



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP and YOI Kirklevington Grange

**For reporting year
1 January 2021 – 31 December 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/YOI Kirklevington Grange is a category D open prison, located in the village of Kirklevington, North Yorkshire, catering for adult male prisoners and young offenders. The operational capacity at the start of the year was 163; during the year the temporary accommodation introduced during Covid-19 was upgraded and made into permanent accommodation, taking the capacity to 187. The three condemned accommodation units were starting to be demolished by the end of the year and plans approved for their replacement.

Prisoners are accommodated within the main building and in two units within the grounds. One of these units was purpose-built and the other consists of converted Bunkabins brought on as a temporary accommodation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The grounds are open, which gives the prisoners a pleasant atmosphere for their leisure and work. The whole of the estate is surrounded by a high fence, giving assurance to the nearby local community and prison staff.

There is a sports hall and gym, a facility much appreciated by the prisoners, which has seen significant investment this year with a new floor, improved ventilation and supply of new equipment.

There is a building set aside for education and job seeking, together with a library. There is also a multi-faith room. The medical centre sits alongside this.

The visitors' centre is attractive to prisoners and families, being child-friendly, and has its own cafeteria and shop which is run by the North East Prison After Care Society (Nepacs). Child-friendly aspects of family visits and the service of the cafeteria were seriously affected by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Within the grounds there is a metalwork shop, recycling workshop and woodwork shop, and the grounds are utilised for extensive gardening. There was limited use of these facilities during Covid-19 lockdowns. In normal times, produce from these enterprises are sold in an outside shop attached to the outside cafe, sitting alongside a carwash and valeting facility. All these facilities are used and appreciated by the community and are also educational, helping towards resettlement and reintegration-focused opportunities for the prisoner

Covid-19 timeline

Date	Covid-19 Restriction
6 January 2021	Third national lockdown commenced (ended 8 March 2021)
January 2021	Outbreak at Kirklevington Grange and outbreak control measures in place
12 April 2021	Stage 3 regime commenced: release on temporary licence (ROTL) resumed
30 July 2021	Stage 2 regime commenced: mandatory drug testing (MDT) resumed, additional workshop and education spaces
4 October 2021	Stage 1 regime (relaxation of face covering wearing and social distancing)
17 December 2021	Stage 3 regime implemented as Prison Service-wide restrictions resume amid Omicron wave

3. Executive summary

3.1 Background to the report

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to affect the monitoring of the establishment, with restrictions on on-site monitoring. Use was made of Zoom and other telecom services to communicate with fellow members and to attend daily briefings and other meetings. Some restrictions were lifted in April, and the Board was able to resume regular rota visits and to communicate with both prison staff and prisoners, face to face, whilst observing some restrictions.

The Governor/ staff did an excellent job at restricting Covid-19 within the establishment and were quick to react to any changes in national regulations. They are to be congratulated in their efforts in that there were only eight prisoner and 57 staff infections recorded. One prisoner was hospitalised, though this was fortunately not a serious infection and he returned to the prison.

Contracted staff also contributed to the efficient running of the establishment through this difficult period, providing the necessary services to the prison population.

Through the diligence and work of staff, no absconds were reported over the year and out of over 12,000 ROTLs there were only 31 failures recorded.

An overall view of the prison showed that it continued to be a well-run establishment and most of the prisoners continued to have a positive experience during their stay. Applications to the Board were fewer than the previous year; this may be partially due to the reduced population but also to the diligence of the Board on the regular rota visits.

3.2 Main judgements

How safe is the prison?

Statistics showed that there was an increase in some monitored items (see section 4), possibly as a result of Covid-19, the frustration of prisoners, and at times shortage of staff, but it was acknowledged that Kirklevington remained a safe environment.

How fairly and humanely are prisoners treated?

Exit interviews showed that during reception prisoners were well informed of rules and conditions, and during their stay staff had treated them with respect, being helpful with any queries. The IMB closely monitored the effect of the pandemic on staff-prisoner relationships and will continue to do so into the coming year.

How well are prisoners' health and wellbeing needs met?

It is the Board's view that the healthcare provision is good, and that wellbeing needs are met during a normal regime. The healthcare service is assessed as being equal to, or often exceeding, that provided in the community. Mental health provision meets normal demand, but Covid-19 restrictions did result in an increased waiting time for group sessions and outside appointments, which in a lockdown situation can

lead to increased anxiety and agitation. However, telephone triage and distraction packs were being used to alleviate this.

