



Annual Report
of the
Independent Monitoring Board
at

HMP Hull

for reporting Year
(March 31 2017 to February 28 2018)

Published
(December 2018)



Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

This report does not attempt to give an overview of all aspects of prison life in 2017, or to duplicate other specialized documents.

The annual report is addressed formally to the Secretary of State for Justice and the Minister for Prisons.

In addition, the report is addressed to the Governor of HMP Hull; its content may also be of interest to all who work at HMP Hull because it comments on many of the services which they provide.

It is a formally published document and potentially of interest to all members of the public as well as those connected to the establishment.

Independent Monitoring Board Diversity Statement

HMP Hull Independent Monitoring Board is committed to an inclusive approach to equality and diversity which encompasses and promotes interaction and understanding between people of different backgrounds including race, religion, gender, nationality, sexuality, marital status, disability, age etc. It recognises that a fully inclusive approach to diversity must also respond to differences that cut across social and cultural categories such as mental health, literacy and drug addiction.

The Board values this approach to diversity within its recruitment and Board development practices to increase the range of skills and awareness among its members of the diverse needs and perspectives of the population within HMP Hull.

All members of the IMB undertake their duties in a manner that is accessible to everyone within the establishment, regardless of their background or social situation. The Board will also monitor to establish that the experiences and interaction between staff, offenders and visitors is fair and without prejudice. Where this is not the case, the Board will alert appropriate authorities and individuals including the Governor, senior management, area manager and the Prisons Minister.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Hull prison had no functioning IMB in 2016. Hence, there was no annual report for that year. In the reporting year, March 1st, 2017 to February 28th 2018, there was a fledgling board. This variously included four members, who were dual-boarding from another prison, and two probationers. There was not a designated clerk at this time. A Board member from the original Hull IMB served for part of the year before her death in December. Given these limitations, the new Board concentrated on the core purpose of monitoring the humane treatment of prisoners. This has been at the expense of structured and planned monitoring and record keeping.

The Board pays tribute to Ruth McDonald who sadly died in December 2017. Due to her belief in the importance of the IMB's purpose to prisoners she single-handedly maintained a

basic IMB presence over at least two years until the beginning of 2017 when five dual boarding members from HMP Humber joined her.

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1. 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 or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

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

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board judges that prisoners are treated fairly and humanely and every effort is made to prepare them for release.

The Board is concerned at the frequency of prisoners' property being mislaid; this mainly occurs during transfer between prisons. This is very distressing for prisoners as it often includes personal items such as photographs which cannot be replaced or financially compensated for.

The Board is concerned at the poor overall performance of Amey, the maintenance contractor.

This situation has existed for some years and we ask the Prison Service how they intend to address the poor performance of Amey.

Improvements from last year: NOT APPLICABLE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ANNUAL REPORT LAST YEAR.

3. DESCRIPTION OF ESTABLISHMENT

HMP Hull is a Victorian prison opened in 1870 to hold both men and women; it is two miles east of Hull city centre.

In 1939, it was used as a military prison and later a civil defence depot. In 1950, it reopened as a closed male borstal. In 1969, after extensive security work, Hull became one of the first maximum security dispersal prisons.

On August 31st, 1976, it erupted into violence and destruction which lasted five days and closed the establishment for a year. In 1986, Hull was removed from the dispersal system and assumed its current role as a male local prison/remand centre. It is a category B prison.

In 2002, the prison expanded and the size of its site was also increased. The expansion included four new wings, a new healthcare centre, sports hall, a multi-faith centre and refurbishment of other parts of the prison, including the kitchen, education and workshops.

Population

HMP Hull has an operational capacity of 1044.

Healthcare is provided by NHS and City Healthcare Community Partnership (CHCP).

Education is provided by NOVUS, in-house and distance learning.

Resettlement is provided by a resettlement unit at the prison, Humber Care, Job Centre, and Shelter, and other charities.

Maintenance is mainly provided by Amey and some "in house."

