



INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

for

**THE GLASGOW, EDINBURGH AND LARNE SHORT TERM HOLDING
FACILITIES**

ANNUAL REPORT

1 FEBRUARY 2018 to 31 JANUARY 2019

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ANNEX A.

SECTION A.

1. STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

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

The Glasgow Edinburgh and Larne (GEL) Holding Board is specifically charged to:

- (1) Satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within holding rooms: at Glasgow and Edinburgh Airports, Festival Court and Drumkeen House Reporting Centres and the Short Term Holding Facility (STHF) at Larne.(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 establishment has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

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

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Independent Monitoring Board at GEL for 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019. We have considered the evidence from our observations during regular visits to each establishment, and from scrutiny of records and data. Informal contacts, with detainees and staff, have also shaped our opinions.

Main judgements

We have framed our main overall judgements around whether detainees are:

- a) treated fairly,
- b) treated humanely and
- c) prepared well for removal or release.

We have observed during our many visits to the establishments that overall, detainees are invariably treated in a respectful and caring manner by the Detainee Custody Officers (DCOs). Staff generally work hard to maintain a supportive culture within the holding rooms (HRs) and the Short Term Holding Facility (STHF).

We have, however, a number of concerns about the dignity and respect afforded to detainees.

Our main concerns are:

- a) Some IS91s (the authorising document, giving reasons for detention) are still not being completed correctly, despite the concerns raised by us in previous reports. We have found that the risk sections have not been properly completed by a number of detaining agents. This could have serious implications regarding the safe and secure custody of some detainees.
- b) That detainees being transferred from Terminal 2 to the HR at terminal 1 at Edinburgh Airport are sometimes escorted, in an undignified manner, through busy passenger areas, in full view of other passengers.
- c) Some detainees who have arrived late at night at Edinburgh Airport have had to endure a long onward journey to Dungavel IRC, only to spend a few hours there and then return to the Airport for an early morning flight.
- d) Detainees who are held at Glasgow and Edinburgh Airport HRs for long periods, sometimes overnight, are denied access to showering facilities.
- e) Locked toilet doors at Edinburgh Airport HR can be opened by other detainees. This is not a particularly safe arrangement, nor does it respect the privacy of the occupant. Proper toilet seats are also missing.
- f) Facilities still do not exist, at Glasgow Airports HR and Festival Court Reporting Centre HRs, for segregation of male and female detainees.
- g) As stated in previous reports, the toilet facilities at Festival Court HR, which are incorporated within the one HR, are demeaning to the detainees. Toilet seats are also not fitted.

Recommendations

Our main recommendations are:

- a) That the proper completion of sections 3 and 4 of the IS91 document is prioritised within the practice of all Border Force Officers. We would ask that C&C Officers do not accept transfer of detainees without full completion of documentation including the IS91. Proper risk assessment is an integral part of ensuring that all detainees are treated safely and humanely.
- b) Detainees who are detained late at night, for example at Edinburgh Airport, and who will be departing on an early flight next morning, should be held overnight in the HR. This would remove the need for them to endure the long return journey to Dungavel IRC.
- c) Showering facilities be sourced at both Edinburgh and Glasgow Airports, to facilitate overnight use of both HRs.
- d) All detainee transfers, from T2 to the T1 HR at Edinburgh Airport, should be made out of sight of the other passengers.
- e) Proper toilet seats should be fitted at the Edinburgh Airport and Festival Court HRs .

Major issues outstanding from previous reports

The Board is pleased to report that a number of issues, brought to the attention of the relevant agencies, have been successfully resolved during the reporting year.

There are, however, a number of issues which have either been partially resolved or remain to be actioned.

These are:

