



# Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Bullingdon

**For reporting year  
1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020**

Published October 2020



**Contents**

<b>Introductory sections 1 - 3</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Statutory role of the IMB	3
2. Description of establishment	4
3. Executive summary	5
(including an additional note on prison life during the pandemic)	6
<b>Evidence sections 4 – 7</b>	
4. Safety	12
5. Humane treatment	17
6. Health and wellbeing	23
7. Progression and resettlement	25
<b>The work of the IMB</b>	31
<b>Applications to the IMB</b>	32

## Introductory sections 1 – 3

### 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 is situated.

Under the National Monitoring Framework agreed with ministers, the Board is required 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 authority has been delegated as it judges appropriate, any concern it has
- report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

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

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) is an international human rights treaty designed to strengthen protection for people deprived of their liberty. The protocol recognises that such people are particularly vulnerable and aims to prevent their ill-treatment through establishing a system of visits or inspections to all places of detention. OPCAT requires that states designate a National Preventive Mechanism to carry out visits to places of detention, to monitor the treatment of and conditions for detainees and to make recommendations for the prevention of ill-treatment. The IMB is part of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism.

## **2. Description of the establishment**

2.1 HMP Bullingdon is a local and resettlement prison situated near Bicester in Oxfordshire. During the last year it has been through part of an ongoing process of reconfiguration. This means that it now holds a larger number of prisoners on remand, most of whom will transfer to other establishments if they are convicted, and many of whom will now appear at some court hearings by video-link from the prison. It also means that Bullingdon now serves a larger number of courts than was the case before reconfiguration: Aylesbury, Oxford, Reading and Swindon Crown Courts and the Magistrates' Courts in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. It continues to serve as a resettlement prison for the Thames Valley, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, so prisoners who will be released to those areas are moved to it for the end of their sentences. In addition, it continues to hold men convicted of sexual offences who are under treatment, and some young adults. These differing functions mean that it is a complex prison that faces a range of operational challenges. Further planned changes as part of the reconfiguration process are on hold due to restrictions arising from the current pandemic.

2.2 The prison's certified normal accommodation is 869, but its normal operational capacity (permitted maximum number of prisoners) is 1,114, and it often accommodates in excess of 1,100 prisoners. As of May this maximum number was reduced temporarily from 1,114 to 1077. In the first nine months of the reporting year (July to March), it operated with an average occupancy of 1,068 (compared with 1,054 in 2018/19, 1,109 in 2017/18, 1,109 in 2016/17, 1,095 in 2015/16, 1,100 in 2014/15, 1,093 in 2013/14 and 1,063 in 2012/13). In the last three months (April to June), during the period of coronavirus, it operated with an average occupancy of 1,057. These high levels mean that many prisoners share cells that were designed for only one occupant (see below, 5.1.1.2).

### **3. Executive summary**

#### **3.1 Background to the report**

##### **3.1.1 Staff matters**

As of 31 May 2020, Bullingdon had 276 uniformed staff: operational support staff, prison officers, supervisory officers and custodial managers. On that date, 43 of these officers were either in their first (probationary) year, having completed the initial 12-week training course (POELT: Prison Officer Entry Level Training), or were waiting to begin the course. 137 officers had experience of one-two years, and there were 97 officers (including supervisory officers and custodial managers) who had experience of two or more years. Between 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, 31 prison officers left Bullingdon. 21 of these officers resigned, and the other ten either transferred to other establishments, retired, or were dismissed.

In September five members of staff were presented with awards for long service and good conduct. One member of uniformed staff was a finalist in the Prison Officer of the Year Awards for his work in the area of public safety. A manager in the education department was shortlisted as partner of the year.

Information technology systems are slow and unreliable, and often make it very difficult for members of staff to carry out routine tasks. This can have a bearing on safety and security, and on sentence progression, since it is an impediment to keeping records up-to-date.

##### **3.1.2 HMIP inspections**

Two HMIP inspections took place during the year. The first was a full inspection visit, for a week in July 2019, when inspectors rated the prison at three for safety and respect (meaning reasonably good, with no significant concerns) but only two for purposeful activity and rehabilitation (meaning that further improvements needed to be made). The scale that is used runs from one (the lowest) to four (the highest). These results are an improvement on previous reports, and the HMIP report refers to some significant improvements.

The second was a pilot short scrutiny (one day) visit in April 2020. Since this was a pilot the report is unpublished. It notes positive steps the prison was taking to manage the newly-implemented restricted regime then in place, and also the variable degree to which social distancing was being observed.

##### **3.1.3 CQC Inspection**

A Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in July 2019, conducted in tandem with the full HMIP inspection, reported that health services had improved and were reasonably good overall.

### **3.1.4 Additional note: Prison life during a pandemic**

In February Bullingdon had early exposure to the risks associated with covid-19, when a prisoner who was transferred here from the Far East was found to have symptoms consistent with the virus. He was tested and found to be negative, but in the meantime the prison put him into isolation, and gained valuable experience in establishing how to seek to prevent the transmission of a notifiable disease in a prison context. The acting governor was able to advise the national prison service in the light of this experience, and to draw on it in late March and onwards when the prison was instructed to implement a new limited regime.

Some of the changes to the running of the prison under restrictions arising from the need to prevent the spread of covid-19 are noted in the body of this report, but the Board has decided to include a summary here for ease of reference.

The three most significant changes in the prison are each the direct consequence of a national decision to try to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

Two of these changes arise from a national decision to reduce the number of people entering the establishment. First, this decision has led to the end of social visits, so the family and friends of prisoners have not been able to come to see them. This has had a significant impact on the ability of many prisoners to keep in contact with other people, but the prison has sought to mitigate its effects by giving prisoners additional credit to use on telephone calls that they may make from their cells. As of 30 June there were plans also to implement a scheme to allow prisoners to make video calls using digital tablets from within the prison.

Second, outside agencies including those who provided education, the library and other services were not permitted to work in the prison, leading to a much reduced regime; the prison has focused on containing the virus by containing most of its prisoners, so much of the work intended to facilitate education and rehabilitation has been placed on hold. This restriction on non-essential and non-operational staff has also contributed to a reduction in the number of visits made by the IMB.

Third, the requirement to keep prisoners and staff apart as much as possible, together with the reduction in available activities, has meant that many prisoners have spent 23 hours in the day in their cell. This has been a necessary consequence of the attempt to maintain social distancing, which is not straightforward in a prison environment, but has led inevitably to long and enforced periods of isolation for prisoners who have had minimal access to facilities and much reduced scope for exercise and social interaction, with the inevitable risks for health and wellbeing that such restrictions bring. The pressure for prisoners sharing cells designed for single occupancy is likely to have been (and likely continues to be) much greater than normal. To mitigate this, the prison has distributed paper-based 'distraction' and education packs for in-cell use, has provided snacks to supplement meals, and has made it easier for prisoners to buy additional goods including food for personal consumption. Access to in-cell telephones, which were installed last year, has been invaluable.

