

# Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Lindholme

**For reporting year  
1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021**

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## **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

HMP Lindholme is a category C male prison. It is designated as a training prison and was opened in 1985 on the site of a former RAF station, originally built in the late 1930s. It occupies a very large area of approximately 128 acres close to the village of Hatfield Woodhouse, 10 miles to the east of Doncaster, South Yorkshire. It has a certified normal accommodation (CNA) of 924 and an operational capacity (OC) of 939, 71 less than last year because of the fire upgrade programme and to support compartmentalisation during the Covid pandemic.

The establishment is a combination of buildings. Six former RAF buildings have been converted into residential accommodation. Other former RAF buildings house:

- administration including the offender management unit (OMU) and security
- prisoners' reception
- industrial workshops
- education
- healthcare
- chaplaincy
- library
- bistro for staff

More modern units were built when the prison was opened for:

- additional cellular residential accommodation, which is a mixture of single and double occupancy cells on two or three storeys
- care and separation unit (CASU) with 20 cells
- visits centre
- gymnasium
- bakery

In May an additional 24 prefabricated cell units were installed to support population pressures during the pandemic. They were used to house category D men.

A modern reception area for prisoners' visitors is located outside the main gate.

The improvements arising out of funding for the 10 prisons project (T10) which started last year have continued with further installation and upgrading of security fencing and the continuation of a refurbishment programme for some of the accommodation wings.

The prison is in the public sector and the Prison Service is responsible for the operation of the establishment. There are three main service providers: NOVUS for learning and skills; Practice Group Plus for healthcare and mental healthcare and AMEY, for the provision of facilities management and site maintenance.

### **3. Executive summary**

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

The prison was locked down at the end of March 2020 because of the Covid pandemic, so the majority of this report reflects this extraordinary regime. The impact was that all workplaces were closed to prisoners, the gymnasium was closed, education classes and faith services ceased and prisoners were locked in their cells for long periods of time only being allowed out in small groups for exercise and personal administration.

In order to ease the boredom of the lockdown all prisoners were allowed televisions in their cells and in-cell telephones were installed enabling them to call approved numbers for family and friends.

During the course of the year the lockdown was eased, in line with life outside, which meant that although workplaces were not open, the gymnasium was opened to small groups and education began to take place on the wings.

Later, it became more difficult to arrange visits and they were eventually stopped altogether. Virtual visits were set up using a Prison Service approved video system (called Purple Visits). By mid-December, as the pandemic worsened, the first prisoners tested positive and in the New Year the prison was locked down once again.

#### **3.2 Main judgements**

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

On the whole, prisoners felt safe in the prison; however, the Board remains concerned about the high percentage of OCG prisoners linked to organised crime (paragraph 4).

While the number of incidents of self-harm have reduced this year, we are concerned that the majority of the incidents were by men cutting themselves (paragraph 4.2).

Substance misuse continues to be a significant concern and more than 80% of prisoners released during December considered that there is a drugs issue in the prison (paragraph 4.6).

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

A proportion of cells which were designed for single occupancy have been authorised for double occupancy. We are concerned that the overcrowding, poor ventilation and lack of privacy curtains in some of these cells is detrimental to prisoners, particularly during the present pandemic. In particular, prisoners having to perform their bodily functions in front of each other is an affront to basic human dignity. This indignity would only be slightly offset by privacy curtains, but even this small measure is not always present (paragraph 5.1).

In general staff-prisoner relationships have suffered this year. We are particularly concerned with the rise in the number of applications to the IMB concerning relations with the staff. (Appendix 1)

The number of discrimination incident report forms (DIRF) has reduced this year, but it is of note that about half of them have not been completed in the required timeframe (paragraph 5.4).

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

The Covid pandemic has presented a major challenge to healthcare at the prison and they have responded successfully and flexibly to this in the delivery of continued care to prisoners.

The GP wait time has remained at two weeks, the same as a year ago, despite the pandemic, but dental, physiotherapy, podiatry and optometry waiting times have risen considerably (paragraph 6.1).

Outdoor exercise for the men has been limited during the lockdown and, in our opinion, this is extremely detrimental to their general wellbeing (paragraph 6.2).