- a) The proper completion of the risk assessment sections 3 and 4 of the IS 91 document (see **Recommendation a**, above).
- b) The toilet facilities at Festival Court remain a source of concern to us. We stated in previous reports that the location of toilets, in the corner of the small holding room, provides no real privacy, and the stainless steel bowls without seats are undignified. We are pleased that the doors have been extended, providing some privacy; however our main concerns have not been fully met.
- c) Showering facilities at Edinburgh and Glasgow Airports, to facilitate overnight use of both HRs, have not been arranged. We appreciated that there may not be scope for actual showers to be incorporated in both HRs. Nevertheless, showering facilities are a fundamental requirement for personal hygiene, so we suggest that showering facilities should be sourced elsewhere within the secure area (see **Recommendation c**, above).
- d) Our concerns about the transfer of detainees between the holding areas, at Edinburgh Airport, have been partially resolved. While vehicles are being used, there have still been significant numbers of occasions when detainees are walked, under escort, between the terminals in full view of other passengers (see **Recommendation d**, above).
- e) We previously raised the issues of provision of secure areas where detainees could smoke or get access to fresh air. We note that both issues have not been resolved.
- f) We also raised the issue of limited availability of contracted hours by C&C staff at Edinburgh Airport. We were concerned that Border Force Officers, who may not have focus and expertise of DCOs, were being utilised to oversee detainees at times when dedicated C&C staff were not on shift. We are pleased to note that this has been partially resolved, i.e. C&C Detention Staff are now working, from January 2019, 8am to 1am on Mondays and Fridays and we understand that this arrangement will be extended to all days from 2 June 2019.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS

The Establishments Monitored by the GEL IMB Board are:

- a) Glasgow Airport (GLA) Holding Rooms,
- b) Edinburgh Airport (EDI) Holding Rooms.
- c) Festival Court Reporting Centre in Glasgow,
- d) Drumkeen House Reporting Centre in Belfast and
- e) The Larne House Short Term Holding Facility (STHF).

The description of each Establishment is given below.

Glasgow Airport Holding Rooms

The holding rooms (HRs) are situated airside adjacent to the immigration control desks at International arrivals, directly below the offices occupied by Border Force. The area also houses interview rooms, used by UK Border Force (UKBF). It has been in the process of reconfiguration over recent months to make better use of existing space, and create separate male and female HRs. Completion of this work is now long overdue.

The HRs are staffed by two Care & Custody DCOs who operate, currently, between the hours of 9am and 9pm. The contracted hours have been extended, on Mondays and Fridays - during January 2019, to 8am and 1am. This will be the standard, for all days, from 2 June 2019.

Detainees were not previously kept in the holding room overnight, however we have noticed that since the new contract commenced in May 2018 with C&C, occasionally detainees have been held, in the HRs, for periods of up to eight hours. They are then normally transferred to the Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), or removed on a return flight the same day.

Refreshments and light foods are available for detainees. A landline telephone can be used by detainees. They may also use their own mobile phones, provided no camera is linked to the device. DCOs can issue a "house" mobile in which the detainee uses his/her own sim card.

There is no natural light in the holding area and no access to fresh air. Smoking is not permitted within the airport, which causes problems at times for some detainees, particularly those smokers who have been subject of a long, intercontinental flight. Lozenges are, however, available. The DCO Office is very small, less than 10.5 square metres, and is, in our opinion, just sufficient for current operation. We understand that the DCO complement will shortly be increased to 3 DCOs and we are concerned that this space constraint will impact on the efficient operation of the HR.

Lounge-type portable beds, with pillows and blankets, are available and an upholstered seating bench can also be used for sleeping on. Showering facilities are not available to Detainees.

Seating consists of fixed chairs and the above-mentioned bench. A large beanbag-style seat, which has proved quite popular with some detainees, is also available.

A variety of reading material in different languages is available. Basic information and advice on immigration/asylum matters is provided in leaflet and poster form, again in a variety of languages.

The number of detainees held in the Holding Facility in the period covered by this report is shown in the Statistics (Annex A).

Edinburgh Airport Holding Rooms

Edinburgh Airport is the busiest Scottish airport.

The Short Term Holding Facility (HR) is located airside at the south end of the International arrivals hall and is staffed by C&C DCOs from midday to midnight. As with Glasgow Airport, the hours of cover will be extended next year to 8am-1am the next morning.

Two DCOs, one male and one female, cover the daily working hours. Outside of these times Border Force (BF) staffs look after detainees. We do however; anticipate that the new contractual hours arrangements will alleviate the need for BF cover.

The HR is situated on the ground floor of Terminal 1, with Border Force offices on the first floor, in an extension to the main airport building. A new arrivals hall Terminal 2 (T2) was built at the north end of the airport last year due to the increase in passenger numbers.