The negative impact of this regime may be seen in its impact on opportunities for education (see below 7.1.5-9), employment (see below 7.2.7-8), programmes

intended to help with rehabilitation (see below 7.3.7) and opportunities for exercise (see below 6.4.3) and communal religious worship (5.5.2). Most prisoners leave their cells only to collect meals and medication, and to take showers and exercise on a restricted basis. Staff complete daily welfare checks on prisoners in all cells, and have been instructed to ensure that at least one check is made with the cell door open to provide direct communication with the prisoner. [SEP]

There has been little success in decreasing the prison population, despite the reduction of its operational capacity. Very few prisoners have been eligible for the national scheme for early release (see below, 7.5.3), and significant numbers have been brought back into prison on recall, often for very short periods of seven to 14 days, so that they never leave the part of the induction unit in which all newly arrived prisoners are quarantined. Special measures have been introduced to ensure that during the pandemic all prisoners who are released have been offered some form of housing (see below, 7.5.6).

Some prisoners were appointed as covid-19 peer representatives, and they have met regularly with the deputy governor, and then spoken with other prisoners, helping to calm some fears and prevent rumours from developing. Prison television and radio were also used to communicate messages to all prisoners.

Also on the positive side, as of 30 June Bullingdon had very few confirmed cases of covid-19. Only a very small number of members of staff has tested positive. No prisoners tested positive, of a total of seven who were tested. The prison has managed an effective system to keep new arrivals in quarantine for the required period, to isolate those who were symptomatic or shielding, and to continue essential operations such as the kitchen and its regular safety and security procedures in very difficult and challenging circumstances both for prisoners and for staff.

## **3.2 Main judgements**

### **How safe is the prison?**

These judgements are based on our monitoring during the period July 2019 to late March 2020, prior to the implementation of a restricted regime. Our observations about the final quarter of the reporting year are included above in paragraph 3.1.4, in our note on prison life during a pandemic.

This is the fifth year in which the Independent Monitoring Board has reported concerns about safety in the prison. Levels of violence remained high prior to lockdown in March (but lower than last year - see below, 4.3.1), and a larger number of drugs and weapons were found this year than last year (see below, 4.4.7).

### **How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?**

Generally, prisoners are treated fairly but limited resources inevitably have an impact on the management of prisoners.

The Board questions whether having many prisoners doubled up in cells designed for only one occupant is humane (see below, 5.1.1.2).

Vulnerable prisoners (mainly prisoners who have committed sexual offences) are treated unfairly in reception because of inadequate facilities there (see below, 4.1.4).

The Board is not confident that the prison has done all that it could to eliminate discrimination (see below, 5.4).

Some older prisoners are treated unfairly when kept in the healthcare unit because of a lack of accommodation suitable for social care elsewhere in the prison (see below, 6.3.3).

### **How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?**

Prisoners' physical health needs are on the whole met well. More resources are required to meet mental healthcare needs.

### **How well are prisoners progressed towards successful resettlement?**

There are some good opportunities for education (see below, 7.1), and some opportunities for training through employment in the prison (see below, 7.2). However progress towards successful resettlement is patchy. Many prisoners leave without stable accommodation or employment (see below, 7.5).

### **3.3 Main areas for development**

#### ***TO THE MINISTER***

1. The increased number of uniformed officers during the last two years is very welcome, but it will take a long time to build up the amount of experience and knowledge that has been lost as a result of past staff cuts and subsequent attrition. How will the minister ensure that staff levels are maintained at an adequate level for the future, and what can he do to enhance the training that they receive?
2. What steps is the minister taking to ensure that probation services will have the number of staff that they need, both in prisons and in the community? How will he address the problems that have arisen because of the amount of experience and knowledge that has been lost as a result of past staff cuts and subsequent attrition?
3. What steps is the minister taking to ensure that the service provider now contracted to maintain the prison estate, including Bullingdon, will receive the resources that it needs to deal with the backlog of maintenance issues that it continues to face?

#### ***TO THE PRISON SERVICE***

1. The recruitment of new officers over the last two years has been welcome, but the prison has lost many experienced officers, and many current members of uniformed staff have relatively little experience of working in a prison environment (see above, description of the prison, 3.1.1). How will the prison service take steps to address the issue of retaining staff, both nationally and locally, recognising that many factors are outside the control of governors and staff in prisons such as Bullingdon? How will it ensure that they are able to receive the training and professional development that they need if they are to succeed in their role?
2. How will the prison service address the endemic and systemic losses of prisoners' property when they are moving between establishments, as well as within prisons (see below, 5.8.1-2)? For the past three years, the prison service has responded to questions about property by saying that work on a new framework for prisoners' property has been delayed. When will this change be introduced?
3. Will the prison service review the provision for older prisoners in the prison estate as a whole, bearing in mind their increasing numbers and the examples in this report (see below, 5.4.7, 6.3.3) of unequal treatment for this group?

#### ***TO THE GOVERNOR***

1. How will the governor ensure that new officers and other staff receive the training and mentoring that they need to develop in their roles, especially when the proportion of experienced operational staff is so low? And what steps can she take to retain good recruits, recognising that many factors are outside her control?

2. How will the governor set out to address the changes in culture and practice that are required if assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) and associated procedures are to be used more effectively (see below, 4.2.5)?

3. How will the governor ensure that the new offender management in custody (OMiC) model is fully implemented, and that key workers will have sustainable caseloads and the capacity to meet with prisoners for the required length of time (see below, 4.3.9)?

4. The serious problem with the availability and use of drugs as measured by the number of finds and the cases of being 'under the influence' shows no consistent sign of being brought under control (see below, 4.3). This is despite the prison adopting routinely stronger actions to stem the supply mainly through the greater use of sniffer dogs, and screening and copying incoming mail. What further measures will the prison take to address this problem more effectively?

5. How will the governor ensure that maintenance work and repairs are planned and carried out in a satisfactory way, avoiding operational problems, risks to safety, and wasted expenditure (see below, 4.1.4, 5.1.1.7)?

## **3.4 Progress since the last report**

3.4.1 The completion of a new video suite has been an integral part of the reconfiguration of the prison (see above, description of the prison, 2.1) and contributes to the smoother administration of the prison, reducing the need for unnecessary movements of prisoners in and out of the establishment.

3.4.2 A HMIP inspection in July 2019 noted a number of improvements across the prison (see above, description of the prison, see above, 3.1.2).

3.4.3 The establishment of a new weekly Safety Intervention Meeting (SIM) which reviews the care and management of individual prisoners (see below, 4.0).

3.4.4 The installation of in-cell telephones has greatly improved opportunities for prisoners to communicate with their families, and has improved communication in the prison (see below, 5.1.1). It has been especially valuable since March when the normal regime was restricted.

