



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at
HMP Long Lartin

for reporting year
1 February 2016 to 31 January 2017

Published
July 2017



Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

SECTION ONE: THE STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

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

The Board is specifically charged to:

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

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

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

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

Contents Page

Section One	The statutory role of the IMB	page	2
Section Two	Contents	page	3
Section Three	Description of HMP Long Lartin	page	4
Section Four	Executive Summary	page	5
Section Five	Reports on Aspects of the Prison	page	7
5.1	Education and Skills	page	6
5.2	Equality and Inclusion	page	7
5.3	Health Care and Mental Health	page	8
5.4	Purposeful Activity	page	8
5.5	Safer Custody	page	9
5.6	Segregation Unit	page	10
Section Six	Other Aspects of the Prison	page	12
6.1	Chaplaincy	Page	12
6.2	Gymnasium	Page	12
6.3	Residential Areas	Page	12
6.4	Visits	Page	13
6.5	Use of Force	Page	13
Section Seven	The Work of the Board	Page	14
Appendix One	Analysis of Applications to IMB	Page	15
Appendix Two	The Work of the IMB	Page	16

SECTION THREE: DESCRIPTION OF LONG LARTIN

HMP Long Lartin is a dispersal prison within the High Security Estate, situated in the Vale of Evesham. The original premises date from the early 1970s although they have been modified by successive programmes of adaption and improvement.

The prison has a Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) of 549 adult males. About a quarter are Category A including some High Risk prisoners with the remainder Category B. From time to time there may also be a small number of remand prisoners, all of them provisionally Category A. In the reporting year refurbishment of the four oldest wings has necessitated a programme of rolling closures, reducing the available accommodation from its previously reported 625.

All prisoners are accommodated in single cells, in five mainstream wings and two support wings. The support wings and one mainstream wing lack in-cell sanitation.

The education contract is with Milton Keynes College. Care UK became the health care provider from April 2016, subcontracting psychological services to the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS foundation Trust mental health team. DHL holds the canteen contract and Amey holds the maintenance contract.

SECTION FOUR: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4.1 For the attention of the Minister

- 4.1.1 The Board wishes to emphasise again that the oldest wings are still without in-cell sanitation or running water. Successive Ministers have been informed of the situation in Annual Reports ever since the official end of 'slopping out' in 1996. The arrangements in place to alleviate the system and as a replacement for the practice are inadequate and no substitute for proper sanitation. The Board points out again that the practicalities of the 'Nightsan' system do not consistently meet the needs of prisoners or conform to modern standards of decency. [Section 6.3.2]
- 4.1.2 The Board notes with concern that the education contractor (Milton Keynes College) has not met its obligation to provide opportunities for men in the segregation unit and health care unit to take part in educational programmes. [Section 5.3.1. and Section 5.6.3]

4.2 For the attention of the National Offender Management Service

- 4.2.1 There is a continuing need to address the issue of difficult and often troubled men for whom sufficient specialist professional staff and suitable accommodation are lacking. The Board considers that accommodating such men in segregation units across the High Security Estate does little to alleviate the problems the men pose to the system or the men's own complex issues. [Section 5.6.5 and Section 5.6.7]
- 4.2.2 The Board has become aware of local difficulties arising from the late compilation of the Performance Hub National Equalities Tool. [Section 5.2.2]
- 4.2.3 Security Clearance can still take an extremely long time with negative effects on the life of the prison. [Section 5.1.2 and Section 5.3.2]
- 4.2.4 The Board is concerned by the reduction of the level of availability of the substance misuse team, not reflected by reductions in the availability of such material. [Section 5.3.3]
- 4.2.5 The Board is aware of difficulties faced by the prison in obtaining prison work of any kind and especially work suitable for men serving long sentences. There seems to be little in the way of support centrally. [Section 5.4.2 and Section 5.4.4]

4.3 For the attention of the Governor

- 4.3.1 Over the reporting year the availability of work has been variable with unemployment and under-employment an issue. Too much of the available work has been of a dull, repetitive nature. The new emphasis on purposeful activity is welcomed by the Board. [Section 5.4]
- 4.3.2 The Board has been concerned by the variable quality of healthcare input and by the paucity of psychological advice at Rule 45 Review Boards, although there was some improvement towards the end of the reporting year. However the Board remains concerned by the

number of occasions when authorisation given by the Deputy Director of Custody (DDC) or the Director of Custody (DC) for men in longer term segregation has not been readily available to the Review Boards. [Section 5.6.5 and 5.6.6]