The holding area at Edinburgh is a purpose-built facility with a waiting area, two interview rooms, a fingerprint room as well as two HRs and a control room. C&C staff can observe detainees through a large window. One of the HRs is set up as a family room with a baby changing facility, beanbags for children, toys and books. When a mix of non-related males and females are detained, the latter will normally be held in the family room and males in the main holding room. There is a glass-paneled partition between the two holding rooms with a door which is not lockable. Both rooms have a number of fixed chairs, a table and a television. There are a number of newspapers available, although it remains the case that most of the foreign papers are usually more than three months old. A number of notices and relevant information is available in different languages and staff give guidance as to where particular information is posted.

The seating consists of two benches which are fairly narrow and not ideal for sleeping on. However, lounge-type folding beds were also incorporated during the latter part of this reporting period and pillows and blankets are also available. The smaller holding room has no such suitable facility. The rooms do not have windows or access to natural light. They are, however, spacious and have good ventilation, although there is no access to fresh air. Smoking is not allowed and nicotine replacement lozenges are available.

While water and hot drinks are available, the detainees do not have free access to these and must request them from the DCOs. Light snacks such as crisps and croissants are available in both HRs. The meals supplied for detainees are of a long-life variety and are fairly basic and limited in choice. DCOs are, however, empowered to provide additional food, such as sandwiches, which are bought with petty cash from airport vendors.

There are two toilets in the holding area which are spacious and accessed from the main holding room. Our concerns regarding the toilets are given in the Main Judgements section.

As with Glasgow Airport's HR there are no showering facilities available for detainees. Detainees at Edinburgh are not allowed to use mobile phones with camera attachments. DCOs can, however, provide access to a landline or a house mobile where detainees can contact legal representatives, family or friends.

All detainees' property including cash/valuables is held securely by the DCOs. Clothing items such as scarves, belts and ties are routinely taken from detainees for health and safety reasons.

As with other holding facilities, there is a complaints box which is checked every day by Border Force. No complaints have been received during the reporting period.

CCTV is used, both inside and outside of the HRs, by DCOs to monitor the safety and security of detainees.

The number of detainees held in the Holding Facility in the period covered by this Report is shown in the Statistics (Annex A).

Festival Court Reporting Centre

The Holding Room is located in Building No 2 of a complex of three buildings occupied by Home Office/UKBF at Festival Court, Brand Street, Ibrox, Glasgow. Persons who have been temporarily admitted to the UK, and are resident in Scotland, are required to report periodically at this Reporting Centre. Some are asylum seekers awaiting decisions about their status. The Holding Room is used by people detained on reporting, during an operational enforcement visit or who are required for interview from an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). It is also used, when family removal operations are being carried out, as an assembly point before detainees are transported to an embarkation port. IMB members from the Glasgow, Edinburgh and Larne Board have authorised entry passes, which have been issued by the Home Office.

The holding facility consists of a control room and the holding room (HR). There is also the use of an additional interview room when separate detention accommodation is required. There is an observation window between the control room and the Holding Room, but there is no such provision for the use of the interview room, so one DCO is deployed to ensure the safe detention of the detainee. The Holding Facility is currently staffed, by two Care and Custody DCOs, from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. It is a non-residential facility.

Cold water and hot drinks can be provided for detainees, and snacks and light meals are also available.

The HR contains individual, fixed plastic seats and a table. The room has two toilets which are cubicles in each corner of the back of the Room, one male and one female. A portable lounge-type folding bed, with bedding, is available, making it possible for one detainee to lie down, in the unlikely event of detainees being accommodated for a long period. However, detainees are usually moved to other suitable accommodation within a short time.

Magazines in various languages are available and a prayer mat can be provided on request.

As with the two other non-residential HRs (at the airports), there is no access to fresh air or natural light. An authorised smoking area is also not available at these locations.

Both C&C DCOs (male and female) are experienced, empathetic and highly professional. It is our opinion that this level of staff stability and competence contributes significantly to the care provided at this centre.

The number of detainees held in the Holding room in the period covered by this Report is shown in the Statistics (Annex A).

Drumkeen House Reporting Centre

During the later part of this reporting period, the GEL IMB assumed responsibility for monitoring the Holding Room located in the Drumkeen House complex which is occupied by Home Office/UKBF in Belfast. Persons who have been temporarily admitted to the UK, and are resident in Northern Ireland, are required to report periodically at this reporting centre. Some are asylum seekers awaiting decisions about their status. The holding room is used by people detained on reporting, during an operational enforcement visit or who are required for interview from an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). IMB members from the Glasgow, Edinburgh and Larne Board have authorised entry passes, which have been issued by the Home Office.