3.4.5 There has been external recognition of high hygiene standards in the kitchen (5.1.3.1), and the portion of food offered for breakfast has been improved (see below, 5.1.3.4).

3.4.6 There is better management of the SSCU (5.2.1), and prisoners held there are now collecting their meals from the servery, rather than having them delivered to their door. This offers an opportunity for them to leave their cells and increases the amount of interaction that they can have with other people (see below, 5.2.4).

3.4.7 The much-reduced backlog in the implementation of offender assessment system (OASys) plans is a significant improvement. This allows for better sentence planning and therefore better prospects for the rehabilitation of prisoners in preparation for their release (see below, 7.3.1).

3.4.8 Training on supporting prisoners with personality disorders is a welcome development (see below, 7.3.3)

## Evidence sections 4 – 7

### 4. Safety

#### 4.0 Overview

The prison continues to regard the safety of prisoners and staff as of the highest priority. The safety of prisoners is managed through the monthly Safety Strategy meeting.

In addition, a new weekly Safety Intervention Meeting (SIM) has been set up. This meeting reviews prisoners who are safeguarding, on the violence reduction programme known as Challenge, Support and Intervention Plans (CSIP), and also long-term residents of SSCU (see below, 5.2). Those who attend include staff from all residential units, and from the healthcare and mental health teams.

Challenges to maintaining a safe environment include the availability and use of illegal drugs, the related instances of bullying, the high incidence of mental health issues, the increased movement of prisoners in and out of Bullingdon compared with last year due to its new role as a local prison serving a larger number of courts, and the relative inexperience of many members of staff (see above 3.1.1, for information about staff).

#### 4.1 Reception and induction

4.1.1 A larger number of men now enter and leave the prison than was the case last year. On average 330 new prisoners entered each month, which represents almost one third of the total population at any one time. This is a 10% increase compared with the previous year. The prison has responded well to the need to process a larger number of new entrants in a timely, efficient and safe way. More staff have been detailed to this function and they have routinely followed established procedures in the correct way. Staff who work in Reception and in the prison's Induction unit take care to assess all entrants for potential risk and vulnerability, and Healthcare personnel play an important role in this process.

4.1.2 Some prisoners also play a role in the induction process for newly arrived prisoners. They meet new prisoners in small groups, and give them an introduction to prison life. Some new arrivals may find the volume of new information overwhelming.

4.1.3 Staff from the charity Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) regularly meet newly arrived prisoners to assist them in booking visits, obtaining pin numbers (which are needed to make phone calls) and opening a bank account, where appropriate.

4.1.4 The IMB remains concerned about the continuing failure to provide adequate holding cell facilities for vulnerable prisoners (mainly those committing a sexual offence) on their arrival in Reception. A new and larger cell was provided for a short period, but it required some further work for safety reasons, and delays in doing this remedial work meant that it has been out of use for most of the reporting year, and remained out of use on 30 June. This is the sixth year in which we have reported this issue.

## 4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

### Suicide and self-harm

4.2.1 There were 599 reported incidents of self-harm during the year; this compares with 580 in the previous year.

4.2.2 The ACCT (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork) procedure is the core means whereby the prison identifies those men at risk to themselves and manages that risk. The number of ACCTs opened by staff is an important measure of the numbers at risk of self-harm. The following table shows the pattern over the last 5 years.

2015-16	2016-17 11months	2017-18	2018-19	2019 - 2020
656	570	743	921	988

4.2.3 The upward trend is clear and this has continued during the past year. It is recognised that the rate of opening an ACCT is influenced by the frequency of deaths in custody that may have been self-inflicted; after a death staff tend to operate in a more risk-averse way.

4.2.4 During the first three months of lockdown there was a significant reduction in the number of ACCTs that were opened. The monthly average for April to June 2020 (under lockdown) was 78, compared to a monthly average of 94 for July 2019 to March 2020 (prior to lockdown).

4.2.5 The effectiveness of the prison's application of the ACCT procedures has been under the spotlight for the past three years, since the HMIP Inspection of 2017. Much work has been undertaken to address this, through extensive staff training and regular monitoring via a dedicated quality assurance scheme. It is clear from the monitoring process that improvements in the quality of work have been made, both in terms of the observational reporting and the regularity of reviews. An internal prison audit of these procedures has shown that improvements have been slower and less consistent than the prison had hoped. One potential area for improvement is the participation of Key Workers more routinely in relevant ACCT cases.

## Deaths in Custody

4.2.6 The number of deaths in custody recorded during the past four years is as follows:

2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
2	3	7	6

These figures may include the deaths of men shortly after release, which the prison service records as deaths in custody. This past year one such case was recorded.

4.2.7 Since July 2019 the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) has published five reports into deaths recorded during the previous year. Three reports concluded death through natural causes; the remaining two were classified as 'self-inflicted'. In both these cases the PPO identified specific failings in the prison's handling of the two men. In the case of the man who died from an overdose of medication, the report pointed to inadequate suicide prevention measures after such risks had been identified. The report was particularly critical of the prison's decision to allow the man a significant amount of medication in his possession. It also referred to the time that it took for an ambulance to gain access to the prison in order to transport the man to hospital.

4.2.8 In the other case, of a man who died by hanging, the PPO concluded that the prison had failed to properly assess the risk of self-harm and suicide in light of the information that they had. The PPO also stated that the standard of healthcare administered fell short of what could reasonably have been expected.

### 4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

4.3.1 Although overall violence levels remain high it is apparent that on some measures the recorded numbers have declined from the previous year. Before the lockdown the total number of recorded assaults during the period July 2019 – March 2020 was 348 compared with 383 in the same period the previous year, an overall reduction of 9% and the first recorded reduction in the prison for several years.

4.3.2 There was little change in the number of prisoner on prisoner assaults; this year there were 287, compared with 284 the previous year. A major factor is the availability and use of drugs with the attendant problems of debt and violence.

4.3.3 However there was a 36% reduction in the number of assaults on staff, from 106 last year to 68 this year during the period July to March. Factors to which this can be attributed likely include improved staffing levels, better staff/prisoner relationships, and the greater use of body worn cameras (although there is still room for significant improvement in the use of these cameras).

4.3.4 It is evident that the profile of cases of violence has changed since the introduction of a restricted regime due to covid-19. Assaults on staff rose from a monthly average of 7 pre-lockdown to a monthly average of 11 in the period April to June. It is noteworthy that the vast majority of these incidents was judged minor in nature. However prisoner-on-prisoner assaults declined massively from a monthly average of 32 to a monthly average of 12 during lockdown.

4.3.5 This finding is not surprising: the considerable restrictions on prisoner movement, together with the much reduced availability of drugs during the first weeks of lockdown (leading to fewer cases of debt and dispute) have resulted in significantly fewer opportunities for prisoner-on-prisoner violence.