- 4.3.3 The Board has expressed concern about the cleanliness of areas outside the older wings not accessible to prison orderlies and welcomes the increased emphasis on this. [Section 6.3.2]

SECTION FIVE

5.1. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

- 5.1.1. A visit to the Education department is always uplifting. There is an atmosphere of purpose; classrooms are calm and well ordered with the men fully engaged in their learning. Staff adapt well to the challenges that teaching in a prison presents. Education is delivered across two sites to separate mainstream and vulnerable prisoners. The Board is pleased to note that the department provides education and training opportunities in the workshops, kitchen and gym to deliver introductory skills-based learning.
- 5.1.2. The Board was encouraged to see the return of a dedicated art teacher but disappointed that security clearance took eight months between appointment and commencement in post. The Board has stressed in previous reports the view that art serves a valuable purpose for men serving long sentences. The artwork of the men is displayed around the prison, which is satisfying for those who produced it and a positive feature of prison life. The Board firmly believes in the therapeutic qualities of art and hopes that provision will further improve.
- 5.1.3. The Board has been aware of the frustrations concerning long-term prisoners obtaining education beyond the basic courses available. Five year ago there were 30 prisoners on further education distance learning courses. This figure has now reduced to six with four of these having commenced before the recent funding arrangements came into force. One prisoner is funding his course from private means and the other has taken out a student loan.
- 5.1.4. The Board believes that encouraging and supporting education is essential in creating a rehabilitative culture in prison. Prisoners should be enabled to access education at a higher level than is currently available to support the rehabilitative process and as a key purposeful activity while they are in custody. The Board considers that higher education for men with many years still to serve for whom vocational training is not a priority serves to give a sense of purpose and identity.

5.2. EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

- 5.2.1. The Board has monitored the monthly Equalities meetings in which complaints and adjudications are reviewed from the perspective of the protected characteristics. The Board is satisfied that the process is well conducted. This view is supported by the establishment's quarterly equality monitoring findings as well as the Board's contact with prisoners through prisoner applications. [Appendix One].
- 5.2.2. The Board has noted that the Performance Hub Equalities Monitoring Tool, consisting of information gathered across the Estate and published quarterly, has been consistently out of date by two quarters (six months) and even then sometimes incomplete. The Board understands that this shortcoming hampers the work of the prison in this important area.

5.3. HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

- 5.3.1. The Board notes with concern the continuing lack of educational provision in the Health Care Unit during the reporting year. The education provider continues to lack the resources to meet this contractual obligation. [See also Section 5.6.3]
- 5.3.2. The change in contract from NHS England (Worcestershire Health & Care Trust) to Care UK on 1st April had the effect of significant numbers of nursing staff finding jobs within the NHS. Service levels for registered general nurses and registered mental health nurses fell significantly below acceptable levels during the period leading up to and for some time after the changeover. Consequently, the Healthcare Unit has been in a permanent state of recruitment throughout the year. Prolonged delays in obtaining security clearance have resulted in up to a six months time lag between the offer of an appointment and actual start date. However, the changeover has resulted in a new provider for optician services who has been successful in reducing waiting times. [See also Section 5.5.2]
- 5.3.3. The subcontracting of substance misuse services to 'Inclusion', part of South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust, has seen a reduction in staffing within the team from 5.5 posts to 4 posts and provision only being delivered between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, resulting in a loss of weekend and out-of-hours support. Misuse of psychoactive substances is a continuing problem in the establishment.
- 5.3.4. Deficient arrangements for the delivery of controlled drugs to the prison have been of concern for much of the year. Medication has been delivered by providers in unmarked vans, unloaded in the public car park and brought to the prison in unsealed, unmarked cardboard boxes or carrier bags. Prison staff members have had to check and seal medication, including controlled drugs, in the presence of the delivery driver, to prevent a security breach. Members of staff have also reported that controlled drugs have been delivered to Long Lartin intended for other prisons and being asked to sign incorrect paperwork.