The holding facility consists of a control room and two small holding rooms, to facilitate male and female detainees separately. There is an observation window between the control room and both HRs, to ensure the safe detention of the detainees. The holding facility is currently staffed by two Care and Custody DCOs on three days per week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 5pm. It is a non-residential facility with detainees usually transferred to Larne House if detention is necessary.

Hot and cold (water) drinks can be provided, for detainees, if required. Light snacks and hot meals are also available.

The HRs contain individual plastic seats and a table, which are fixed to the floor. There are toilets in each HR.

Magazines in various languages are available and a prayer mat can be provided on request.

As with the other non-residential holding rooms which the IMB monitor, there is no access to fresh air or natural light. An authorised smoking area is also not available at this location.

The members' general monitoring experience at Drumkeen House is limited given its low use and that we have only been monitoring for a very short period. There have been no significant issues recorded.

The number of detainees held in the Holding room in the full year period, covered by this Report, is shown in the Statistics (Annex A).

Larne House STHF

This facility opened in July 2011 and is located within the Larne Police Station compound. It is a residential facility and the only designated service in Northern Ireland where immigration detainees may be held. Persons may be detained for up to seven days where removal directions (RDs) have been served. Where these have not been served, the maximum period of detention at the provision is five days, following which individuals must either be released (unconditionally or temporarily), removed from Northern Ireland, or transferred to an IRC on the UK mainland, there being no appropriate resource available in the province. Prior to the service being opened, detainees were kept in Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) custody suites where monitoring was carried out by Independent Custody Visitors. The Home Office Immigration Minister appointed the Glasgow IMB to undertake monitoring at Larne towards the end of 2012.

Board members normally visit once fortnightly. A recommendation in the Shaw Review ⁽¹⁾ was that more frequent visits should be made by the Board and that a number of these visits should be carried out during the evening and night. The frequency of visits is largely governed by a budget set by the IMB Secretariat. However, the Board has a member who resides in the province and thus has some flexibility in covering monitoring responsibilities at Larne and Drumcree House.

The provision is managed by C&C staff, usually a team of six DCOs working under a Duty Care Operational Manager (DCOM). There is a mix of male and female officers. A total of 24 DCOs work four days on and four days off in four shifts on a 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year basis.

There is no Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) presence at Larne. If there is a detainee who cannot be managed after being accepted at Larne House, there are contingency arrangements in place to ensure individuals can be moved to a more suitable location. In the first instance, this would be to a mainland IRC. Police stations can sometimes be used.

Families with young children are not detained, but given temporary admission (now termed, bail) with a direction to report to Drumkeen House Reporting Centre in Belfast as and when required.

Larne House can accommodate up to 19 detainees in 10 bedrooms, only some of which are for single use. Male and female bedrooms are located in separate parts of the building. The bedrooms are very basic, containing only a bed and wardrobe. There are no wall decorations, or reading lamps. Wooden-edge beds are raised above the height of each mattress making it quite uncomfortable to sit on. The lack of suitable seating in bedrooms has been an issue raised by the Board in previous reports. Normal seating was viewed as unsuitable by staff and the Home Office since the bedrooms are small and any seating would need to be secured to the floor for safety reasons.

⁽¹⁾ *Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons: A report to the Home Office by Stephen Shaw.* January 2016. HMSO

The Board has not pursued the matter as new seating arrangements in the recreation room went some way to easing the problem. It remains the case, however, that private time for detainees remains limited.

The Centre is compact, clean and well decorated. It is cleaned daily by contractors and given a deep clean every few months. Although there is no natural light, the eco-lighting system is effective and efficient. There are no light switches and when areas are not in use the lighting reduces to a low lux level.

The small recreation room offers a TV with Freesat providing in excess of 100 channels, a selection of DVDs, books, newspapers and magazines in various languages. English language newspapers are provided daily, those in other languages tending to be older and not changed so frequently. We have questioned, in previous reports, the usefulness of having these. There are two computers, with headphones, however there is limited access to the internet. Since improved facilities and seating arrangements have been established, association amongst detainees is said to have generally improved. The size of the room, however, places limitations on these opportunities, particularly when the complex is busy.