4.3.6 Therefore it is reasonable to conclude that prior to lockdown violence across the prison remained at similar high levels to those reported a year ago. This is despite improved staffing levels and the wider use of body-worn video cameras (where there is room for further improvement; see below, 4.5.3).

4.3.7 A larger number of drugs and weapons was found this year than last year. This may reflect improved detection, which may be attributable to the increased use of sniffer dogs and the copying of incoming mail. During the first month of lockdown the presence of drugs was considerably lower as visits were suspended and prisoner movement much reduced; but during late May and into June their availability rapidly increased.

4.3.8 An important part of Violence Reduction is known as OMIC (Offender Management in Custody), a national programme at whose heart is the allocation of an officer as a Key Worker to each prisoner. The aim is for regular, purposeful meetings between the two, building a positive relationship which can enhance the prisoner's progression through his sentence, reducing violence and increasing the likelihood of him not reoffending after his release.

4.3.9 The prison's experience with Key Working has been mixed during the past year. The target for regular meeting has not been met, with officers frequently being deployed to other duties. There is also evidence of too many interactions lacking focus and purpose. However there have been numerous examples of quality interactions, some of which can be linked to improved behaviour patterns. Most recently in the lockdown period it is reasonable to suggest the improvement in individual prisoner/staff relationships has contributed to the relative stability during this unusual time.

4.3.10 The prison has worked to embed CSIP (Challenge, Support, Intervention Plan), another national Violence Reduction tool that aims to identify and support those prisoners posing the greatest risk of violence. Progress has been made both in terms of identification and the quality of work undertaken. This may be seen in the detailed reporting and action planning for identified prisoners. However it is apparent that the work is variable in quality and too frequently the result of reactive moves rather than a more proactive approach. The Safer Custody department considers that opportunities are missed to identify high risk prisoners at an earlier stage. One

potential mechanism for improving this could involve stronger integration of security-based intelligence in the process.

#### **4.4 Vulnerable prisoners, safeguarding**

4.4.1 This year the Board has nothing to report on this area, apart from the issue noted in paragraph 4.1.4 above.

#### **4.5 Use of force**

4.5.1 Many staff are relatively inexperienced (see above, 3.1.1). This may account for some of the increased incidence of use of force, since more experienced officers may be able to de-escalate difficult situations without recourse to the threat or the use of force.

4.5.2 All staff are required to submit a written report of force is used or threatened. It is clear from these reports that the vast majority of times use of force was deployed the incidents were minor and rapidly brought under control. However, not all 'use of force' paperwork is submitted on time, and better recording of these incidents is required.

#### **4.6 Substance misuse**

4.6.1 The prison has an overall drug strategy that is focussed on restricting the supply of illicit drugs, reducing demand for drugs by incentivising prisoners not to use them, and building recovery by collaborating with health partners to deliver substance misuse services.

4.6.2 The healthcare department offers a substance misuse service that provides clinical support and treatment for prisoners across the prison. This service is offered by Inclusion, a drug and alcohol recovery team that is part of the Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, who have a sub-contract with Care UK.

## **5. Fair and humane treatment**

### **5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food**

#### **5.1.1 Accommodation**

5.1.1.1 Bullingdon continues to be overcrowded. It was designed to hold 869 prisoners, but frequently comes near or reaches its permitted maximum capacity ('operational capacity'). Prior to covid-19 this figure was 1,114; in May it was reduced on a temporary basis to 1077. This was a reduction of 3.3%, which still allows the prison to hold 208 more prisoners (19.3%) more than it was designed to hold, despite the additional challenges caused by covid-19.

5.1.1.2 There are 521 cells designed for single occupancy, many of which are occupied by two prisoners. This chronic overcrowding has a detrimental effect on everything that the prison seeks to do and puts great pressure on communal spaces and facilities. It also has a particular impact on the fair and decent treatment of prisoners who are doubled up in cells designed for single use. Prisoners usually eat their meals in cells, and there is little or inadequate screening around the toilet in the cell.

5.1.1.3 Bullingdon opened in 1992. Its buildings and other facilities are in constant, heavy use and there are many signs of general dilapidation through wear and tear, as well as deliberate damage by prisoners, that are greater than the maintenance budget can address. Nevertheless, some improvements in facilities are noted below.

5.1.1.4 During the year a full audit was conducted of furniture in cells, and missing or damaged items were replaced. Prior to the introduction of the restricted regime it was standard for cells to be checked before a new occupant took up residence, and men would be charged for any damage that took place while they use their cell. This contributes to the decency of the environment, and also holds people accountable for their behaviour.

5.1.1.5 Telephones have been installed in all cells on the main wings, and telephone points have been installed in all cells in Healthcare and in the SSCU. This helps to facilitate contact between prisoners and their families and friends outside the prison, which helps to maintain good relationships that may lessen the risk of re-offending. It also facilitates contact between prison staff and prisoners in a way that is much more efficient and less consuming than staff having to walk to wings and ask for access to individual cells. This has been particularly valuable during the restrictions imposed on account of covid-19. One telephone is available on each wing from which officers and other staff on the wing can phone prisoners in their cells. There is also one telephone in the healthcare administration unit, and one in the prison administration area, which other staff can use to call prisoners in their cells. The telephone in the

prison administration area is in a large shared office, which limits the scope for its use for confidential or sensitive matters.

5.1.1.6 Last year we noted poor standards in shower units. Problems persisted in the first part of the year, but some improvements have been made, and a continuing process of refurbishment is underway.

5.1.1.7 Problems persist in the serveries on the wings, where some equipment is broken. There has been capital expenditure to refurbish some serveries, but some of the new equipment has not been fit for purpose and has had to be replaced.

## **5.1.2 Clothing and other supplies**

5.1.2.1 The supply of bedding, clothing, cutlery and plates can be variable. There is sometimes poor communication between wings and stores, so items may be in stock in stores yet not available on wings.

## **5.1.3 Food**

5.1.3.1 The kitchen was recently subject to inspection by Cherwell District Council and was awarded the top score of 5 for hygiene and compliance with statutory requirements. A catering audit was also rated as excellent.

5.1.3.2 The food budget remains officially at £2.02 per man per day although the catering manager reports that she regularly spends in the region of £2.40 per head. There is catering for a range of dietary requirements.

5.1.3.3 A new colour-coded menu was introduced at the beginning of February. Food choices are colour-coded: green for healthy choices like salads, red for less healthy options such as chips and pizza. Each wing has a pack containing documents outlining the fat, salt, sugar content of each choice thereby enabling the men to make an informed choice about their diet

5.1.1.4 Portions are generally adequate. The very meagre breakfast that the board has commented on in previous reports has been supplemented with a porridge pack.