5.4. PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

- 5.4.1. The Board welcomes the additional focus on the place of labour in the establishment.
- 5.4.2. The Board draws attention again to a salient factor in the provision of meaningful work in an establishment in which sentences of many years are served. Preparation for work on release has less relevance to men who will have reached or surpassed their age of retirement, some by a wide margin. For such men work should serve different purposes. We believe it should offer experience of the discipline of labour and the satisfactions of work well done; contribute to self-confidence and self-respect; provide meaning and purpose and a sense of identity; not least to allow the growth of hope in a situation where it can be hard to find. Too much of the work has been mere repetitive drudgery, defying the possibility of engagement or enthusiasm, lacking scope for any of these qualities and inviting their opposites. The Board notes that some contracts of this sort have come to a conclusion and have not been replaced with more of the same.
- 5.4.3. This year a change to the way prisoners are allocated to labour has been put in place designed to improve movement within the prison and to improve the level of work

attendance. The system resulted in a higher take-up of available work for prisoners, reduced the complex problems of mass movement and coincidentally improved the punctuality of prisoners going to labour.

- 5.4.4. Difficulties of maintaining the level of gainful work have continued to challenge the prison. The chronic difficulty of maintaining a flow of suitable work has meant that workshops have been partially or completely closed at times with periods of under-employment. A project suitable for sedentary workers assembling rotary office files has at times suffered from lack of orders. An industrial cleaning course has begun after a long delay and should improve the supply of cleaning orderlies for wings and other areas of the establishment.
- 5.4.5. A promising line of carpentry work was hampered as a result of the collapse of the well-intended scheme initiated by the Police Commissioner of West Mercia in which items made by prisoners in Long Lartin and other establishments would be sold to the public. Some products have continued to be produced relying on word of mouth for sales but unsold items have accumulated. Furnishing units are now produced and packed for shipment to another establishment in the prison estate. Such work can lead to a Practical Crafts qualification. The Board would welcome stronger support for this type of skilled work which has led to men gaining credits towards City and Guilds qualifications. The Board understands that the number of men gaining this qualification could be improved with appropriate additional training for instructors already in place. Such credits are portable and count towards final qualifications when prisoners are transferred to other establishments or released.
- 5.4.6. The prison laundry provides work for up to 20 men. There is a capacity for more work if contracts could be found. Work there can lead to a qualification underpinned by the Guild of Cleaners and Launderers.
- 5.4.7. The DHL Distribution Centre has continued to be a success, providing regular work for men who appear to be keen to be employed there and to enjoy the work.
- 5.4.8. A plan is afoot to provide work in a secure area for Category A prisoners who are for operational reasons unable to attend the workshops. Work manufacturing military camouflage netting is now well established. The Prisons Information Communications Technology Academy (PICTA) has developed over the course of the reporting year as a new instructor completed training, allowing an increase of capacity to 15 men. The sense of purpose has been striking as men work at individual tasks.

5.5. SAFER CUSTODY

- 5.5.1. The change in health care provision has caused uncertainty as waiting periods increased through health staff shortages, especially of qualified mental health staff. The lack of out-of-hours mental health care has been a particular concern for the Board and for the establishment. [See also Section 5.3.2.]
- 5.5.2. The regular Safer Prisons meetings have moved from a statistical focus to consideration of individual complex cases. Collaboration between Healthcare and Safer Custody staff has

become more effective with the latter attending weekly mental health team meetings to share information between the two departments. Where appropriate, information about men causing concern is then shared in a managed way on the wings to provide improved support to individuals at risk. The Board welcomes this shift to a multi-disciplinary approach to the problems of men with persistent mental health issues.

- 5.5.3. The Board welcomes the initiative during the year in which twelve appropriately trained Insiders are now in place as Safer Prison Representatives.
- 5.5.4. A period of shortage of prisoners trained by the Samaritans as Listeners has been addressed. Some difficulties in bringing Listeners and their clients together have been resolved. The Board notes that cooperation with the Samaritans continues with regular sessions and training.