Other areas at the complex include –

- Reception, offices and staff room (adjacent to, but out with the residential part of the facility)
- interview rooms
- A 'management' room
- A custody office for use by a C&C manager, containing a small "shop" selling basic items such as soap, cigarettes, etc.
- A small, outside, exercise area where detainees may smoke and have access to fresh air. This was recently decorated and a number of bright attractive prints of Northern Irish scenes have been attached to the walls
- Showers and toilets
- A multi-faith prayer room with religious materials available for a variety of faiths
- A dining room/kitchen area with tables and fixed seating
- A hot and cold drinks machine
- All-day supply of cereals, milk and fruit: with the provision of hot meals prepared by DCOs from frozen/chilled packs using microwave and other ovens
- Washing and drying equipment
- A medical room.

When a detainee is admitted to Larne, he or she is assessed for detention suitability. The duty nurse undertakes a review of any medications brought in with the individual and makes a general assessment of the detainee's health situation. A fully qualified nurse is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the year. There has, however, been occasions when detainees, transferred directly from prison, have appeared in the centre without health referral information from the prison. The Board is monitoring this very carefully.

Detainees have freedom of movement and association across all areas except for the custody office. Those detainees who have been admitted without adequate clothing are given a pack containing basic underwear and tracksuit-type outer garments.

Detainees may use their own mobile phones providing no camera is fitted and internet access is not available. If required, detainees can be issued with a basic mobile 'phone to be returned when he/she leaves Larne.

This is the only residential facility monitored by this IMB. People held at the non-residential holding areas at airports and the reporting centre will typically be detained for just a few hours whilst those detained at Larne House can be held for up to a week if removal directions are set. There is, therefore, greater opportunity for interaction between the DCOs and detainees at Larne.

Our experience is that the DCOs demonstrate a professional, caring and friendly attitude towards detainees and will go out of their way to make their stay as comfortable and stress-free as possible. During our visits we speak with as many detainees as possible. We have consistently found that detainees have a very high regard for the staff who they find helpful, friendly and open. From our findings and observations, we are of the opinion that the relaxed atmosphere fashioned by staff, under operational circumstances that see an ever-changing detainee population, is a major factor in the positive atmosphere the IMB consistently finds at Larne House STHF.

As in previous years, a number of relatively minor issues have been raised by members over the reporting period. As before, these have either been immediately resolved, or a satisfactory reason provided regarding the issue.

During the course of the reporting year, the Board has been formally notified of one significant incident occurring at Larne. A ventilation fan, in one of the unoccupied bedrooms overheated and caused a small fire. DCOs initially tackled the fire and the Fire Service then made the building safe. The bedroom sustained some smoke damage, but detainees and C&C staffs were not harmed. The bedroom was subsequently redecorated and brought back into use. The Board is satisfied that staff managed this incident professionally, minimising potential injury to those involved.

The number of detainees held at Larne during the period covered by this report is shown in Annex A.

SECTION B.

4. SAFETY

The Board has found that the reception and induction process of detainees is carried out in a thorough and caring manner all within a reasonable time of their arrival within the establishments. Equally, we have found that detainees are properly assessed, on arrival, and that they are allocated suitable accommodation. DCOs do take cognisance of the individual personal risk to or from detainees, when that information is available to them (DCOs). However, the Board is still concerned about:

- a) The unacceptable number of IS91s forms which are still not properly completed and
- b) The sparsity of health and safety information passed on, by Prisons, when detainees are transferred from Prison to STHF, particularly at Larne.

The Board has not come across any instances of bullying, violence or coercion during this period. We have generally found that DCOs carry out their tasks in a caring and professional manner.

We have earlier in this report expressed our concerns about:

- c) The unnecessary night transfers between Edinburgh Airport's HR and Dungavel IRC.
- d) The unfinished alteration work at the Glasgow Holding Facility, where male and female detainees are not yet adequately segregated.
- e) The Edinburgh Airport T2 to T2 transfer arrangements where we feel that detainees are not sometime escorted in a dignified manner and where they can be in full view of the travelling public.

5. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

The Board, through its many monitoring visits, is generally satisfied that detainees are treated, within the HRs and STHF, in an equal and fair manner. We have not, however been given access to the Home Office complaints system so we are unable to give our opinion about whether detainee complaints are robustly and fairly answered within a reasonable timeframe.