5.1.1.5 The level of discipline and oversight when meals are served is variable. This can lead to some prisoners getting large portions and others missing out. Servery workers do not always wear the required clothing or use the appropriate serving utensils, and sometimes prisoners do not bring with them suitable plates on which to take away their meals. These failures to maintain required standards detract from decency and discipline at serveries.

## **5.2 Segregation, special accommodation**

5.2.1 There was a series of staff changes in the first six months of the year, and this turnover had a negative impact on the regime that the prisoners experienced. As of early 2020 the situation had stabilised and the prisoners' experience had improved. An increased number of officers working in the SSCU (Separation, Support and Challenge Unit) also meant that there were now enough staff for prisoners on the unit to have access to normal facilities during the time when adjudications are held.

5.2.2 The majority of segregation reviews (also known as GOOD Boards) took place on one afternoon a week, and a member of the IMB was usually present.

5.2.3 Action plans (which are intended to help prisoners to return from the SSCU to a normal residential wing) were produced for all prisoners who were in the SSCU for longer than 15 days. The use of these plans, which are considered at SIM meetings (see above, 4.0) has helped to move prisoners out of the SSCU.

5.2.4 Unlike elsewhere in the prison, the SSCU regime was largely unchanged under lockdown. One recent improvement is that prisoners have been collecting their evening meal from servery, and sometimes also their lunch. This offers an opportunity for them to leave their cells and increases the amount of interaction that they can have with other people.

5.2.5 A major issue, which is directly attributable to lockdown, is that it is now much more difficult for prisoners to be transferred between prisons. This means that prisoners who would otherwise have been transferred have been held in the SSCU, sometimes for considerable periods of time.

5.2.6 From the end of March to the end of May the IMB was not able to be present at all GOOD boards because of limited attendance at the prison. As of the end of May a board member has been able to attend via a conference phone.

5.2.7 During this year, there have been several long-serving prisoners in the SSCU. As of 30 June, the longest time spent in the SSCU was 312 days. A total of 46 prisoners were held in the SSCU for more than 15 consecutive days over the course of the reporting year.

5.2.8 There were 3336 adjudications (internal prison hearings in which alleged disciplinary offences are heard by a senior member of operational staff who has been trained to act as an adjudicator) in the reporting year. This compares to 4,067 adjudications in 2018-19, and 3,897 in 2017-2018.

5.2.9 Of the 3336 adjudications this year, 2093 were proven, 790 were dismissed, and 453 were not proceeded with.

### **5.3 Staff-prisoner/detainee relationships, key workers**

5.3.1 Staff-prisoner relationships are generally good.

5.3.2 Bullingdon aims to offer one 45-minute key working session per week to each prisoner who is eligible for these interactions with a key worker. There has been some confusion in the way that key working sessions were recorded and assessed,

but it appears that over the year Bullingdon has not reached the required national target of 52% of such sessions being completed.

5.3.3 However Bullingdon has continued to maintain key working since March 2020 and this has contributed to prisoners' wellbeing during this time. In May 2020 2,043 key working sessions were delivered, which is 51% of the number required for that month; it seems that part of the reason for the better performance under lockdown is that officers acting as keyworkers have not been deployed to other duties since the prison has been running a restricted regime.

## **5.4 Equality and diversity**

5.4.1 The Bullingdon Equalities Action Team (BEAT) now meets bi-monthly instead of quarterly in order to provide more frequent consideration of issues.

5.4.2 Two prisoner forums, for BAME prisoners and travellers respectively, took place: the practice of holding forums to cover various 'protected characteristics' had lapsed during 2018/19.

5.4.3 As the number of Discrimination Incident Reporting Forms (DIRF) submitted had fallen in 2018/19, the situation was reviewed by BEAT in case the low number submitted for a prison of Bullingdon's size was not an accurate reflection of the amount of discrimination experienced. The availability of DIRFs is now better publicized and, following a quality check in March, the briefing for staff and prisoner reps is being revised. The number received fluctuates from quarter to quarter but has increased (e.g. 12 in January-March 2020 compared with 6 in the same quarter of 2019).

5.4.4 Foreign National Prisoners (FNP), comprising over 40 nationalities, make up about 13% of the population (11% in 2018/19). ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses are available for prisoners whose English is limited; ESOL courses feed into mainstream Level 1 English courses.

5.4.5 The use of the telephone-based interpreting service, available in a range of languages, has increased to 282 occasions in 2019/20 (April to February) compared with 230 last year. No data are available about the distribution of use.

5.4.6 About 11% of prisoners are 'young adults' (aged 18-21). Sentenced young adults at times comprise over half the total, although, once sentenced, they are meant to be moved to Young Offender Institutions (YOI).

5.4.7 About 11% of prisoners are over the age of 50; they are defined as 'older' because they are more likely than men on the outside to suffer from poor health. About 50 prisoners are over the age of 60.

5.4.8 About a quarter of prisoners have a stated disability; of these about 40% have a self-disclosed mental illness and about 8% are identified as having learning difficulties. Some prisoners fall into more than one category but the degree of overlap is not known.

5.4.9 BEAT continued to meet during the lockdown but other related meetings and forums were suspended to allow the Safer Custody team to prioritise its resources on safety issues. Consequently, fewer data are available for the monitoring of protected groups. The Equalities data processed nationally have a lag of at least three months so there are no data yet for the lockdown period. Responsibility for equality and diversity was moved from Safer Custody to the Reducing Reoffending function at the end of May; approaches to local data collection are being reviewed.

5.4.10 ESOL provision ceased to be available following the suspension of all education classes at the end of March.

## **5.5 Faith and pastoral support**

5.5.1 The chaplaincy team was carrying some vacancies at the start of the year, which made it difficult for members to do anything beyond statutory duties. It is now fully staffed, but there was a shortage of volunteers whom it managed before the lockdown began. This led to a reduced capacity for counselling (see below, 6.2.4) and prison visiting before lockdown, and action will need to be taken if new volunteers for counselling and for visiting are to be recruited.

5.5.2 There has been no corporate worship for any faith community since the restricted regime was introduced in March. Chaplains now try to see members of faith communities on an individual basis, as well as performing their statutory duties for prisoners of all faiths or beliefs and of none.

## **5.6 Incentives and earned privileges**

5.6.1 Incentives and earned privileges (IEP) is a scheme designed to promote good behaviour and to challenge misbehaviour. Under this policy prisoners may be placed on a 'basic', 'standard' or 'enhanced' level, which affects the privileges for which they are eligible.

5.6.2 A new IEP policy was initiated in January and re-issued in March based on the national Incentives Policy Framework, but little evidence of impact is available owing to the delay in the receipt of the quarterly Equalities data.

5.6.3 With one exception, all prisoners were removed from 'basic' at the end of March, and the one remaining prisoner was taken off 'basic' in April. All prisoners were given additional privileges from March to help them to cope with the lockdown, for example telephone credit was increased to enable family contact to be maintained while social visits were suspended, and there was an increase in the amount that prisoners were allowed to spend on Canteen (a process through which prisoners can buy food and other goods to supplement what they receive from the prison).