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

Owing to the restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic, the majority of vocational training and work has ceased in the prison. It is of great concern to the Board that this aspect of men's progression is not currently available.

The Board is concerned to note that once again there are delays across the custodial estate caused by a backlog in completion of assessments on the national offender assessment system (OASys). As a result, we have noticed a significant number of concerns raised to us by prisoners about their sentence progression. (Appendix 1)

While it is encouraging to see the reduction of the number of men on indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP), the Board is disappointed by such a small reduction (paragraph 7.3).

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

### *Minister*

Although the Minister gave a full answer last year to our concerns regarding the number of IPP prisoners held in this establishment, the fact remains that there has been very little reduction in the number still being held here. Would the Minister give further consideration as to how the numbers can be reduced more effectively?

### *HMPPS*

What measures are being taken to reduce overcrowding and the excessive use of double occupancy in cells which were designed for single occupancy?

## *Governor*

- We recommend that the key worker scheme is reinstated at the earliest opportunity.
- What measures are in place to track prisoners' property effectively when moves take place both within the prison and outside?
- What measures are being taken to ensure that prisoners have more time outside their cells for exercise and domestics, even before the end of the lockdown?

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

- Staffing levels in healthcare have improved since the last report.
- Kitchen equipment has proved more reliable and a better system for repair has been set up.
- Staffing levels have been improved over the year, although there have been some serious shortages at times because of Covid.

## **Evidence sections 4 – 7**

### **4. Safety**

Although we have not carried out a survey this year in the way that was done in previous years, we still consider that prisoners feel safe in the prison. An exit survey of prisoners carried out by the prison in December 2020 showed that 73% had felt safe in the prison and this figure is borne out by a survey carried out for the HMIP inspection report of October 2020.

The IMB had intended to hold a telephone survey of up to 100 prisoners selected randomly throughout the prison, but this had to be postponed, due to Covid restrictions. However, in the scrutiny visit conducted by HMIP in October 2020, it was reported that 23% of prisoners felt unsafe and 40% said they had experienced bullying or victimisation from staff.

We have reported in the past about the number of organised crime group (OCG) prisoners within the establishment. At the beginning of this year the number was around 200. This figure was tracked closely by the management and a review was held by the head of security, the head of offender management services and the head of the OMU at HMP Doncaster to discuss how best to manage these individuals. Since this meeting the number of OCG prisoners at this prison has declined to around 170, about 18% of the total population. This high figure still poses a constant threat to security and safety in the prison, particularly at a time when resources have been stretched.

#### **4.1 Reception and induction**

During the Covid regime, the prison has capped the number of new receptions to five per group; however, the HMIP report stated that they had observed in excess of ten prisoners arriving together, creating difficulty in maintaining social distancing in the small reception area. Each prisoner is placed into a cohort of up to 12 men, and this group is kept in its own bubble on the reverse cohort wing for exercise and domestic activity. Prisoners receive their induction in the reception area, given by the wing staff where they will be located. They also receive a package which contains bedding, towels, basic clothes and an information pack. HMIP noted that their observation of the induction delivery showed that it was perfunctory, and the quality of information provided to new arrivals was poor. They also stated that there were weaknesses in ensuring prisoners' telephone PIN numbers were activated promptly.

Monitoring by the IMB revealed that the backlog for issuing PIN numbers had reached three to four weeks in early 2021 and when this was brought to the attention of senior management additional resources were used to clear the backlog.

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

Incidents of self-harm decreased in comparison to the previous year. There were 401 incidents in total with a monthly average of 33.4, compared to last year's average of 50.2. The majority of self-harm incidents were by cutting and were carried out on the wings in single cell accommodation (see Appendix 2).