In a normal regime, prisoners have access to a wide range of educational, vocational and sporting activities. During lockdown some essential services were being delivered, and this included the fitness suite, which could be used outside normal hours. The prisoners valued their freedom to use the suite and it helped towards their mental wellbeing.

How well are prisoners progressed towards successful resettlement?

Most of the prisoners appreciated the efforts of the reducing reoffending team in providing opportunities for developing new skills, accessing work placements and obtaining lasting employment opportunities. Their proactive approach contributed significantly to preparing prisoners for work on their release. Where issues arose, for example in the change from through the gate to community rehabilitation services, steps were taken promptly to mitigate any detriment to prisoners. All prisoners left Kirklevington Grange adequately prepared and with accommodation upon release. Risk is managed well and rates of abscond (0) and ROTL failure (31) represent an extraordinary success rate.

3.3 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

Reference to our previous year's report shows the operational capacity was reduced significantly though the closure of three accommodation units. This reduction in category D capacity deprived other prisoners in the estate the opportunities provided at Kirklevington Grange. Can it be ensured that the programme for the 'new build' and the subsequent increase to full capacity is given priority?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

When prisoners arrive, it is often the case that not all their property arrives with them, and outstanding property often goes missing in transit, causing issues for the prisoner. Kirklevington Grange itself has a satisfactory record of property management and has recently carried out a 'prison property framework' review to improve both the efficiency and accuracy of record keeping. Are there plans to move to an electronic property management system? This could facilitate transfer between establishments and help reduce the volume of lost property.

There are still ongoing issues with obtaining debit/credit cards for prisoners, something we believe has been raised previously by the Governor. To assist prisoners on release and facing financial issues, is this something that can be resolved?

TO THE GOVERNOR

The IMB will monitor prisoners' perceptions that "if we complain we will be returned to closed conditions". We would like to see some means of dispelling this culture.

In the last year there has been a feeling from new admissions that Kirklevington Grange does not feel like a category D establishment. We do appreciate that Covid-19 restrictions have had a bearing on this, as they have in other establishments, with the extra policing needed to manage the estate safely. At Kirklevington the perimeter fence is a point of contention, but the Board agrees this is a sensible necessity. We realise there are plans to address this issue in your business plan and look forward to the change in attitude of prisoners.

3.4 Progress since the last report

Demolition of the three condemned units commenced by the end of 2021 and good progress was made on K unit. Consultations took place involving officers and staff, and involving IMB members, as to the suitability of designs and fittings for the replacement units.

It has been a difficult year, especially dealing with the Covid-19 restrictions. Rigorous Covid-19 testing was carried out in line with the government's recommendations. This ensured that positive cases of Covid-19 were kept to a minimum amongst staff, prisoners and visitors. The Governor and staff worked exceptionally hard to protect the establishment and maintained the daily routines wherever possible.

Many of the issues for Kirklevington related to long term under-investment in the infrastructure and buildings, so we were pleased to see a greater investment to improve living conditions and general facilities during the year.

The new accommodation units currently under development are long overdue and we are pleased to be informed that the new units should be complete by the end of 2022.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS BY CATEGORY			
Threat Area	2021	2020	Variation
Absconds	0	9	-
Breach of ROTL	31	50	-38%
Drugs	290	308	-6%
Mobile phones	85	119	-29%
Other Illicit articles	80	72	+11%
Serious and organised crime	52	48	+8%
Violence	75	48	+56%
Safer custody	44	59	-25%
Order and stability	703	628	+12%
Sexual abuse	2	3	-33%
Race relations/extremism	4	12	-67%
TOTAL	1373	1353	

4.1 Reception and induction

During 2021 there were 198 receptions from various establishments – this compares to 235 receptions during 2020. There were no complaints regarding transportation.

On arrival, each prisoner was given an initial induction, which was followed up in more detail the next day

Prior to the pandemic new arrivals were housed in the main block, but since Covid-19 they have been housed in L unit, which was used as a reverse cohort unit to quarantine prisoners new to the prison whilst they were tested for the presence of Covid-19.

Exit interviews indicated in 2021 that:

- 100% stated that they had been treated well in reception.
- 9% stated that they had issues with property.
- 82% stated that the induction programme met their needs.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

During 2021 there was one death in custody compared to none in 2020, this being an unusual occurrence at Kirkclevington. Full support was given by officers, staff and chaplaincy after the incident and for some time afterwards, as it affected a number of prisoners. The Board was promptly informed of the incident, attended the scene the same day and completed a report, returning on other occasions to speak to affected prisoners and staff. The death was apparently self-inflicted; the date of the inquest is

still not known, so we can give no further details. There were two cases of self-harm recorded in the reporting year.