Main voluntary providers of service are the IMB with input from specialist charities such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Citizens' Advice Bureau.

An uncommon feature of the prison is the number of vulnerable prisoners. This is around 40 per cent with one percent being of pensionable age. Their needs are catered for on K wing.

B Evidence sections 4 – 11

4. SAFETY

4.1 The prison's management says safety is paramount. It is significant that in the reporting year, concern about safety was rarely specified in rota reports. When complaints about safety were referred to Safer Prisons, the department was found to know about the problems and have a plan in place.

4.2 Psychoactive substances were at the root of a substantial amount of disciplinary problems and disorder. Mandatory drug tests were conducted at the rate of 50 a month. The highest monthly total of positive results was ten: the lowest, one. The IMB received complaints that the post was held up while it was tested for substances. The prison gave assurances that mail was analysed, not tampered with nor unduly delayed.

4.3 The number of unlawful phones discovered peaked at 16 in August. Staff told the IMB that this coincided with a large transfer of men from other establishments. By the end of the year, the monthly figure had fallen to five.

4.4 Prisoner-on-prisoner assaults also peaked in August. Thirty were recorded with staff again citing a coincidence with transfers. The lowest monthly total was 16.

4.5 Violence on staff had shown a downward trend – seven assaults in May falling to zero in August – but there was a big increase, to 14, in January. The IMB was told this happened at the same time as the ban on smoking. Although a direct link has not yet been established, no other cause has been identified.

4.6 There were three deaths in custody during the year. The results of post mortem examinations on all three were 'natural causes'. The IMB was promptly alerted in each case and was satisfied that the procedure was followed correctly. One of the deaths was that of a transgender prisoner. The IMB noted the sensitivity and diligence of staff when dealing with the friends, relatives and carers of all three prisoners.

4.7 There were 752 ACCTs during the year. The documents on ACCT prisoners were in order and signed off within time limits. Many ACCT reviews were attended by Board members and seen to be carried out with sensitivity and care.

4.8 MAPPA effectiveness was recorded at 100 per cent.

4.9 Of the serious incidents reported which were witnessed by the IMB, Board Members reported that the safety and wellbeing of the prisoner concerned was always the top priority. The IMB was promptly notified of such incidents and was impressed by the clarity and economy of briefings by the Silver Commander.

4.10 The Board notes and shares the Governor's concern that violent incidents at the prison escalate when prisoners are transferred – often at short notice – from other establishments.

5. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

5.1 The Board acknowledges the commitment of the governing Governor to diversity and equality, by his appointment of a governor grade to the stand-alone position of Head of Equalities.

5.2 The Race Equality Action Team (REAT), consisting of functional heads, is chaired by the Governor who drives forward the diversity agenda with bi-monthly meetings, at which all strands of diversity are discussed. They are monitored using Systematic Monitoring & Analysis of Race Equality Team (SMART) data and this is where any current issues around diversity are identified and managed.

5.3 The Chair makes every effort to achieve diversity in the Board by placing recruitment material in supermarkets, hospitals, workplaces, mosques etc.

5.4 Foreign National Offenders: The number of foreign nationals varied between 61 and 62 with four awaiting deportation.

5.5 Disability – The Business Hub was unable to provide statistics on percentage of the population with a disability)

5.6 With a fulltime Head of Equalities in place, Hull is now in a position to monitor its population with regard to disability and the elderly. This information, in particular on regime provision, facilities and transfer of prisoners, is communicated on a weekly basis to the governing Governor, senior managers and residential areas.

5.7 The multi-faith centre provides pastoral care for all faiths, including Buddhist, Church of England, Free Church, Hindu, Jehovah's Witness, Judaism, Mormon (Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) , Muslim, Pagan, Roman Catholic and Sikhs. During the reporting year, the imam was reappointed to the Chaplaincy. On Christmas Day, the IMB attended the morning service. The multi-faith centre was experimenting for the first time with a joint service for mainstream prisoners and VPs. Only five mainstream prisoners were there but traditionally the vast majority of the congregation has been VP. The chaplaincy considered the experiment a success and intends to have another VP-mainstream Christmas service. Joint worship every Sunday is also under consideration. The matter is being dealt with as a highly sensitive issue.