5.6. SEGREGATION UNIT

- 5.6.1. The Board is glad to report, as it did last year, that the Unit is well led and managed, and it benefits from having a discrete specialist staff group. This contributes greatly to an atmosphere of order and calm, despite the presence of some disturbed and potentially violent men, whose behaviour has included persistent noise, damage to cells, and dirty protests. The Board again commends the professionalism, humanity, and remarkable good humour of the officers working in this difficult environment day by day.
- 5.6.2. The Board again expresses concern that men are occasionally segregated while subject to open Assessment Care in Custody Teamwork (ACCT) documents, although the numbers have remained small. The Board is satisfied that there has been no reasonable alternative to segregation for these men, and that there are robust procedures in place to assess risk when they are initially segregated and to monitor their condition while they remain in segregation.
- 5.6.3. The Board remains greatly concerned that there is a continuing failure to make any educational provision for men in segregation. The education provider continues to lack the resources to meet this contractual obligation. [See also Section 5.3.1]
- 5.6.4. The Board is encouraged by a culture in the Unit which supports its stated purpose of preparing men for return to normal location as soon as reasonably practicable. However there remains a significant group of men for whom this is not possible for reasons which are often largely beyond the control of the Unit and indeed of the prison as a whole. These men typically have complex psychological problems or mental health needs, and not infrequently come to the Unit on transfer from other segregation units in the dispersal system. The process for psychiatric assessment remains painfully slow. Moreover the Board again reports with concern that little or no psychological intervention has been available for this group within Long Lartin, apart from individual short-term support for a small number of men.
- 5.6.5. The Psychology Department has continued to lack the resources to sustain and develop a coherent programme of work in the Unit. In this context a development towards the end of the year is both encouraging and concerning. In December 2016 HMP Long Lartin, together with HMP Belmarsh and HMP Wakefield, entered the six-month pilot phase of the 'Progressive Segregation' scheme. This is a multi-disciplinary approach using 'Barriers to

Change' and 'Know Your Prisoner' reviews to inform 'Prisoner Care and Management Plans'. This requires dedicated input from the Psychology Department including delivery of the 'Motivation and Engagement' programme – eleven sessions given to men individually. The Board is of course hopeful that this initiative will produce positive results, but equally concerned that its successful delivery is made vulnerable by the failure to provide the Psychology Department with additional resources for the scheme or indeed for much needed work within the Unit generally.

- 5.6.6. The system of overview by the Deputy Director of Custody (DDC) and Director of Custody (DC) for men in longer term segregation which runs in parallel with the local reviews conducted by Rule 45 Boards is now well established. However there have been frustrating weaknesses caused locally by the variable quality of healthcare input, the paucity of psychological advice and delays in completing security assessments. The Board considers that the prison should take more vigorous steps to ensure that timely responses are made to all submissions made by the Unit, including those to the DDC or DC for authorisation to hold men in longer term segregation.
- 5.6.7. The Board considers that the system of overview for men held in longer term segregation has done little to promote effective initiatives to break the cycle of segregation for this problematic group. The Board does not believe this to be because of a lack of will to do so, but rather because of a lack of resources nationally to provide practical solutions – for example additional provision for close supervision units and targeted psychology programmes.

SECTION SIX

6.1. CHAPLAINCY

- 6.1.1. The Chaplaincy team provides invaluable support throughout the prison, not only for the men but also for everyone working there. Long Lartin is fortunate to have a strong and effective multi-faith team, providing cover throughout the working week and during weekends.
- 6.1.2. A particular concern has been the way in which Benchmarking has resulted in a cap on the number of men attending Chaplaincy courses.
- 6.1.3. Concern has been expressed in the national media about some Muslim prisoners putting pressure on others to convert to Islam or to a more radical form of Islam. The Board has been alert to this issue but has not found direct evidence through its routine interactions with prisoners that supports the media perception. The proportion of men arriving at the establishment as declared Muslims has been stable in the prison for several years according to Chaplaincy records. The reported number of conversions is very low and comparable to conversions to other religions.

6.2. GYMNASIUM

During the reporting year the number of gym staff has been reduced by two which has inevitably limited what can be provided. In spite of this, the committed and innovative staff has continued to ensure that they offer a good range of activities. One important part of this is the 'Well Man' sessions which aim to tackle specific problems identified by Healthcare.

6.3. RESIDENTIAL AREAS

- 6.3.1. During this reporting year there has been a significant programme of work on the older wings to install fire and general alarm systems. Once the work is completed, the wing which was emptied to enable the work to be carried out will be repopulated. The specific population is yet to be determined.
- 6.3.2. On these wings there is an automated queuing system, 'Nightsan', which allows one man at a time the opportunity to leave his cell for fifteen minutes to use the toilet and washing facilities. Nightsan is not only highly unsatisfactory from the point of view of decency, but the lack of in-cell sanitation has other consequences which the Board yet again must highlight. As an alternative to waiting their turn, or through necessity, the men can use containers which are provided in their cell but which are not airtight. They can thus spend considerable time sharing a small living space with these containers so the inevitable happens and their contents are disposed of outside the cell windows, posing a considerable risk to health. The ground and flat roofs outside the wings at times fall well below an acceptable standard. Some of these areas are cleaned by the wing orderlies but

others can only be cleaned by contractors and the Board has expressed their concern at the quality of this work.