The establishment had an active Listener group that provided support for fellow prisoners, and any prisoner considered to be at risk of self-harm was provided with effective support via the opening of an assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) document.

There were 13 ACCT documents opened in 2021, two of which were connected to self-harm, compared with seven in 2020, all referring to potential self-harm.

The establishment received 68 prisoners during 2021 with a history of self-harm.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

During 2021 there were eight assaults, seven prisoner-on-prisoner and one assault on a member of staff, which occurred whilst the prisoner was being relocated to a holding room after being found under the influence. This compares to a total of three assaults in 2020 – none of which involved members of staff.

There were 20 prisoners that had challenge, support and intervention plan (CSIP) referrals, compared to 13 in 2020.

Other than those placed in isolation relating to Covid-19 protocol, there were no records of other prisoners feeling isolated during 2021, as was the case the previous year.

4.4 Use of force

There were four reported instances of use of force, none of which involved use of restraints/handcuffs or use of PAVA spray. This compared with three in 2020.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

The frequency of substance misuse is measured via three types of testing – random, risk assessment and suspicion testing

These results are shown in the following table:

	Random tests	Risk assessment tests	Suspicion tests
Number conducted	90	98	60
Positive results	12	9	26
% positive results 2021	13.3	9.2	43.3
% positive results 2020	7.7	7.5	15.0

During the reporting period the following Mercury intelligence reports were raised in the category of:

- Mobile phones: 102 reports – compared to 119 in 2020
- Other illicit articles: 80 – compared to 72 in 2020
- Drugs: 312 – compared to 322 in 2020

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation

The establishment continued to experience major changes regarding the units of accommodation in 2021, and at the end of the year had an operational capacity of 187, as shown on the cell certificate.

Work had started on demolishing the three units which were closed in 2020 and was ongoing into 2022.

At the start of the year operational capacity was 163; the Bunkabin modules, which were initially temporary and were used as isolation units during Covid-19, had work carried out on them to improve the accommodation and surroundings so they were fit for purpose for five years, as agreed with HQ. This included an upgrade of insulation and heating, installation of kitchenette area and concreting of the outside area. This unit now houses prisoners who have external employment work contracts.

In one of the other units some cells were set aside as a quarantine area for any suspected cases of Covid-19, and the prisoners here were kept in strict isolation until proven negative to Covid-19. This was a flexible resource to suit the number of cases while still being able to continue to perform its role in the region and provide maximum capacity for category D prisoners.

Older prisoners (over 55) were grouped together in the accommodation whenever possible and at the end of 2021 were housed predominantly in H unit, providing level access and a quiet space.

Each prisoner has a key to their room; many of the rooms have their own individual bathroom facilities.

The establishment had reasonable levels of cleanliness in the accommodation and communal spaces, with enhanced cleaning regimes in place to reduce the spread of infection. A face covering strategy was implemented and reviewed frequently, which meant for a large part of the year all persons, prisoners and staff were required to wear face coverings in shared areas.

Additional funding was secured to have the sanitary facilities in the R unit area refurbished and upgraded; this was essential due to the facilities not meeting decency standards and being in a poor state. Facilities on the other units had to be utilised whilst the work was completed.

In their exit interviews, 91% of prisoners said that it was easy to maintain personal and room cleanliness.

The eradication of bedbugs in the establishment proved to be ongoing and problematic, but any incidence was tackled effectively, with a defined protocol. Towards the end of the year the bedbugs were less problematic due to the protocols in place.

During the year there was a minor rat infestation related to empty buildings and prisoners feeding the ducks and chickens. This was eradicated reasonably swiftly

with additional poison in cages on the 'rat runs' and transfer of the ducks and chickens to another establishment.

In one of the accommodation units the TV reception was not working; this led to replacement wire being installed, which resolved the problem. In 2021 there were three applications relating to accommodation.

The internal coffee shop provided meals for prisoners and staff, in addition to training and work opportunities for the prisoners. Much of the normal offering was reduced and provided as a take-out service due to the restrictions in place due to Covid-19.

The kitchens were given a 5-star food hygiene rating in October 2021.

The catering staff were skilled at providing specialist details for medical and religious requirements and made special arrangements for Ramadan and the celebration of cultures, including Black History Month. However, due to the necessary Covid-19 restrictions, these could not be delivered in the normal way during the year and in some cases were scaled back.