5.8 The system by which ministers of religion come to the prison on a session-by-session basis appears to work well but may not be sustainable under employment law in the future. The IMB has been impressed by the speedy access prisoners have at the moment to ministers of their faith. The Managing Chaplain has suggested a regional approach to providing ministers for minority religions, such as Sikhism and Buddhism. For example, a minister could be scheduled to attend Hull prison on one day a week, while serving at other establishments in Yorkshire and Humberside on the remaining days.

5.9 Although the numbers are small, transgender prisoners have been found to be treated sensitively by all staff. The Board was impressed by the professional and sensitive manner

in which staff dealt with the death of a transgender prisoner: contacting and counselling their friends and relatives.

5.10 The prison has a growing population of men of pensionable age (only one per cent at present). The Board has noted quick and appropriate provision of wheelchairs and other apparatus for those requiring them, plus a 'buddy' system for frail prisoners.

5.11 The prison has been experimenting with family visits during the evening. The take up has been disappointingly limited and the initiative was being reassessed at the end of the reporting year.

6. SEGREGATION/CARE AND SEPARATION UNIT

The IMB visited the Segregation Unit at least once a week and spoke with all men held there establishing that they knew why they were being held there.

The Board attended Rule 45 Reviews plus adjudications whenever possible.

The Board recognised that prisoners were held in the unit for the minimum length of time and the professionalism of the staff was acknowledged.

7 ACCOMMODATION (INCLUDING COMMUNICATION)

7.1 There was an ongoing problem with showers on the Victorian wings. They were not fit for purpose because of flaking paint which covered floors and boards and fell into outlets. The matter was raised with Amey and features in rota reports nine times. The Board was disconcerted that inaccurate information was given by Amey regarding the timetable for repairs. At the end of the reporting year, there was some slow but steady improvement.

7.2 Prisoners have told the IMB that the schedules regarding the prison regime are clearly communicated to them. The IMB has welcomed the increased use of up-to-date notice boards on the wings.

7.3 Some prisoners complained that their bread ration was reduced. The 'extra roll' was reinstated. It coincided with the matter being raised by the IMB. On every rota visit, members of the Board commented on the quality, nutrition and variety of food provided on a limited budget.

7.4 An ordering problem led to mattresses arriving which did not fit cots. This was addressed by the Governor.

7.5 Lost property remained an issue. It was the subject of 49 applications (See Section D). There appeared to be a breakdown in communication with prisoners on what happened to their property when they were forcibly removed from a cell or a vehicle. A governor has been tasked with the specific role of reorganising property and reducing the compensation bill.

7.6 At the end of the reporting year, officers were preparing for a 'key worker' scheme to improve their knowledge of individual prisoners and how to interact with them.

7.7 Twelve rota reports highlighted litter outside the wings. This contrasted with the state of the prison interior, which was generally spotless. The Board was told that cleaning teams were being established to sweep exteriors, but litter remained a problem throughout the reporting year.

8 HEALTHCARE (including mental health and social care)

8.1 Of 42 rota reports, 28 made specific comments about healthcare. Others simply reported no issues.

The Board member tasked with healthcare resigned and this left the Board with a limited ability to monitor this area. and the Board accepts that its monitoring in this area has been at best sporadic.

8.2 The Board judges that there is equivalence of healthcare to all the men, with medical assessment within 24 hours of arrival. One application specifically checked by the board confirmed this to be the case.

8.3 Throughout the reporting year, the Board was impressed by the professional, sensitive and respectful fashion in which staff dealt with men suffering mental illness, anguish or anxiety. There were numerous reports of men being extremely appreciative of the support given by staff. There were some concerns about the appropriateness of waiting rooms. Men could wait a long time in the presence of a prisoner from whom they were supposed to be separated.