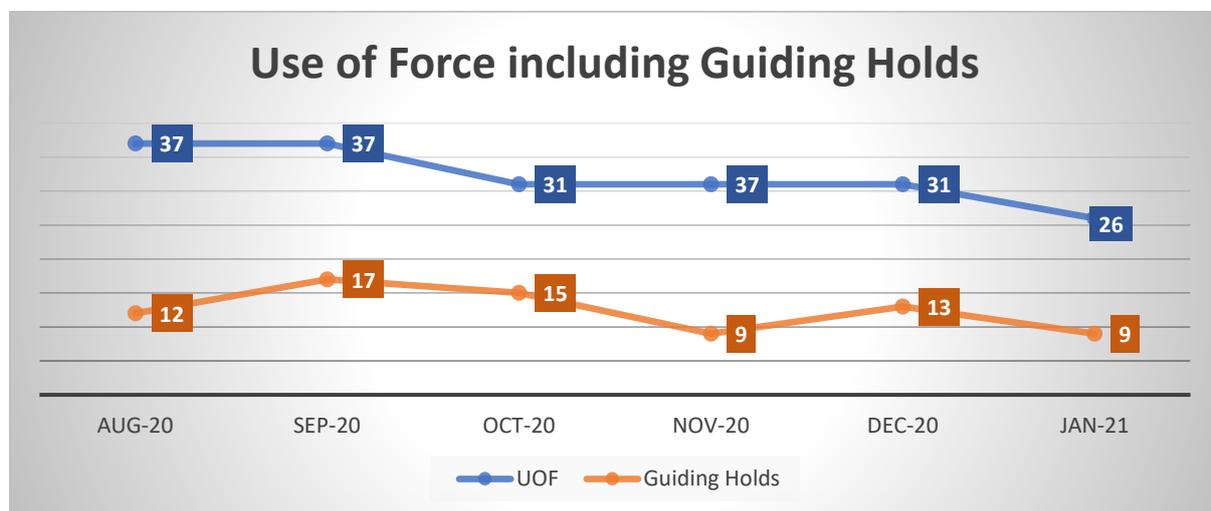
Unfortunately, there were two deaths in custody this year, one less than last year. One was from natural causes, the other was drugs related.

### 4.3 Violence and violence reduction

Incidents of violence, prisoner on prisoner, decreased from 227 last year to 93 this year. Similarly, incidents of violence, prisoner on staff, decreased from 97 last year to 53 this year (see Appendix 2). The decrease can be attributed to the fact that men have been confined to their cells for long periods of the day. Much of the violence against staff has been as a result of frustration at the lockdown regime.

### 4.4 Use of force

Use of force figures show a reduction from 524 incidents last year to 337 in the current year. This large reduction is as a result of prisoners being confined to their cells for long periods of the day. During the reporting year, PAVA spray was not used by the staff of the prison, and guiding holds were used in about one third of the cases where force was used to restrain a prisoner.



### 4.5 Substance misuse

Substance misuse continued to be a problem in the prison. The geography of HMP Lindholme, with a lengthy perimeter fence to defend, together with the large proportion of prisoners linked to OCGs, works to the detriment of effective control of substance use. However, the prison has introduced a number of measures to improve security and, due to the prisoners being confined to their cells for up to 23 hours per day under the Covid regime, the number of under the influence (UTI) incidents has dropped from 659 last year to 248 this year. Hooch continues to be a problem with 270 finds throughout the year (Appendix 2).

In the survey carried out by the prison in December 2020 of men being released, 83% agreed there is a drugs issue in the prison. About 32% of men thought that the issue could be reduced by searching of both prisoners and staff and a further 20% thought that an increased use of search dogs would reduce the problem. In the survey carried out for the HMIP report of October 2020, about one third of prisoners considered it easy to obtain illicit drugs.

## 5. Fair and humane treatment

### 5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

#### Residential accommodation

There are 10 accommodation wings. A to F wings are former RAF dormitories converted to, mainly, single cells; each wing houses 64 prisoners on eight spurs. Three of these wings have been updated this year to improve fire safety and shower facilities. During the work one wing in turn has been emptied of men, thereby reducing the overall OC of the prison.

G to K wings are more modern structures, housing between 120 to 180 prisoners in what were designed as single cells. Eighty-six of these cells have been authorised for double occupancy (a common practice nationwide to increase prison capacity). One section of J wing has continued to be used as a spur for older prisoners, while a spur of one of the other wings has been used for isolating prisoners in a reverse cohort unit, as a result of the Covid pandemic.