The kitchens were found to operate to a high standard, both in organisation and hygiene, and with suitable portion control. The food was accepted by most of the prisoners to be of a good quality, with much of the menu being freshly prepared on site. Due to Covid-19 it was not possible for the prisoners to eat their meals in the dining hall, and instead procedures were put in place for the prisoners to collect their meals from the dining hall and take them back to their rooms to consume. There were no stage 1 or stage 1A complaints made by prisoners in relation to food. In the exit interviews 72% of prisoners said that overall, they were satisfied with the quality of the food. There were no applications made to the Board in relation to food and the kitchens in 2021.

The prisoners benefited from in-room telephones and access to digital kiosks which were sited around the establishment.

5.2 Segregation, special accommodation

The establishment does not have a segregation unit. There are two holding cells available, which were used as a temporary measure, usually prior to prisoners being returned to closed conditions. The holding cells were used typically for only a few hours while waiting for transport. The holding cells were used in exceptional circumstances overnight when the timing for transfer was late in the day or when the receiving prison could not accept incoming prisoners.

A total of 53 prisoners were returned to closed conditions, a drop of 19 from 2020. Each of these prisoners would have been given a warning before being returned to closed conditions. The table shows the reasons for transfer.

Reason for return	Number
Drug finds	11
Security intelligence	12
Mobile phone	6
Further charges	4
Breach of ROTL	2
Non-compliance	2
Failed alco-meter	1
Police information	1
Failed mandatory drug test	1
Under the influence of drugs/alcohol	10
Suspected involvement in assault	3
Total	53

5.3 Staff-prisoner relationships

Staff had a good knowledge of prisoners, and communication appeared, on the whole, to be positive and effective. Each prisoner was allocated a personal officer shortly after arrival. In their exit interviews 91% of prisoners said that their personal officer had maintained contact with them, 95% of prisoners said that staff had helped with queries and 89% of prisoners said that staff had treated them with respect.

5.4 Equality and diversity

The prison continued to promote equality and inclusion under the 2010 Equality Act with the provision of a single equality plan. The prisoners had equality representatives who would often meet staff to discuss any issues. The prisoners also had representatives who would attend the prisoner consultation meeting, which was held once a month, where prisoners could raise any other issues. These meetings, together with regular prisoner focus groups, ensured that prisoner requests were heard and acted upon, and were well received and appreciated both by prisoners and staff.

In the exit interviews, 95% of prisoners said that different groups of people got on well at the establishment.

Ethnicity breakdown	Average % of population 2021
Asian/Asian British: Indian	0.56%
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	2.23%
Black/Black British: Any other background	1.12%
Black/Black British Caribbean	0.56%
Code missing	0
Mixed: White + Black Caribbean	1.12%
Other: Any other background	0
White: Any other background	1.58%
White: Eng/Welsh/Scot/N.Irish/British	90.02%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2.79%
White: Irish	0

The prison operated a robust system of consultation and review relating to equality and diversity. There were various groups in existence, such as for older prisoners (over 55) and veterans. There was a regular meeting held once a month of the single equality action team, and discrimination incident forms were independently reviewed before being signed off.

Events such as Black History Month could not go ahead as they would have in previous years due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, efforts were made for the prisoners, with information displayed on boards in the dining room which prisoners could read when collecting their meals. The library hosted a display board throughout the month of October and prisoners were given the opportunity to access DVDs and books on information in relation to Black history.

Advantage was taken during reduced Covid-19 restrictions (stage 1 regime) to stage other events, including a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller awareness event for both staff and prisoners with guest speakers from the travelling community. The session was well received, and the speaker commented that he would return as he felt that the environment and attitude he had encountered were respectful and inclusive.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

The chaplaincy continued to represent all faiths, including those prisoners who expressed no specific faith. The provision covered Church of England, Free Church, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Buddhist and Pagan faiths, with the option of requesting external support from sessional Sikh, Hindu, Jehovah's Witness and Mormon faiths.

Group worship was impacted in line with national and local restrictions at times. However, faith discussion groups and holy communion services were able to recommence in May 2021. The carol service was held in December 2021; however, it was not able to go ahead as it has done in previous years due to Covid-19, therefore it was scaled down and went ahead for prisoners only.

The chaplaincy team was well respected and valued by the prisoners.

5.6 Incentives schemes

All prisoners that arrive at Kirklevington are on the highest available level of the incentives scheme – enhanced/gold – and those who were not were upgraded.