## **5.7 Complaints**

5.7.1 Prisoners are able to make written complaints to the prison about how the prison treats them. Initial written complaints are made using a form known as COMP1. If a prisoner wishes to appeal against the prison's response to his complaint, he may submit a form known as COMP1A. Prisoners may also make confidential complaints to the governor using a form known as COMP2. If a prisoner exhausts the internal complaints process and is not satisfied with its outcome he may take his complaint outside the prison, to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO).

5.7.2 During the reporting year the prison received 1596 COMP1s and replied to 1498 (94%) of them within the required time. It received 212 COMP1As and replied to 202 (95%) of them within the required timescale. It received 222 COMP2s and replied to 209 (94%) of them within the required timescale.

## **5.8 Property**

5.8.1 Items of missing property, either within Bullingdon or while transferring from another prison, remain the subject of a large number of applications to the Board (122 of 677 applications this year, which is 18% of the total, compared to 165 applications out of a total of 725 last year, which was 23% of the total). Lost property of a personal nature, such as family photographs and clothes, can cause prisoners a great deal of distress. Lost property of any kind can contribute to frustration, stress and violence within the prison.

5.8.2 During the year £2,733.33 was paid to prisoners as compensation for property that the prison had lost or damaged. This compares to £4,191.30 in 2018-19, and £4,288.43 in 2017-18.

## **6. Health and wellbeing**

### **6.0 Healthcare: General**

Healthcare services are offered by Care UK and sub-contractors. Cotswold Medicare Ltd provides GPs, Time for Teeth provides dentistry services, and Global Technology provides ultrasound tests and some x-ray provision within the prison. A local delivery board oversees the work of these providers and is tasked with ensuring that healthcare services in the prison meet the standards required by the NHS commissioners.

### **6.1 Physical healthcare**

6.1.1 The majority of healthcare-related complaints that the Board receives concern medication issues. Some prescription drugs that are available in the community are not permitted in prison, and prison doctors may seek to reduce the level of prescription medication that some prisoners were taking when in the community. The IMB has no role in such clinical decisions, but is satisfied that prison doctors follow guidance on safer prescribing in prisons, as issued by the Royal College of General Practitioners. A significant number of arriving prisoners are opiate-dependent.

6.1.2 Careful pro-active management by members of the healthcare team and improved co-ordination with prison staff has led to a reduced number of missed appointments, thus improving the quality of the healthcare for prisoners.

### **6.2 Mental healthcare**

6.2.1 Two teams in Bullingdon offer mental healthcare services: the primary care mental health team, and the secondary mental health team.

6.2.2 The primary care mental health team (Care UK) supports patients who have mild/moderate depression/anxiety, patients with thoughts of self harm, and patients who are in prison for the first time or are struggling with being in custody and require support. They offer short-term interventions and work with GPs, but do not have immediate access to a psychiatrist. They also complete mental health reviews for any prisoners who have been in the SSCU for 30 days or more.

6.2.3 The secondary care mental health team is Inreach, provided by Inclusion, which is part of the Midlands Partnership Foundation NHS Trust. It supports patients who have a diagnosis of severe/enduring mental illness and patients who appear to be experiencing symptoms suggestive of this diagnosis. They work with various psychiatrists and a clinical psychologist who attend on a part-time basis.

6.2.4. Neither service offers counselling. Volunteer counsellors are managed by the

Chaplaincy, but this service appears to have fallen by the wayside through a lack of volunteers. This leaves a significant need unmet.

6.2.5 South Central Psychology Services offer some support for individuals (but not patients diagnosed with mental health conditions) and also run a range of programmes designed to address offending behaviours (see below 7.3.5.)

6.2.6 An independent report by Ottaway Strategic Management Ltd, July 2019 highlighted that new funding will be required following reconfiguration. The increase in prisoner numbers coming into Bullingdon is expected to have a significant impact on healthcare services, particularly for prisoner substance misuse and mental health support. Care UK and Inclusion have been working together with NHS England to identify additional resources required to address potential increases in service provision.

### **6.3 Social care**

6.3.1 Care UK provide social care services on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

6.3.2 Among particular issues that elderly prisoners face are problems with suitable seating for use in their cells, and the question of whether fixed seats may be installed in shower units so that elderly prisoners do not need to stand while showering.

6.3.3 The cells in the healthcare inpatient unit all have wide doorways, but only two cells on standard residential wings are designed for wheelchair access. This means that some older prisoners receiving social care have to remain on the healthcare inpatient unit instead of being accommodated on the residential wings. This deprives them of access to the wider prison regime and is unfair.

### **6.4 Exercise, time out of cell, gym**

6.4.1 During the period July 2019 to March 2020 the gym was able to increase the number of hours offered during the year and managed to meet its target of 2.50 PE hours per man per week compared with 2.42 last year. This improvement has been made possible because instructor vacancies have been filled; as of March, seven instructors were in place, with one more in training. Plans were in place for instructors to prepare for accreditation from March, but that training has been placed on hold.

6.4.2 Community links continue to be developed particularly with the RAF rugby training.

6.4.3 When lockdown commenced at the end of March, the gym had to close and the instructors were deployed to other duties in the prison.

### **6.5 Drug rehabilitation**

6.5.1 The prison continues to operate a drug recovery unit that provides accommodation for 70 men who are recovering from substance misuse or want to be

away from illicit substances. Its aim is to provide a positive environment to support the men while they are progressing through their sentence and to lead a drug-free life upon release, so it plays an important part in the rehabilitation of prisoners whom the unit supports. It is a good example of effective interdisciplinary work involving prison officers based on the residential unit as well as staff from healthcare (including Inclusion), safer custody and security departments.

## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

7.1.1 The improvement in education provision that we reported last year has continued. In December 2019 Bullingdon was ranked sixth out of the 19 prisons for which Milton Keynes College (MKC) was the main education provider.

7.1.2 Attendance at education courses has fluctuated and stood at 74% in March 2020, having reached 77% in December 2019, compared with an average of 72% for the 2018-19 reporting year. The improvement in allocation to classes (that is, the proportion of available places that are filled by enrolled learners) that we reported last year has been consolidated. In March it stood at 97% (compared with 96% in 2018-19 and 74% in 2018-19, and its target of 95%).

7.1.3 The overall success rate (that is, the proportion of learners starting a course who obtain a qualification) stood at 76% in March 2020, when it was projected to reach 93%. Success rates are uneven across subject areas; the prison is aware of the need for sustained improvement in English and maths. These subjects are prioritised since they provide key 'functional skills'; prisoners who do not have a sufficient level in these subjects are required to take them before they may apply for paid employment. The success rate in February 2020 was 87% in English and 81% in maths, a considerable improvement since last year.