The accommodation is maintained by Amey, which has struggled this year to maintain standards; many of the shower rooms in particular are poor. The levels of cleanliness have generally been acceptable. However, we have received at least 10 complaints about poor ventilation, worn mattresses and the lack of privacy curtains in cells which have been authorised for double occupancy.

#### Clothing

No issues have been reported with prison clothing, but we have received a number of complaints during the year that men arriving in the prison are not being allowed early access to their own clothing, which is held in reception. The Board considers that flexibility should be given to ensure that men are allowed at least their basic requirements of personal underwear.

There have been a number of complaints that men are unable to wash their personal clothing on the wings because the washers and driers have been unserviceable. While it is appreciated that broken machines do take time to repair, we consider that every effort should be made to provide some alternative arrangements.

#### Food

Food from the central kitchen is taken in heated trolleys to the 10 widespread wings. Following last year's IMB report, it had been hoped to monitor the food more closely this year. This has not been possible owing to the restrictions imposed by the lockdown.

On the whole, the food is of an acceptable standard although men do complain about the size of portions and the fact they find it unappetising.

The intranet menu system has continued to work well, allowing the monitoring of special individual dietary requirements for the diverse cultural, religious and healthcare needs of the men. Special menus have been provided for a variety of cultural and religious festivals, which appear to have been well received.

## 5.2 Segregation, special accommodation

The CASU, also known as the segregation unit, is a purpose-built, single-storey building containing 20 cells. One cell is used for special accommodation. Two other dry cells, with traps, are used for checking prisoners who are suspected of having secreted items on their person. There is a communal shower facility on the unit and two outside exercise yards. Throughout the year men have been given a period of at least 30 minutes of outside exercise each day and have been given the opportunity of a daily shower.

When able to go into the prison, an IMB member has visited the unit and given each prisoner the opportunity to speak freely to them. However, we are concerned that we have been unable to attend the prison and carry out regular visits to the unit because of Covid. As can be seen from the table below, slightly fewer men have been placed in the segregation unit this year than last year, but IMB members have visited men on the unit less frequently because of Covid restrictions. When not able to visit, members have made a weekly telephone call to staff on the unit.

The Board is pleased to note that the average occupancy of the unit has been reduced to around four to eight this year and the number of cases where men were held in the unit for more than 42 days has been significantly reduced to 18 this year.

There is a notable reduction in the number of individual segregation reviews which members have been able to attend. This was due to a combination of fewer men being in the unit at any one time and shorter periods on the unit, as well as members not being able to attend the prison because of Covid.

	2020/21	2019/20
Number of men placed in segregation unit	155	166
Average population in segregation unit	4-8	10-12
Number of men held in unit for more than 42 days	18	47
Number of IMB visits to men in segregation unit	36	51
Number of individual segregation reviews attended	88	331

Adjudications have been held in the unit within 48 hours of men being placed on report. Members of the Board have occasionally attended these adjudications, with the prisoners' consent and noted that the issues were dealt with fairly and correctly.

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

Owing to Covid, the key worker support system, which was introduced last year, did not make the progress hoped for. While it had achieved significant levels of uptake by February 2020, the lockdown regime introduced in March meant that a modified system, akin to the former personal officer regime, was used. Only the most vulnerable prisoners received the attention that the key workers had been giving. In general staff-prisoner relationships have suffered, since there has been much less

contact between them. Also, because of severe staff shortages at times, staff have had to move from wing to wing. We are concerned that the number of applications to the IMB concerning relations with the staff has increased from 31 last year to 46 this year, although it is of note that many of them are repeat applications from a small number of prisoners. (Appendix 1)

The IMB has been contacted weekly to answer queries from prisoners that should have been resolved by contact with staff. We consider it imperative that the key worker system is re-established at the earliest opportunity, when the pandemic allows.