There is a national incentives policy framework, which was issued in July 2019, and each establishment's local policy must fully comply with the policy framework. Kirklevington Grange had a reward and progression strategy which was in effect during 2021.

The establishment operated with an approach that was different to that traditionally found in a closed prison, and prisoners were expected to adhere to the highest standards of behaviour and engagement. If a prisoner failed to meet the high standards of behaviour, following three recorded negative entries over a three-month period a case conference would be called with 48 hours' notice, giving the prisoner the opportunity to provide a written submission or attend in person. Prisoners had the opportunity to follow a defined appeals procedure if they were not happy with the case conference decision.

In addition to the normal private money that prisoners could spend on a weekly basis on goods, telephone calls, the coffee shop and catalogue orders, those who worked outside the establishment could apply for an additional sum to be added to their spends account.

5.7 Complaints

There were 57 stage 1 formal complaints and five stage 1A complaints submitted to the prison during 2021.

Prison management quality assurance responses to complaints were thorough and procedurally just. Management were aware of increased complaints and were able to use established procedures to resolve issues, ensuring prisoners did not feel negative consequences from complaining. These procedures had some success, but

prison management will continue to work on improvements in this area. Prison management considered all themes arising from complaints at the monthly performance meetings.

Subject of complaint	No. of complaints	%
Bullying	1	1%
Canteen	2	3%
Education	0	0%
Finance/cash	5	8%
Food	0	0%
Letters/censors	4	6%
Offender assessment system (OASys)/offender management	10	16%
Property	14	21%
Residential	7	10%
Security	2	3%
Staff	1	1%
Visits	2	3%
Work	7	11%
Other	8	11%

5.8 Property

There were several delays regarding property on arrival from other establishments, with one which took several weeks to resolve. Chasing up property can be a time-consuming and frustrating task, however processes were certainly improved from the previous year.

There were 12 stage 1 complaints and two stage 1A complaints related to property that were dealt with by the establishment.

It was noted that in the exit interviews, 9% of prisoners said that they had had issues with property on arrival, compared to the previous year's statistic which was 21%.

There were no applications made to the Board regarding loss/delay of property within Kirklevington Grange and there was one application regarding loss/delay of property during transfer or in another establishment or location.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

Spectrum provided all nursing provision, clinical drug and alcohol recovery team (DART) services, GP clinics and all administration support to healthcare, mental health and non-clinical DART and pharmacy services.

Healthcare over the year has been notable with a successful peer mentor programme, in which each prisoner had a folder for mentoring on DART, healthcare and training which recorded their progress.

The prison is in the top 10 in the country for vaccination rates with 159 prisoners double vaccinated and 131 of those eligible receiving a booster at the end of December 2021, equating to 87% of prisoners being fully vaccinated. Some additional funding has been secured to improve delivery of services. There was consistently positive feedback in exit interviews and surveys carried out on behalf of the commissioners.

Pharmacy services are associated with Holme House, as are mental health services. Healthcare provision at Kirklevington Grange operates as a satellite of HMYOI Deerbolt, sharing services and staff, which feels more appropriate than the previous link with HMP Holme House, as Deerbolt, like Kirklevington, does not provide 24/7 healthcare cover and therefore there is a greater understanding of need. Daily handover meetings take place, with the head of residence normally meeting with the healthcare management team at least once a week or on an ad hoc basis as required.

Staff allocation:

- 1x full-time band 7 clinical manager
- 1x full-time band 6 lead nurse
- 1x full-time band 5 nurse
- 1x full-time band 5 pharmacy technician
- 1x full-time band 4 associate practitioners
- 1 x full-time band 4 senior administrator

Outsourced services:

- Dentistry – Hardwick Dental Practice
- Mental health – Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (subcontracted under Spectrum)
- Optician – Henderson Opticians
- Podiatry – North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- Physiotherapy – North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- Diabetic eye screening – North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening– Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Non-clinical DART services – Humankind

Healthcare requirements differ from most prisons due to the categorisation as an open prison. New arrivals are seen once they have been located to the appropriate unit; the first reception screen is carried out within 24 hours of arrival. Patients can make appointments via the kiosk; paper applications are also accepted. This is explained to the prisoner during the first reception screen.