7.1.4 Around three-quarters of prisoners have a stay of under six months; this constrains the range of education provision that can be offered. Curriculum changes have been matched to prisoner needs and also taken into account the local difficulty in recruiting tutors for some trades. A significant reduction in the education budget (from £2 million to £1.5 million for FY 2019-20) limited the range of courses that could be offered under the PEF (Prison Education Framework). New vocational courses, such as warehousing and storage, areas in which there are employment opportunities, have been commissioned outside the PEF using the flexibility allowed to Governors under DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System).

7.1.5 MKC suspended education courses and withdrew its staff at the end of March.

7.1.6 Following the suspension of education courses, education and distraction packs, some of them now available in languages other than English, were distributed

to prisoners to use in-cell; the packs covered more than a dozen topics, ranging from art and design to money management and painting and decorating. WayoutTV has been a valuable component of several education packs.

7.1.7 The achievement ceremony planned for May had to be cancelled when family visits were suspended.

7.1.8 Prior to lockdown, the library (operated by Oxfordshire County Council Library Services) continued to provide a good service and a range of activities. A regular book club was run by volunteers and was well attended. A local author attended the book club, where some of his own books were reviewed.

7.1.9 The library was closed at the end of March when library staff withdrew from the prison. From March to June a limited number of books has been rotated around wings on a trolley service.

## **7.2 Vocational training, work**

7.2.1 Prior to lockdown, a total of about 400 opportunities for employment were available to prisoners. 200 of these jobs were based on residential wings. The other 200 were in workshops. Workshops which provide employment to a significant number of prisoners include the Laundry, the Kitchen, Breakfast Packs (where prisoners produce breakfast packs that prisoners are given to eat in their cells), DHL (where prisoners help with the distribution of canteen items for prisoners), and Industrial Cleaning (where prisoners conduct specialised in-house cleaning).

7.2.2 A prisoner needs appropriate security-clearance before he may be employed in a particular job. Jobs are categorised as being either low, medium or high risk for security purposes. Most jobs requiring greater skill tend to be categorised as medium or high risk. Any prisoner wishing to progress to one of these jobs is required to have first worked for three months in a low-risk job, to a satisfactory standard. By and large the more skilled work is in medium- or high-risk jobs for which there were increasing problems with filling vacancies.

7.2.3 The reconfiguration of the prison means that there are now large numbers of prisoners who have three or fewer months to serve. This means that it can be difficult to allocate prisoners to jobs which require greater skills.

7.2.4 In July 2019 the HMIP report noted that there were not enough placements in activities which provide opportunities to develop 'functional skills' (English and maths). Since then, new jobs have been introduced for fork-lift truck driving, and warehousing, and preparations have been made to introduce a doormat manufacturing facility. All these jobs are for medium- or high-risk prisoners and involve functional skills.

7.2.5 During their induction process, prisoners are directed towards education or work or both. HMIP reported that this induction did not provide enough help for prisoners to choose the activities best suited to their career aspirations. A review of induction, completed in October 2019, concluded that it did not contain enough individual guidance. The prison engaged the Adviza agency to provide individual guidance to prisoners both at the induction stage and prior to release.

7.2.6 Following a review by the prison, a new pay policy was to be introduced in April 2020 in response to an HMIP criticism that the existing policy did not sufficiently incentivise prisoners to obtain qualifications in English and Maths. The new policy incentivises education as opposed to some of the jobs in the workshops. It was felt that prisoners needed to be encouraged to attain level 1, and, if possible, level 2 as well in English and maths in order for them to be able to obtain qualifications in functional skills and to be more employable upon release. All education stopped before the new policy could be introduced.

7.2.7. Most of the workshops have remained open during lockdown, as social distancing is possible in these areas. Prisoners who worked there were able to keep their jobs, but some were moved from full-time to part-time working. Some opportunities for employment were lost elsewhere, e.g. in warehousing and fork-lift truck driving.

7.2.8 The number of wing workers remained more or less the same, but again in most cases prisoners were moved from being full-time to part-time.

7.2.9 In some workshops there is skills tracking whereby the instructors record the development of prisoners' employability skills. Efforts were being made to improve this and also to extend it to wing workers. As of 30 June, it was anticipated that individual working plans would be issued soon to prisoners working in all workshops and on all wings.

7.2.10 In late March, as a result of lockdown, Adviza (see 7.2.5 above) ceased to operate in the prison. Since then no individual guidance has been provided to prisoners either at the induction stage or prior to release.

### **7.3 Offender management, progression**

7.3.1 There is now a much-reduced backlog in the implementation of the offender assessment system (OASys) plans. OASys is a risk and needs assessment that plays an important role in the management of a prisoner's progression during his sentence. At the end of July 2019, the backlog for OASys plans was over 270; at the end of May it was just over 60. This is a significant improvement, and allows for

better sentence planning and therefore better prospects for the rehabilitation of prisoners in preparation for their release.

7.3.2 OMiC 2 (Offender Management in Custody phase II) was introduced in February 2020. This included a new digital system called New Nomis that links to the NPS (National Probation Service) database N-Delius. This streamlines information between probation and the prison effectively as POM (Prison Offender Manager) and Key Worker entries are visible to probation staff; this improves preparation for release.

7.3.3 Personality Disorders are better understood by POMs following the success of the Pathways programme in the community. This is a joint initiative between NHS and HMPPS to screen high-risk prisoners for personality disorders and a trained POM plans how best to work with such prisoners. This is a positive initiative in the management of high-risk prisoners. All POMs attend a two-day personality disorder training course in the community and a two-day personality disorder training course in the prison and this is welcome.

7.3.4 The reconfiguration of the prison has led (as expected) to increased movement of prisoners in and out of the prison. A higher number of prisoners begin their sentences here because the prison now serves a larger number of courts (see above, 2.1). This in turn means that a higher number of prisoners will be transferred to other establishments if they are found guilty and their sentence is for a longer period of time than can be served at Bullingdon. The prison receives about 300-400 applications for transfer each month.

7.3.5 The TSPs (Thinking Skills programmes) Resolve, New Me Strengths (NMS) and Horizon are all running in the prison. Their purpose is to prepare prisoners for release, and to contribute to their mental health and well-being. There were no significant changes from July 2019 to March 2020. The referral system is still the same and attendance targets have been met. OMU and POMs have become quicker this year at assessing and referring low-risk prisoners and so have more time to complete the Programmes Needs Analysis for high-risk prisoners. As at the end of February 2020 they had completed 16 assessments (target of 10 during the financial year April to April) which is excellent.

7.3.6 The ongoing process of reconfiguring the prison may make it difficult for prisoners with a sentence of more than four years to be given a place on a suitable programme. This is because such prisoners should be moved to a training prison within ten days of sentencing, but prisoners with shorter sentences may be given higher priority for such a move. It will be necessary for the prison to monitor how this works next year.