8.4 The Well-Being residential unit is available to give closely monitored support to men in danger of harming themselves or others. Wing staff are well-informed about and responsive to health and mental health issues.

8.5 Some prisoners post standard complaints forms to the IMB in error, but these are re-directed to the provider's complaints system. The IMB is not aware of any problems following such redirection.

8.6 Elderly prisoners have told the IMB of the speedy way in which they have been referred for an assessment for social care.

9 EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Education is supplied by Novus.

The Board is unable to comment on the quality of education but a recent Ofsted inspection reported the services as 'Good'.

It is understood that prisoners are able to gain some qualifications.

10 WORK, VOCATIONAL TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT

10.1 A new Industries Manager was appointed during the reporting year with an updated job description specifically aimed at forging links between the prison and local employers. This has resulted in contracts with caravan companies, local authorities, light engineering, prefabrication and firms specialising in plastic moulding and application. There is also a thriving graphics workshop which provides merchandise for other prisons and their contractors. The graphics workshop has built a reputation for producing easy-to-read information for prisoners, in particular for men entering an establishment for the first time.

10.2 Of the six workshops, four are for VPs and two for mainstream prisoners. It is intended that a new workshop, for web design, will be for mainstream prisoners as will a contract for recycling metal and wooden goods into artefacts for the high-end market.

10.3 The workshops' managers say the overall aim is to equip prisoners with skills which will enhance their home lives as well as making them eligible for employment. There is an emphasis on the men taking individual responsibility for work projects and their own pathway through their prison sentences. Attendance always exceeds 80%.

10.4 On visits to the workshops, the IMB has commented on the enthusiasm of managers and the men. The IMB is surprised that there is little tracking to show how many men achieve employment after their release.

10.5 The prison's zero tolerance of PS has led to several men losing their jobs. Some prisoners claim to be unaware that possession of PS makes them ineligible for employment.

11. RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

The new IMB has not proactively monitored all aspects of resettlement provision. Prisoner applications have prompted a series of discussions with managers. These have shown that the Offender Management Unit is going through a period of change. Not all aspects are providing good outcomes for men at the moment, but this is recognised and there are some promising initiatives which are beginning to have an impact.

Areas of concern

- Not all prisoners have a sentence plan before they are transferred to another prison.
- Many prisoners serving long or indeterminate sentences remain in HMP Hull when they would be better prepared for release and rehabilitation if they were transferred to a training prison.
- There is a large number of prisoners who are categorised as Cat C but who have to remain in a Cat B prison because their local Cat C will not accept sex offenders.
- Prisoners are not consistently informed about transfers before they occur.
- HMP Hull is under constant pressure to accept prisoners who have been disruptive elsewhere (and rarely refuses).
- Consequently, decisions about when and where to move prisoners are based on factors other than the best interests of the individual prisoner, such as the need for more capacity, or the need for the prison to accept someone who is transferred because of safety or security issues.
- This situation leads to a significant number of prisoners serving their sentences a long way from home. Prisoners serving long sentences some distance from home do not have regular contact with their offender manager.
- Observation, classifications and allocations workload means that applications requesting transfers are answered by the prisoner's offender supervisor rather than by the OCA team.
- Once plans for movement have been made, the actual process is then dictated by the availability of prisoner escort transport (PECS).
- Some prisoners are not moved to a local prison for release until they are as much as six weeks into their 12-week discharge period.

Potential improvements

- At the end of the reporting year, a significant number of officers were being trained for the key worker initiative. It was projected that by mid-summer every man would benefit from a 45-minute per week session with their key worker.
- The OMU is working with local agencies to co-ordinate support after release for prisoners who have been in care at some stage in their lives.
- There are plans to review and improve the level of support for prisoners serving long or indeterminate sentences.
- There are now bi-monthly meetings with the Community Rehabilitation Company to monitor the support for prisoners who are released locally,
- There is a plan to deploy staff specifically to inform prisoners about impending transfers when this is not a threat to security.