On 9 November numerous stall holder representatives and their agencies provided essential health awareness for the prisoners. They provided pamphlets, verbal information and advice on prostate cancer, hepatitis C, acupuncture, park run, library facilities, Shannon Trust, health checks, blood tests, care team support and mental health allies. The stalls also provided free samples of healthy foods and snacks. Two guest speakers shared their knowledge, one providing information on job creation and the other on mental fortitude and self-promotion.

6.2 Physical healthcare

Waiting times for the past twelve months improved in 2021. Clinics resumed in healthcare in 2021. Medication collection is by appointment only and is obtained from the main corridor treatment room. Some routine hospital appointments were cancelled by the prisoners for various reasons:

- The day does not suit them.
- They are afraid to attend because of Covid-19.
- They are due to be released.
- They forgot.

Actual non-attendance at appointments was less than 2% for the year and was usually because the patient had forgotten.

Chronic conditions were managed by the designated long-term conditions nurse, who visited Kirklevington Grange regularly to review the patients. To enable palliative care for end-of-life, patients are assessed on a case by case basis, to determine whether they need to return to a prison which provides 24-hour healthcare team. Kirklevington Grange cannot accept some prisoners with severe physical disabilities or wheelchair users given the layout of the prison.

There is one GP session per week, supplemented by two nurse prescribers per week either two mornings or one full day. These sessions are supplemented by additional specific clinics for vaccinations, sexual health, well man's sessions, monthly diabetic/asthma assessments and mental health.

During prisoner exit interviews 89% said healthcare met their needs and 3% said it did not (8% did not respond). Everyone is set up with a GP prior to discharge if they don't already have one.

A hepatitis C awareness event was held in November which was attended by two members from the Hepatitis C Trust who shared their experiences of having hepatitis C and the myths and facts around this disease. They then went on to complete hepatitis C testing with prisoners. Twenty-one prisoners attended the event and 12 completed a hepatitis C test.

6.3 Mental healthcare

Prisoners who are feeling anxious or depressed can speak direct to a member of the healthcare team. In addition to this, there is a standalone safer custody prison officer who supports prisoners. The healthcare team can complete a mental health referral on their behalf. Alternatively, the prisoner can use the kiosk to complete the mental health referral or complete the referral on paper.

Psychiatry clinics are carried out as and when needed. There is no waiting time for the psychiatric nurse. Rethink therapies have no waiting list. Patients are assessed during the next clinic session, which takes place every Thursday. All mental health patients are referred to outside services if further assessments or needs are required. The HMP mental health team has a neurodevelopment pathway to support individuals with learning difficulties or who are on the autistic spectrum. This includes access to a speech and language therapist.

A prisoner requiring psychiatric in-patient care is normally seen within four days by the community psychiatric nurse (CPN) for an initial routine assessment. Prisoners in crisis are seen within 24 hours. The prisoners have access to a psychiatrist for treatment and the average wait time is no longer than four weeks. The therapist at Kirklevington has their own case load and have none at the prison at present. The therapeutic work is delivered by the team of CPNs and psychology staff who are also qualified in trauma-informed care and dialectical behavioural therapy (DBT). Prisoners requiring psychiatric in-patient care would be transferred to HMP Holme House to be supported until transfer to hospital. The waiting time varied as it was dependent on the hospital/ward and bed management.

The mental health team issues prisoners who are self-isolating with self-help material including distraction packs. World Mental Health Day was celebrated on 8 October in the internal coffee shop with free tea and coffee. Representatives from the care team and mental health allies were present to offer information and support and the gym team arranged and provided acupressure sessions.

6.4 Social care

No prisoners were transferred back to closed conditions due to social care needs. There were no prisoners on the waiting list for a social care assessment. These are carried out by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council promptly after referral and there was no waiting list. If there was a requirement, a simple adaption could be made. However, any complex needs mean the prisoner would likely require transfer back to closed conditions and 24-hour healthcare provision. Social care needs were met and

funded by the Borough Council. On release, 16% said they would be claiming disability living allowance or carer's allowance.

Those men on the complex case register were discussed once a month for any additional needs, with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council coming in to do social care assessments and advise on equipment that was then purchased.

6.5 Exercise, regime

Group activities have been and still are being affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. The prisoners and staff utilised the on-site gym and sports hall to accommodate a wide range of training and exercise programmes. The sports hall remained open during 2021 with some restrictions, and the internal fitness suite reopened later in 2021 in line with the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.

The 52nd park run was completed in September and has continued to be held each Saturday since. The 1st of November marked the start of Men's Health Month, supported by the gym team. The activities included Movember, where men were sponsored to grow a moustache, and 'Move for Movember' where participants were encouraged to achieve 60km within the month by walking, running, cycling or rowing. These accomplishments raised funds for the charity, as well as knowledge and awareness, given the 60 men lost to suicide daily in the UK.