There appears to be adequate and appropriate provision to meet the religious needs of detainees. These include:

- a) Provision of a room specifically dedicated for prayer (Larne House)
- b) Listing of multi-faith Chaplains
- c) Care about appropriate foods (Halal etc.)
- d) Provision of bibles and Korans.

We have also witnessed DCOs supporting detainees' access to appropriate legal advice. Detainees are, however, unable to independently seek legal advice because they do not have access to the internet. It is unfortunate that they must rely on the assistance of family, friends or the DCOs to obtain this basic right.

6. REMOVAL FROM ASSOCIATION/TEMPORARY CONFINEMENT (rule 35/37)

The Board is not aware that any detainee came under rule 35 of the Detention Centre rules; We are also unaware of any detainee being subject to rule 37.

7. RESIDENTIAL SERVICES/HOLDING ROOM CONDITIONS

We have commented, in 3 above, about the inadequate provision of natural light, fresh air, smoking and exercise areas within the two airport holding facilities. We have also noted that there is generally adequate access for detainees to phones and mobile phones within the HRs.

Board members pay particular attention to the standard of food served to detainees during all monitoring visits. While meals tend to be very basic, they have been found to be culturally appropriate and nutritionally balanced. All ready meals, sandwiches/baguettes and other packaged foods have been found to be in-date. The catering, food, kitchen hygiene and serveries at Larne House have been found to be of a consistently high standard.

We continue to be impressed with the high standard of staff-detainee relationships across the Establishments. DCOs appear to be well informed and to maintain a culture where all detainees are treated with respect and addressed in a polite manner. Equally DCOs have been found to be sensitive to individual detainee's vulnerabilities.

Staff-detainee communications are generally clear, accurate and timely. Good use is made of telephone translation services and there is a number of information cards, in a variety of appropriate languages, available in each HR.

8. HEALTHCARE

There is 24-hour healthcare cover at Larne House and we are pleased to report that the Duty Nurses have informal back up support from the NHS, including the local hospital. Medical staffs have good and effective relationships with local health providers and NHS commissioners.

All detainees are assessed as part of the induction to the STHF. There is a dedicated medical room which is fully equipped to give immediate assistance to detainees, should they require it.

While the other establishments do not have such a comprehensive provision, we are nonetheless confident that the DCOs have been trained and have the necessary skills to provide first aid assistance and that they are fully aware of their local NHS emergency provision.

9. EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Education provision is not provided at the establishment due to the short/transient stay of detainees. Magazines, newspapers, television and limited access to computer games are provided to relive boredom.

The Board has, in the past, requested the provision of some gym/exercise equipment, at Larne STHF, where detainees can be held for up to five days. We acknowledge, however, that there is presently no space to implement this request. We do however urge that any future reconfiguration of the STHF includes a small gym.

10. PREPARATION FOR RELEASE/REMOVAL

Board members have, during monitoring visits, consistently witnessed DCOs assisting detainees to get access to their legal advisers, family and supporters especially during induction and stressful times such as when removal directions are served. The DCOs have also been seen to assist detainees to understand ticket arrangements or obtain money changing facilities especially when detainees require English denomination currencies when leaving detention in Scotland for onward travel through England.

SECTION C.

THE WORK OF THE GEL INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

The Board undertakes its role by carrying out regular, unannounced, monitoring visits to each of the Establishments. Members vary their visits so that they can obtain an accurate knowledge of the overall operation and culture of each centre.

The Board has been having great difficulties in recruiting and retaining members. Some members have retired after long service to the Board. We undertook a recruitment campaign but were only able to recruit one new member, who was appointed and then found that he was unable to undertake his membership of the Board. We are currently preparing for another recruitment campaign.

The board statistics are shown in Annex A.

Hugh McGloin

Chair, on behalf of the Board

Annex A

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended Complement of Board Members	12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7
Members attendance at Board Meetings	70%
Total number of monitoring visits to:	
Glasgow Airport	38
Edinburgh Airport	48
Festival Court Reporting Centre	46
Drumkeen Reporting Centre	3
Larne STHF	24
Detainee Movements at:	
Glasgow Airport	574
Edinburgh Airport	601
Festival Court Reporting Centre	328
Drumkeen Reporting Centre	28
Larne STHF	551