- Recent liaison with the PECS contractor Geo-Amey has led to some reduction in the time prisoners have to wait before they are transported back from court hearings.
- Though many prisoners arrive at HMP Hull without all their property / documents from the previous establishment, it is rare for a man to be transferred out without all of his belongings.

In the new year it is planned to access data which illustrates the scale of the concerns and the rate of improvements due to the new initiatives.

C Section – Work of Board

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended complement of Board members	20
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	2
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	2 + 4 dual Boarders.
Total number of visits to the Establishment	Approx 130 - 140
Total number of segregation reviews attended	Approx 50

D Section - Applications

(NB: Previous reporting year not applicable because there was no Annual Report nor a record keeping functioning Board)

Code	Subject	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	20
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	12
C	Equality	11
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	21
E 1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	27
E 2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	10
F	Food and kitchens	5
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	35
H 1	Property within this establishment	30
H 2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	19
H 3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	0
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	12

J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	15
K	Transfers	23
	Total number of IMB applications	240

Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (VCS) and other external agencies working in partnership with HMP Hull include:

167 Centre
Age Concern
ARKH – (Asylum Seekers and refugees of Kingston upon Hull) Ltd.
Barnardos
DOC – Developing Our Community
Gender Shift-Transgender
Goodwin Development Trust
Home-Start (Hull)
Hull City Council
Hull Chinese Cultural Centre
Hull Gypsy and Traveller Project
Hull Mexican Association
Hull Mosque and Islamic Centre
Humber All Nations Alliance
Humber Mentoring Project
Humberside Criminal Justice Board
Hull Asylum Seekers Support Group
Pre-School learning Alliance
LGBT Forum
Pre-School Learning Alliance
Royal British Legion
Samaritans
Sikh Gurdwara

Glossary of Prison-Related Abbreviations Used

The following abbreviations are either used within the Report or are applicable to the Prison Service. (Note -All reference to 'prisoner' in the report is 'offender').

AA Administrative Assistant

ABS Anti-Bullying System

ACCT Assessment, Care in Custody & Teamwork – replacement for F2052SH

ACR Automatic Conditional Release

AO Administrative Officer

ARD Automatic Release Date

ATOS Company responsible for assessing long-term sick

BCU Briefing and Casework Unit – PS unit handling adjudication appeals

BME Black & Minority Ethnic

BOV Board of Visitors – now IMB

C & R Control & Restraint

C2W, CTW Custody to Work – pre-release focus on housing, employment and lifestyle issues

CARATS Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice & Through care Scheme – drug & alcohol team

CC Cellular Confinement – a punishment

CCD Criminal Casework Department (Croydon)

CHCP Community Health Care Partnership

CLAIT Computer Literacy and Information Technology

CCT Criminal Casework Team (part of Home Office Immigration & Nationalities Dept)

CMU Case Management Unit – work on sentence planning & progress

CNA Certified Normal Accommodation

CRD Conditional Release Date

CSH Contracted Service Hours (pre-agreed paid overtime)