A Snowdonia walk and talk (20 laps around the field) took place, and both prisoners and staff participated. In December a 5km run was attended by both staff and prisoners. The prisoners are encouraged to put forward their ideas for any activities they would like to organise.

The physical education instructors have continued to deliver an outstanding service despite the restrictions.

6.6 Drug rehabilitation

Substance misuse and the provision of support remains a priority for the prison. DART offered an induction session within 24 hours of arrival for all new prisoners. Assessments were completed for those who chose to engage with the service. The screening assessment and treatment for drug and alcohol misuse looks at the wide range of substance use and any other related physical and mental health needs. Engagement was on a voluntary basis, unless there was a clinical need, such as the prescription of methadone, opioid substitute therapy (OST). A DART care plan was put in place with the prisoner and reviewed every three months or less if needed.

Humankind provides the non-clinical DART service at Kirklevington. Prisoner feedback reported through the establishment's local delivery board, chaired by the Governor, is positive, and the case load is well managed with no waiting lists. The IMB raised concerns over the staffing structure as the team was reduced in numbers, as one member left; however, this position is being recruited to a dual-site role with Holme House. Kirklevington also benefited from the introduction of a senior practitioner who operates under the manager.

The first session for recovery month took place on 8 September. The men were given acrylic paints and a canvas and asked to paint what recovery looks like to them. The care and treatment the prison provides is equivalent to that they would receive in the community. On release from prison, the DART team made referrals to the external drug and alcohol support services. The appointments were made for the day the prisoner was released so the treatment can continue uninterrupted. DART staff followed up with the external agencies to ensure the prisoner kept their appointment. During the exit interview 26% of prisoners who used them said DART work services met their needs and 7% said it did not. On average 18% of the prison population engaged with DART over the year.

6.7 Soft skills

In the current climate, undertaking hobbies and activities was challenging due to the Covid-19 restrictions which limited group activity. The prison provided distraction packs, art resources, competitions and hobby craft materials. All prisoners had the opportunity to engage in the recreational activities. In-cell activities, via Wayout TV and Way2learn, provided entertainment and learning programmes. A newsletter available to all staff and prisoners was produced by the prisoners, containing a wealth of information on numerous topics, including health and wellbeing, autism, recipes, interviews from various departments and puzzles. This was well received by both staff and prisoners.

Of note was the introduction of the monthly newsletter written by prisoners, for prisoners covering topics such as substance recovery, autism awareness, recipes and interviews with staff and prisoner representatives.

A '5 star' wellbeing programme, using fully trained mentors (prisoners and staff) who had been trained by external professionals, went live in July. Each mentor is provided access to a wellbeing box consisting of acupressure beads, stress relief latex balls, wristbands, stretch toys and a protein bag of pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds and chopped Brazil nuts. These items were all designed to help improve anxiety and stress, and many prisoners and staff took advantage of them.

The first twinning project delivery from Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation at HMP Kirklevington reached a successful conclusion in 2021. Each week for a month, two MFC Foundation staff delivered a leadership through football course, designed to give prisoners new skills that could lead to a new start at the end of their sentence. Delivering this course provided the participants an opportunity to gain a leadership award. Of the 12 starters, only one prisoner did not complete the course. One young adult prisoner who had previously been supported through behavioural and compliance issues in the prison went on to complete further training with the football club on release from prison. The physical education officer within Kirklevington worked closely with the Foundation. He enthused: 'HMP Kirklevington Grange is proud to collaborate with MFC Foundation as part of the Twinning Project'.

The first course was a great success, engaging prisoners to improve their mental and physical health while providing them with a qualification to help improve their life chances upon release.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

The library remained a small but calm and attractive space staffed by welcoming people. Much effort was made to maintain access to library books and resources for prisoners and to mitigate the impact of lockdowns and Covid-19 regime restrictions.

Covid-19 restrictions impacted group activities such as the book club supported by the library and the Prison Reading Group. In 2021 the average daily attendance in the library was eight prisoners. Distraction packs and Shannon Trust packs were available. The prisoners enjoyed doing the word search. During periods when there was no access to the library, posters were placed on notice boards on each block, letters were sent and Wayout TV was used to advertise new and themed books. Requests and collections were made at a central point and eventually by delivery to individual cells. This service was refined and improved through experience as Covid-19 restrictions allowed.