#### **5.4 Equality and diversity**

There were 63 discrimination incident report forms (DIRFs) completed by prisoners and staff in the reporting year, down from 77 last year. Fifty-eight were submitted by prisoners, the remaining five by staff. The most frequent issues in the DIRFs were discrimination on the grounds of race (35), disability (13), and religion (9). Scrutiny panels met to ensure that DIRFs were answered both correctly and promptly. In the reporting year, 32 had not been completed in the timescale. Similar concerns were raised by prisoners to the Board, on occasions, regarding the complaints system in general. As deadlines for responses to complaints have been missed, prisoners become more frustrated.

HMP Lindholme has a diverse prison population, many from differing racial and ethnic communities. The population make-up in the reporting year was approximately 70% white and 30% BAME. There were 56 foreign national prisoners. The prison staff continued to discuss and actively engage regarding issues of race and ethnicity in monthly equality and diversity meetings. We routinely checked statistics to ensure that there has been no disproportionality with regard to use of prison measures such as IEPs or use of force

There are at present 185 older prisoners who are over the age of 45. Most are accommodated in J wing in refurbished cells with an association area that meets the needs of the population. Two of the spurs on a newly refurbished wing have also been designated specifically for older prisoners and they have access to in-cell telephones.

Prisoners with declared disabilities made up 22.9% of the total prison population. The main reasons for a declared disability were mental illness (30%) and reduced mobility (15%). Reduced mobility causes additional problems, particularly for access to wings and cells, but also to workplaces. The prison has attempted to alleviate this issue by offering alternatives where work was not possible. In particular, the education department has done an excellent job in putting together learning modules for many prisoners.

## **5.5 Faith and pastoral support**

The chaplaincy team at HMP Lindholme is staffed by 16 members from a variety of faiths including Church of England, Roman Catholic, Free Church, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhism, Judaism, Jehovah's Witness, Paganism, Rastafarian, LDS and Quaker.

The chaplaincy normally delivers a variety of regular services and festivals, as well as faith courses and studies on a weekly basis. Unfortunately, during the pandemic none of this has been possible and the chaplaincy team has taken to visiting prisoners on the wings on a daily basis. Members of the IMB have maintained weekly contact with the team by telephone.

Although there is a scheme for volunteer prison visitors from the local community, the uptake is limited despite the best efforts of the chaplaincy team.

The managing chaplain has taken over the position of veterans' lead in the prison, as she is a veteran herself, and has worked to ensure there are support networks in place to better support the veterans. There are currently 14 veterans in the prison and Care after Combat, one of their supporting charities, has been working hard to provide support where they can through mailings and phone calls.

## **5.6 Incentives and earned privileges (IEP)**

During the Covid pandemic, the normal IEP system was suspended and all basic IEP prisoners were given standard status. The only exceptions were where an individual had committed a serious offence, in which case his status could be reduced to basic. All prisoners were given a TV in their cell, as well as an in-cell telephone.

## **5.7 Complaints**

Complaints are generally handled in a timely manner, although we are concerned that a high proportion of DIRFs have not been completed in time. The prison has established a system of giving prisoners a holding reply to confirm that their complaint has been received and is being attended to, but we are concerned that on occasions prisoners' complaints have not been received by the complaints staff, so it has not been possible to track them. There is no simple solution to this but a digital infrastructure is planned, by which prisoners will be able to submit their complaints electronically. The Board welcomes this planned move forward.

## **5.8 Property**

The management of prisoners' property continues to be a considerable concern. Although the number of applications we have received has dropped from 48 last year to 27 this year, property is still not being tracked efficiently on prison transfers and there are still instances of property being lost when men are moved within the prison. (Appendix 1). The reduction in figures can be attributed to the reduction in movement of men; however, we consider that since personal property is so important to prisoners, every effort should be made to ensure that when movement starts to take place again, property is properly accounted for.

## 6. Health and wellbeing

### 6.1 Healthcare

In October 2020 Care UK rebranded their healthcare division as Practice Plus Group, which is now the name of the prison healthcare provider. This rebranding has not altered the nature of the provider.

The Covid pandemic has presented a major challenge to healthcare at the prison and they have responded successfully and flexibly to this in delivering continued care to prisoners. Much more healthcare delivery has therefore taken place both on the prison wings and also using the in-cell phones. Vaccination of prisoners against Covid was expected to start in February 2021.