7.3.7 Since March there has been a reduced number of staff working in programmes, and there were no parole boards from the end of March to the middle of June. This has affected the progression of some prisoners.

## **7.4 Family contact**

7.4.1 Ceremonies to celebrate educational and other achievements are a continuing source of motivation for prisoners to complete education and other training; held four times a year and linked to family visits, they provide a valuable experience particularly for those prisoners whose relatives are able to attend.

7.4.2 A Visitors Centre next to the prison provides facilities for family members who visit relatives in the prison. However, all social visits stopped at lockdown and the centre closed.

## **7.5 Resettlement planning**

7.5.1 Some prisoners are eligible for Home Detention Curfew (HDC), a scheme which allows them to be released before the end of their sentence and monitored through a tagging device. The average caseload for assessment for Home Detention Curfew (HDC) is 18-22 per week, and 85% of these assessments are completed within the target time. This process has been consistent throughout the year and not significantly interrupted by Covid-19. The number of prisoners released on HDC was about 20 a month.

7.5.2 Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) has rarely been offered this year. Only one prisoner has been released on ROTL since March 2020 and only two prisoners were released on ROTL in the preceding nine months.

7.5.3 The end of custody temporary release (ECTR) scheme introduced by the Government in March 2020 was only applicable to two prisoners after risk assessment of a cohort of more than 20 prisoners.

7.5.4 39% of prisoners who left the prison had arrangements in place for employment. The figure for 2018/19 was 35% and the figure for 2017/18 was 30%, so there has been a steady improvement over the last three years.

7.5.5 In the period July 2019 to March 2020 44% of prisoners left the prison without settled accommodation to which they could go. In each of the two previous years this figure was 33%, measured over a 12-month period.

7.5.6 Since March, in response to Covid-19, any prisoner who leaves the prison without a mobile phone listed in his property has been issued with one by the Community Resettlement Company (CRC), so that a probation officer in the community is able to contact him.

7.5.7 Also since March, in response to covid-19, the CRC has been providing support with accommodation through the homelessness prevention taskforce (HPT). The task force supports service users with accommodation of up to 56 days in either a B&B or a Hotel and the rent deposit scheme. The service is available once a duty to refer to the local authority has been completed and all other avenues to obtain accommodation have been exhausted. Prisoners who are eligible to use the service

are those released under the End of Custody Temporary Release scheme and those released at their Conditional Release Date. It is expected that the service will be available while special measures remain in place in response to covid-19.

The following table shows the type of accommodation to which prisoners went on their release:

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
Releases (Monthly)	146	161	138	153	173	139	147	125	125	134	109	122	1672
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total/average
Settled accommodation	73	87	77	85	114	87	91	64	70	72	61	57	938
Transient accommodation	27	24	14	21	19	22	19	20	30	20	25	44	285
Homelessness	15	42	39	39	28	21	21	15	13	42	23	21	319
Unknown/appointment on release	32	1	7	7	11	9	17	23	12	0	0	0	119
% with settled accommodation	50%	54%	56%	56%	66%	63%	62%	51%	56%	54%	56%	47%	56%
% with transient accommodation	18%	15%	10%	14%	11%	16%	13%	16%	24%	15%	23%	36%	17%
% Homelessness	10%	26%	28%	25%	16%	15%	14%	12%	10%	31%	21%	17%	19%
% Unknown	22%	1%	5%	5%	6%	6%	12%	18%	10%	0%	0%	0%	7%

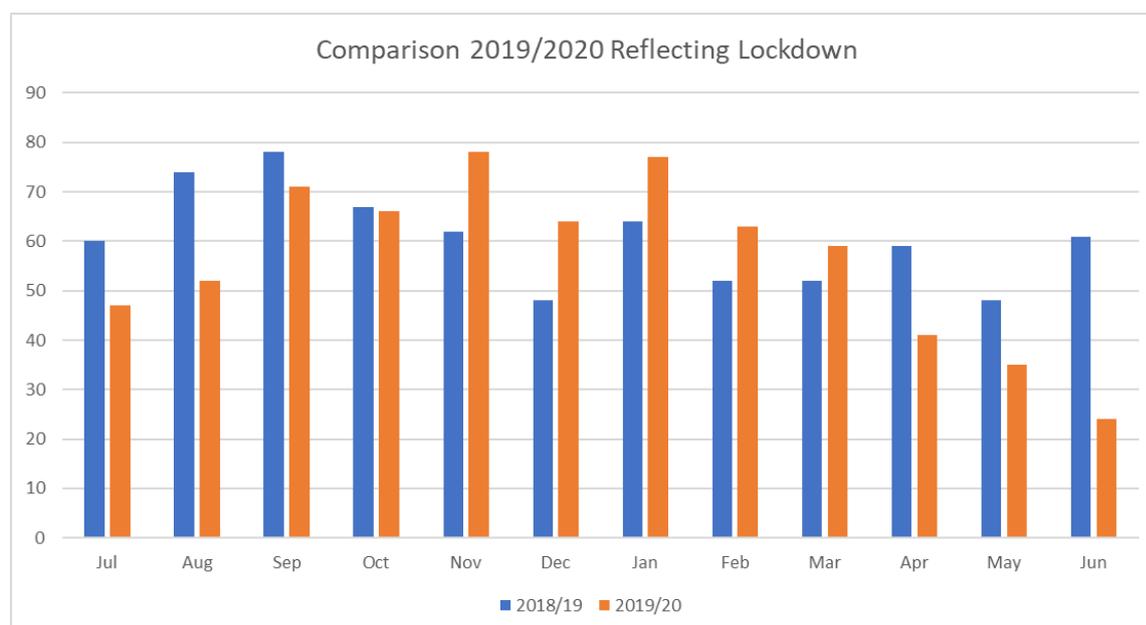
## 8. The work of the IMB

### Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	14
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	15 (plus one member on sabbatical)
Total number of visits to the establishment	353
Total number of segregation reviews attended	179 (of which 26 were attended remotely during lockdown conditions)

## Applications to the Board

Code	Subject	2018/19	2019/20
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, ablutions	16	29
B	Discipline including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	8	11
C	Equality	21	11
D	Purposeful Activity including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	40	51
E1	Letters, visits, phones, public protection restrictions	42	39
E2	Finance including pay, private monies, spends	41	29
F	Food and kitchens	14	23
G	Health including physical, mental, social care	112	124
H1	Property within this establishment	87	79
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	78	43
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	33	31
I	Sentence management including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	78	58
J	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	51	67
K	Transfers	37	12
L	Misc., including Complaints System and Regime	67	70
	<b>Total Number of IMB Applications</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>677</b>





This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3)

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [imb@justice.gov.uk](mailto:imb@justice.gov.uk).