of finds of prisoners manufacturing illicit alcohol.

6.6 Property

The issue of prisoner property is still a major concern to the Board, which we comment on every year. When a prisoner is transferred from another establishment they are often separated from their property. Problems occur particularly when the sending prison is slow or even unresponsive to the receiving prison over lost property issues, thus causing unnecessary frustration and anxiety for the prisoner. This is a fundamental problem throughout the prison system and requires serious attention.

As a Board we have now decided that we will no longer deal with complaints from prisoners who are chasing up property that has been lost at or not arrived from other establishments. If the prisoner has exhausted the official complaint procedure without satisfaction we will now advise them to pursue the matter through the Prison and Probation Ombudsman.

6.7 Serious Incidents

Board members attended the following serious incidents during the year;

Incident Type	Number	Command Suite opened	Tornado Team called	Local Response Team
Hostage incident	1	yes	yes	
Incidents at height	1	yes		yes
Barricade	1	yes		yes
POA Action	1	Yes		

The Board believes that these incidents were managed efficiently, calmly and humanely. The prison has well developed procedures for handling such matters and Board members have been impressed by the professionalism shown by all of the staff involved.

In addition the board has also been aware (through daily briefing information) of an increasing number of other incidents, although not classed as serious, which have involved indiscipline and/or violence.

6.8 Deaths in Custody

Sadly, during the currency of this report a total of 3 deaths in custody have occurred.

6.9 Smoking

Gartree has been considering the requirement to introduce 'no smoking' within the establishment with a degree of caution. Some promotional work has been undertaken by the healthcare provider to encourage attendance at smoking cessation classes, and the use of NHS approved items designed to diminish tobacco addiction.

To prepare for the wider introduction of the smoking ban management A wing was designated as a non-smoking wing, but no further rolling out of this to other wings has occurred during the reporting period. Late summer or autumn 2017 is the likely time for the establishment to be fully smoke free.

E-cigarettes are now available on the canteen but these devices do offer scope for misuse.

6.10 Criminal Justice Secure Mail (CJSM)

The Criminal Justice Secure Mail (CJSM) computer package is a secure e-mail system enabling IMB Members (and many others working in the criminal

justice system) to communicate confidentially to one another. It is a vital tool for our day to day work.

Unfortunately the system can be very slow, erratic and challenging to use and it is also inadequate in terms of capacity. During the working day CJSM can frequently be difficult if not impossible to access and use within a reasonable time. Concerns have been raised with the Secretariat about this and it would appear that some minor adjustments have been made. However, this facility remains a major source of frustration to Board members who as volunteers have limited time to use and access the system, which provides useful information and updates

7. The Work of the Independent Monitoring Board

7.1 Board Statistics

Board Statistics	14/15	15/16
Recommended Complement of Members	15	15
No. of Members at the start of the reporting period	8	10
No. of Members at the end of the reporting period	10	8
No. of Members joining during the reporting period	5	3
No. of Members leaving during the reporting period *	3	5
Total no. of Board meetings during reporting period	12	12
No. of attendances at meetings other than of the Board**	533	412
Total no. of segregation reviews attended***	256	341
Total no. of SEg Reviews held	52	85
Total no. of Applications received	231	274

**Board membership has been sadly affected by loss of one long serving member during the reporting period through bereavement, and one through ill health.*

*** to include weekly meeting with Governor / departmental meetings / APPS / Rota visits / reviews etc.*

**** Segregation reviews (Rule 45) usually take place on a Wednesday but occasionally, on a Monday or Friday too.*

7.2 Board reporting arrangements

Members of the Board make a Rota Visit to the prison each week. During the course of these visits the Segregation Unit and kitchen will always be visited, along with other wings and areas of the prison as per a rolling programme. Board members are also encouraged to visit an 'area of their choice'. This broad coverage during rota visits helps to ensure that areas of concern are promptly and regularly monitored. Weekly Rota Reports are then passed to the Governor for observations, which are fed back to the Board for review and discussion at the monthly Board meetings.

A named Board Member is 'on call' each week and they become the initial point of contact for any serious incidents. If a call is received then they will liaise with another board member to arrange a rota for on going attendance, should the incident be likely to continue for more than several hours. Board members who have attended an incident are responsible for preparing a report of the event and how it was handled.

7.3 IMB Applications

CODE	SUBJECT	14/15	15/16
A	Accommodation	7	11
B	Adjudications/IEP	11	9
C	Equality and Diversity related	3	3
D	Education/employment/training / IEP	12	9
E	Family/visits / Finance & pay	9	15
F	Food/kitchen related	3	4
G	Health related	11	23
H	Property	80	99
I	Sentence related	17	27
J	Bullying	20	11
K	Transfers	11	14
L	Miscellaneous	23	18

M	Not appropriate	6	6
	TOTAL	213	249

During the year the Chairman received 6 Confidential Access complaints, all of which were pursued and resolved.

7.4 Segregation Reviews

IMB members attend the Rule 45 Segregation reviews held each week and the 72 hour reviews whenever possible. These reviews take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, which allows Board members the opportunity to arrange a monthly rota to cover the reviews. On rare occasions reviews are held without much notice on other days of the week, when it may not be possible for a member to attend. In such case the staff on the Segregation wing make the IMB aware so that a member can follow up if necessary, when the next visit or attendance at review panel takes place.

7.5 Management and operational meetings

IMB members attend a range of meetings held within the establishment, which over the last year has included; Safer Custody, Equality Action team, Prisoner Council, Security, Reducing re-offending. A table indicating upcoming meetings is made available and is circulated at Board meetings. Members' attendance is recorded simply as an observer.

The Board Chairman (or Vice Chair) meets regularly with the Governor. Members also attend de-briefing meetings following any serious incident, which occurs, and Staff Inductions on a bi-monthly basis.

Board members are also involved in induction sessions for new prisoners and members of staff.

7.6 Board Training

Information sessions by various members of staff or on topical subjects are normally held at the start of each monthly Board Meeting. These sessions are not only very useful in building board knowledge about policies and procedures, but they also build links with staff members and departments and also provide an opportunity for specific issues to be raised.

Members have also attended training for new members / Chairs and Vice Chairs arranged by the secretariat.

Within the establishment staff training days are organised and where spaces are available Board members are attend session run by prison staff on matters such as IT, personal safety, and security and fire safety.

All of these training opportunities are important in allowing the Board to assess and develop its work and effectiveness. An annual Board 'away day' also allows the Board to discuss and agree priorities for future visits / Rota visits and Areas for review

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board wishes to place on record its appreciation of the cooperation of Staff at all levels as we undertake our monitoring role. Many have given freely of their time to help resolve issues or provide briefing to members on specific issues.

The Board is greatly appreciative of the hard work, efficiency and assistance provided by the IMB Clerk and other staff in the Business Hub who occasionally cover her duties and are always helpful in answering queries raised by Board members, which helps us greatly to communicate with a wide range of prison staff.