A prison healthcare operational group (PHOG) is established and it functions well as a monthly review group between the prison senior management team and the healthcare team, with an IMB monitor. This group engages in frank, open and constructive discussion about shared concerns. There is a monthly systematic review of: staffing, performance figures, the action plan (traffic-lighted) and the risk register, all supported with adequate, well-presented information.

- **Consultant forensic psychiatrist post:** This is now vacant and has not yet been filled. This is currently being backfilled with agency locums with a reduced number of psychiatrist hours per week.
- **GP care:** GP care is provided via Practice Plus Group commissioning a Mansfield practice for three days per week. The three days of GP provision is supplemented by advanced nurse practitioner input.
- **Staffing levels:** In January 2021, six out of a total of 60 posts were either vacant, awaiting completion of a recruitment process or subject to a period of notice. This has improved significantly since February 2020 (13 out of 61 posts). This has led to an improvement in the performance of primary care. Recruitment and retention have improved. Significant new posts include a deputy head of healthcare and a complex care mental health nurse.
- **Waiting times:** The GP waiting time has remained at two weeks, about the same as 12 months ago, despite the Covid pandemic. Dental waiting times have risen from seven weeks to 47 weeks over the last 12 months, physiotherapy times from nine to 20 weeks, podiatry times from 23 to 28 weeks and optometry times from five to 18 weeks. The overriding factor here has been the Covid pandemic.
- **NHS screening programmes:** diabetes eye screening and abdominal aortic aneurysm screening are effectively on hold at the moment with no screening able to take place by the sub-contracted providers.
- **DNAs:** The did not attend (DNA) rate for GP appointments has improved from 9.5% to 5% over the last 12 months. This may have been helped by some GP consultations taking place via the in-cell phones due to the pandemic.

- **Escorts to secondary care appointments:** The percentage of booked escorts cancelled by the prison dropped significantly over 12 months from 15% to 4%.
- **Telemedicine:** The previous geographically remote provider trust for telemedicine has been replaced with a new service (Visionable) provided by the local Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust which provides the bulk of secondary care face-to-face consultations for the prison.
- **PS:** The high level of use of psychoactive substances (PS) by prisoners remains a major challenge to day-to-day running and security of the prison and also to the substance misuse team and healthcare generally. There have been periods of increased numbers of prisoners appearing to be under the influence of PS over the last 12 months, probably due to the long periods of confinement.
- **Medicines management:** The number of patients prescribed an opiate alongside a gabapentinoid has decreased from 34 to 14 over the last 12 months.

## 6.2 Exercise, time out of cell, gym

The prison has a well-equipped gymnasium which in normal times is well used and extremely popular. However, during the pandemic its use has been severely restricted and it has been completely shut down for much of the year. Exercise for the men has been limited to a 45 minute out of cell session to enable limited numbers at a time to go into a small exercise area adjacent to their own wing. For this to have continued for so many months is, in our opinion, extremely detrimental to prisoners' general wellbeing. Every effort should be made to ensure that more opportunity is given to allow the men longer periods in the open air, as soon as conditions permit.

During the pandemic, men have been out of the cells a further 30 minutes a day for personal domestics such as showers and cleaning. Men have also been unlocked to collect meals from the serveries on each wing.

## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

All education ceased at the start of the lockdown in March 2020, so we are unable to provide figures for levels of achievement to compare with previous years. Following the appointment of a new head of education in July 2020, education staff started to provide in-cell distance learning packages for prisoners in a variety of subjects. When the lockdown was eased in the autumn, staff began limited face-to-face instruction on the wings. This proved extremely popular and by December 2020, more men were engaged in education than before the pandemic.

Examinations have been held during this time and the education department is to be congratulated on the level of achievement which is shown at Appendix 3.

All practically based courses have additional layers applied to support English and maths and, where appropriate, are aligned to employability and/or the digital world. Underpinning knowledge exams have been applied to these courses so that when prisoners return to workshops they can concentrate on the practical element and apply recall of prior learning to the process.

During the closure of the library, a mix of genres, fictional and non-fictional books, have been provided on trolleys to each wing. The library service returned in the second half of 2020 and book catalogues were produced. A request and supply service was implemented and still remains.