CSU Commissioning Support Unit

DASU Drug And Alcohol Support Unit

DH Dog Handler

EDR Earliest Date of Release

EMU Estates Management Unit

EO Executive Officer

EPDG Estates Planning & Development Group

EGP Ex Gratia Payment

ETA Employment & Training Allocation

ETE Employment/Training/Education

ETS Enhanced Thinking Skills – an OBP

F2050 Prisoner's basic record

F2052A Prisoner's wing record

F2052SH Record for prisoner currently at risk of self-harm

FLED Facility Licence Eligibility Date (when prisoner may be **considered** for ROTL)
FOCUS Financial Outstations and Central Unified Systems – the PS accounting system
GOOD Good Order or Discipline – Segregation under Rule 45/49 (historically GOAD)
HCC Health Care Centre
HDC Home Detention Curfew – the Tag
HDCEd Earliest Date of Release on HDC **HEO**
Higher Executive Officer
HMCIP Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Prisons
ICA1/2 Initial Categorisation & Classification Forms for Adults/YOs
IDTS **Integrated** Drug Treatment System
IDU Inmate Development Unit
IEP Incentives and Earned Privileges – Prisoners can be on Basic, Standard or Enhanced
IG Instruction to Governors
IMB Independent Monitoring Board
IND Immigration & Nationality Department
IRC Immigration Removal/Reception Centre
JSA Job-Seekers Allowance
JSAC Job Simulation & Assessment Centre (for officers seeking promotion to SO)
KPI/KPT Key Performance Indicator/Target
LDR Latest Date of Release
LED Licence Expiry Date
LIDS Local Inmate Database System – IMB can use this to check location, dates, etc.
LSC Learning & Skills Council
MAPPA Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MDT Mandatory Drugs Testing
MSL Minimum Staffing Level
MQPL Measuring the Quality of Prison Life
NACRO National Association for Care & Resettlement of Offenders
NC The National Council for IMBs
NEC National Exchange Centre- building between VTC & Boiler Ho. used for ETE
NOMS National Offender Manager Service – amalgamation of the Prison & Probation Services
OASYS Offender Assessment System – computerised risk & needs assessment
OBP Offending Behavior Programme
OCA Observation, Classification & Allocations – a Reception task
OLASS Offender Learning and Skills Service (part of LSC)
OSG Operational Support Grade
OI/OR/OP Own Interests/Request/Protection – Segregation under Rule 45/49
PASRO Prisons Addressing Substance-Related Offending – an OBP
PCO Prison Custody Officer
PCT Primary Care Trust – National Health component responsible for healthcare
PEI/O Physical Education Instructor/Officer
PER Prisoner Escort Record
PESO/PEPO Physical Education Senior/Principal Officer

PIN Prisoner Information Notice
PMU Population Management Unit (central)
PO Principal Officer
POA Prison Officers' Association – the main trade union
POELT Prison Officer Entry Level Trainee
POPO Prolific and Other Priority Offender
PPO Prisons and Probation Ombudsman
PPP Public Protection Panel
PS Prison Service
PSI Prison Service Instruction
PSO Prison Service Order – see www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/psispsos/listpsos
RAPT Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners trust
REAT Race Equality Action Team
RFW Removal from Wing – a punishment
ROAD Remission of Added Days (up to 50%)
ROM Regional Offender Manager
ROR Restoration of Remission – now ROAD; Risk of reconviction;
ROTL Release on Temporary Licence – e.g. to work in mess; town visits; home leave
ROWD Review of Works Departments (may involve privatisation/ civilianisation)
RRA Assistant to the RRLO
RRLO Race Relations Liaison Officer
SAU Standards Audit Unit
SCG Safer Custody Group
SED Sentence Expiry Date
SEO Senior Executive Officer
SIN Staff Information Notice
SIR Security Information Report
SLA Service Level Agreement
SMARG Segregation and Monitoring Review Group
SMART Systematic Monitoring & Analysis of Race Equality Team
SMT Senior Management Team
SO Senior Officer
SPDR Staff Performance & Development Record – reviewed annually
TOIL Time Off in Lieu (of payment)
TSU Technical Support Unit – part of PS responsible for repairs/installations (“works”)
TUPE Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)
– staff transfer
VCS Voluntary and Community Sectors
VDT Voluntary Drugs Testing
VO Visiting Order – sent out by prisoners, allows named people to visit.
VTC Vocational Training Centre

- Gold Commander** Headquarters controller for serious incidents.
- Silver Commander** Person in the Establishment in charge of serious incidents
- Bronze Commander** Local Sub Commander for serious incidents.
- Operation Tornado** System to provide extra staff and resources for serious incidents