- 6.3.3. The kitchen staff and the men employed there are always happy to talk about their work and the Board finds the kitchen to be a busy and well organised area of the prison. There are few complaints about food and it is pleasing to note the care taken to provide for special dietary needs and for the range of religions represented in the prison.
- 6.3.4. An imminent introduction at the time of reporting is the Smoke-Free Prison Programme. Preparation for this significant event began during the reporting year. There is a six month lead-in period and the prison is receiving support from Care UK. The Board is pleased to note that extra 'Health Champions' from among the men are being trained so that they can support fellow prisoners during what will inevitably be a challenging time, and it is excellent to know that these 'Champions' will have the opportunity to complete accredited courses through the Care UK Regional Health Promotion Lead.
- 6.3.5. Another major development for which preparation has been in progress during the reporting year is the opening of the Psychologically Informed Planned Environment Unit (PIPE). The Board welcomes this initiative as it believes that a unit of this nature is much needed. It is hoped that it will significantly enhance the standard of specialist care offered to those particularly troubled men whose needs will be met in a way which is not possible on a wing.

6.4. VISITS

- 6.4.1. The establishment has returned to the system of retaining a designated team of officers to work in this area. This has brought consistency and improved the smooth running of visits.
- 6.4.2. The Chaplaincy and Visits staff have run excellent family visits for some years, enabling men to interact informally with their families and play with their children in contrast to the formal seating arrangements of other visits. These are always happy occasions and it is good to see the men in a family situation. The importance of family visits to those in custody cannot be overstated.

6.5. USE OF FORCE

- 6.5.1. The use of force at Long Lartin remains commendably low. The number of incidents in 2016 was lower than in either of the two preceding years, and averaged less than two per week. The pattern of the use of force measured by the protected characteristics of ethnicity, religion, and age remained consistent with the size of those groups within the population of the prison.
- 6.5.2. The Board recognises that this is an outstanding achievement given the character and complexity of the population of Long Lartin. It is a tribute to the professionalism of the staff in their daily working relationships with prisoners, and in particular to their skill in de-escalating potentially violent incidents where anger and aggression are displayed.

7. SECTION SEVEN: THE WORK OF THE BOARD

The Board has lost three members and gained one in the reporting year.

The Board has responded to 287 applications from prisoners, a slight reduction on the previous year. Property issues remain the most frequently encountered problem with a marked increase in problems of property failing to arrive with or follow close behind men on transfer from other establishments.

Following an analysis of the Annual Team Performance Review questionnaire responses the Board spent a useful day away from the prison addressing the issues raised.

The Board has enjoyed a fruitful and cordially correct relationship with the prison staff. The Board acknowledges their cooperation and support without which its work would be impossible.

Ivan Harrison

Chair IMB

HMP Long Lartin

APPENDIX ONE

ANALYSIS OF APPLICATIONS TO THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

Code	Description	2015 -2016	2016- 2017
A	Accommodation	5	4
B	Adjudications	1	0
C	Equality & Diversity (including religion)	7	10
D	Education/employment/training (including IEP)	18	25
E1	Family/visits including mail and phone	50	25
E2	Finance/pay	20	15
F	Food /kitchen related	2	6
G	Health related	18	26
H1	Property (within current establishment)	47	41
H2	Property (during transfer/in another establishment)	7	31
H3	Canteen facilities, catalogue shopping	10	2
I	Sentence related (including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation etc.)	12	14
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including Bullying	37	22
K	Transfers	6	2
L	Miscellaneous	16	24
	Confidential Access	77	40
	Total number of IMB applications	333	287

APPENDIX TWO

THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD 2016 - 2017

	2015-2016	2016-2017
Recommended Complement of Board Members	18	18
Number of Members at the start of the reporting year	13	14
Number of members at the end of the reporting year	14	12
Number of new members joining within the reporting year	2	1
Number of members leaving within the reporting year	1	3
Total number of Board meetings during the reporting year	12	11
Total number of visits to the establishment	633	621
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	28.10.15	30.11.16

All but one of the Rule 45 Reviews were attended by IMB members. Reviews are held three times per week.