Six men engaged with and completed the story writing project in December.

### **7.2 Vocational training, work**

Opportunities for work did exist up until the first lockdown in March 2020. Currently the only work available is in the kitchens, serveries and waste management which is causing great frustration among prisoners.

All men, however, are paid as if they still held the jobs they were employed at before the lockdown and all other men receive at least the unemployed rate.

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

#### **Sentence planning**

The prison aims for determinate sentenced prisoners to have an OASys plan completed within 10 weeks of entering the custodial estate. For indeterminate sentenced prisoners, the plan should be completed within 16 weeks.

As of 2020 all assessments became the responsibility of the establishment as part of the offender management in custody (OMiC) implementation. 329 assessments were completed this year compared with 289 the previous year.

At the end of the year there were 42 cases without a start of custody OASys and therefore without any form of sentence plan on the system. There were also 91

cases in the establishment where the assessment and sentence plan had not been updated within the past 12 months.

The Board is concerned to note that once again there are delays across the custodial estate caused by this backlog. We have noticed a significant increase in worries raised to us by prisoners about their sentence progression.

In the year there were 53 IPP prisoners and 91 determinate parole cases, compared with 59 and 84 respectively last year. While it is encouraging to see the reduction in IPP figures, the Board is disappointed with such a small reduction.

At the current time there are 579 men in the establishment assessed as posing a high or very high risk of serious harm. The average sentence length is over 4 years.

#### Release on temporary licence (ROTL) and home detention curfew (HDC)

No men have been granted ROTL this year. Only 10 men have been released on HDC because the majority of men are serving sentences in excess of 4 years.

During the year, 234 men have been released into the community and a further 226 have been transferred to other prisons, including 72 to category D prisons.

#### **7.4 Family contact**

When visiting has been allowed, most prisoners had no difficulty in contacting their family, and most could obtain a visiting order easily. However, because of Covid restrictions, numbers were limited to no more than 15 prisoners at a session.

In view of these limitations, a remote video link was established in the middle of the year to enable men to contact their families – the so-called “Purple Visits”. The service has been provided on four evenings per week allowing two sessions of up to eight men to use the system. While the service has proved popular amongst some of the men, it has sometimes proved difficult to use and the allocation is not oversubscribed.

All cells were provided with in-cell telephones during the year. These were operated using a prisoner’s PIN number allowing them to speak to family members.

#### **7.5 Resettlement planning**

Although HMP Lindholme is not a resettlement prison, more than 200 prisoners were released during the year. Resettlement services are provided by Sodexo, South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) who have made timely contact with the prisoner by mail or telephone. It is of concern that more than a dozen prisoners were released without accommodation to go to on the day of their release.

## 8. The work of the IMB

### 8.1 Board routine

This reporting year has been extremely challenging because of the Covid pandemic. When the prison went into lockdown at the end of March 2020, members of the IMB ceased going into the prison. Monitoring had to be done remotely by telephone. A weekly rota was arranged for telephone calls to security, the segregation unit, healthcare, the kitchens, OMU and the chaplaincy to gain an overview of how the prisoners were coping with the regime.

Inevitably, the only information available at that time was that provided by staff. Prisoner applications to the IMB were submitted to the IMB clerk in the prison who then emailed them to the IMB members. The reply was sent back to the clerk for printing and forwarding to the prisoner. A national 0800 freephone line was set up at an early stage and men were encouraged to call this with their applications, which were then emailed to the Board for a response.

Subsequently in July, as the prison eased the lockdown, IMB members who were willing to do so were able to go back into the prison. However, by this stage the then Chair and another member had decided to resign and shortly afterwards another decided to take a six-month sabbatical, which left the Board with just six members, two of whom were still under training.

When members were able to go back into the prison, they restricted their movements around the prison as much as possible. They were able to conduct weekly rota visits and speak directly to prisoners using the in-cell telephone service from the IMB office, which the prison had provided and which proved invaluable.

Unfortunately, the pandemic took a turn for the worse in December, the prison returned to lockdown and members once again had to resort to remote monitoring for the rest of the reporting year. It had been intended to conduct a telephone survey of some 100 prisoners chosen at random, using the same questions as last year. Regrettably the lockdown prevented this survey from taking pace. All this means that this year's report lacks the depth of previous years' reports and is inevitably less detailed. We have had to rely for much of the year on information given to us by the prison staff which we have not been able to triangulate in the usual manner.

### 8.2 Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	6 (plus one on sabbatical)
Total number of visits to the establishment	146 (511 previous year)
Total number of individual prisoner segregation reviews attended	88 (331 previous year)

### Appendix 1- Applications to the IMB

<b>Code</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Previous reporting year</b>	<b>Current reporting year</b>
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	38	10
B	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	18	14
C	Equality	7	4
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	10	3
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	21	14
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	15	14
F	Food and kitchens	5	3
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	52	34
H1	Property within this establishment	22	14
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	26	13
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	4	4
I	Sentence management, including HDC, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, recategorisation	47	41
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	31	46
K	Transfers	20	6
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	-	-
	<b>Total number of applications</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>224</b>

## Appendix 2 – Analysis of Incident Reports 2020/21 and 2019/20

### Incident Reports 2020/21

Category	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Total
Assault Prisoner on Prisoner	13	8	5	6	6	3	9	12	8	14	6	3	93
Assault Prisoner on Staff	2	4	0	5	5	4	7	5	6	4	8	3	53
Drugs	27	18	24	47	40	46	48	35	25	23	28	6	367
Use of Force	20	35	22	18	20	27	37	38	32	31	31	26	337
Substance Misuse (UTI)	4	17	12	21	23	37	29	21	28	27	21	8	248
Hooch	22	25	34	32	22	7	9	22	22	30	40	5	270
Self- Harm	42	37	36	22	36	45	42	38	29	19	26	29	401
New ACCT	30	22	23	26	24	31	35	29	29	20	21	22	312
Weapon Find	28	10	9	9	8	12	9	10	8	7	4	1	115
Death in Custody	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Telephones	16	17	26	29	15	16	7	15	16	10	11	1	179

### Incident Reports 2019/20

Category	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Total
Assault Prisoner on Prisoner	16	28	23	18	17	13	18	23	17	20	17	17	227
Assault Prisoner on Staff	14	7	7	15	4	7	4	10	7	10	8	4	97
Drugs	28	21	18	23	17	27	31	28	28	48	40	29	338
Use of Force	45	43	46	66	37	48	50	39	44	33	34	39	524
Substance Misuse (UTI)	74	46	81	59	60	61	74	34	55	31	30	54	659
Hooch	22	26	39	27	26	30	24	39	34	28	47	24	366
Self- Harm	42	61	38	37	40	55	48	50	55	55	63	58	602
New ACCT	39	39	23	40	32	32	35	29	32	39	28	44	412
Weapon Find	16	12	18	27	20	23	24	24	28	28	23	26	269
Death in Custody	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Telephones	20	17	21	17	17	17	9	20	31	46	39	17	271

### Appendix 3 - Results of In-Cell Education Courses 2020/21

Course	Level	Passed
NVQ in Hospitality	Level 2	1
Barista	Level 2	1
NVQ in Professional Cookery	Level 2	2
VNVQ in Food Preparation and Cooking	Level 1	11
NVQ Barbering	Level 3 Diploma	1
HABC Award in Food Safety in Catering	Level 2	40
HABC Award in Health & Safety	Level 1	28
HABC Food Allergens	Level 2	2
Functional Skills English	Entry 3	
Functional Skills English	Level 1	1
Functional Skills English	Level 2	1
Functional Skills maths	Entry 3	7
Functional Skills maths	Level 1	2
Functional Skills maths	Level 2	2
Certificate in Cleaning and Support Services	Level 2	6
Award in Practical Cleaning Skills (Bio-Hazard)	Level 1	9
Award in Practical Cleaning Skills (Food Areas and Servery)	Level 1	15
Digital World	Non accredited	10
Interventions program	Non accredited	15
Art	Non accredited	3
Enterprise and employability	Non accredited	11



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