Book Talk, a distance reading group supported by Prison Reading Groups, was established, and three men took part enthusiastically for several months.

In August 2021 prisoners were allowed to collect items from the library door, one at a time; by October men could again browse in the library, one at a time, and by December this increased to two as permitted by social distancing requirements.

Library user engagement figures

Library 2021	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	Total
Engagement	384	238	723	919	2027
Items issued	636	626	974	*229 (October)	2465 (January-October)

*Stockton Libraries moved to a new library management system in October and full last quarter results are not available.

In the autumn, demand increased, not only for recreational materials but also for educational and information resources.

Following an education open event in September, the Shannon Trust initiative was restarted with four new volunteer mentors and two learner/improvers.

The library service was appreciated by prisoners.

Novus held the contract, now in its third year, to provide education services at Kirklevington Grange with the aim to offer all prisoners an opportunity to improve their levels in maths and English and to increase their skills for employment. Provision was reviewed during 2021 following Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons findings, a needs analysis and the local employment market. Nine staff were

employed. Functional skills learners were able to follow accredited qualifications in maths, English and customer service level 2. Other non-accredited courses included food safety, cleaning, mentoring and social enterprise (replaced in October by digital skills). Courses were matched to the prisoner's end goal and sentence plan. There were 48 education places available and a total of 267 course completions, with nine qualifications achieved. Attendance ran at 61.5% and non-attendance was robustly challenged.

Curriculums were developed by Novus to include skills such as teamwork, motivation, active listening, problem solving, effective communication, empathy and creativity. The prison's community and mentoring courses focused on the development of transferable skills that support the rehabilitation for the prisoners.

The exact nature of the delivery was determined during the year by the requirement for Covid-19 safety measures.

Between January and March 2021 there was no face-to-face teaching due to Covid-19 restrictions. Staff worked hard to provide teaching packs for men to complete in their rooms. This lack of personal interaction inevitably resulted in lower levels of motivation.

During April all teaching staff were back at work in the prison. English and maths courses were prioritised, along with two very poor readers. Teaching packs were sent to learners and returned via a drop box for marking, and 15-minute one-to-one appointments held to discuss outcomes with the learner. Other courses operated by telephone, work packs and short catch-ups; by May one-to-one, face-to-face meetings were instigated, and this improved engagement in education. By the end of June teaching groups of three were possible with social distancing. During August half-sized classes (five prisoners) were operating with a blended learning approach.

Improvements made during the year included:

- Increasing flexibility to enable education to run alongside work. Courses ran one to three days a week rather than full time. This meant that some learners took more time to complete their courses than initially anticipated, but it addressed an issue raised by Ofsted: 'lessons too infrequent to assist learning'.
- The purchase of 10 Coracle laptops to facilitate access to over 30 more educational courses and self-guided learning modules.
- A greater focus upon transferable and digital skills.
- A greater focus upon identifying starting points and tracking learner progress.

Percentage of the population engaged in education

	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	28%	36%	33%	29%	27.6%	26.6%	18.5%	20.9%

The exit survey provided the following responses with regard to educational provision at Kirklevington Grange:

- 49% of respondents said education met their needs; for 38% this was not applicable and 13% were not satisfied.
- 16% stated they had sufficient help in finding a college placement, for 59% this was not applicable and 25% felt insufficiently supported.

However, given the restrictions related to Covid-19, the Kirklevington education and activities staff worked hard to provide as many opportunities as possible.

7.2 Vocational training, work

The reducing reoffending department worked hard to ensure that all prisoners had access to purposeful activity to support their rehabilitation. There were 118 internal workplaces across the prison, encompassing driving, valeting, cleaning, catering, mentoring, waste management, land-based activities and welding.

The establishment has a popular external coffee shop and car wash, which provided prisoners with vocational training and work opportunities. The car wash had major alterations to the working area and drainage to meet environmental standards for the wastewater.

The coffee shop at times did have to operate on a 'take-out' basis only, however when the coffee shop was able to operate normally it was highly valued by the local community.

The welding workshop reopened for a maximum of six men in October. Woodwork did not reopen due to ongoing staff resource issues. Due to low prisoner numbers (reduced population resulting from demolition of accommodation units) and a minimum of 118 men being required for internal jobs to ensure the daily functioning of the establishment, in addition to Covid-19 restrictions on group sizes, the opportunity to gain experience in the workshops was limited.

There was difficulty in finding sufficient drivers to transport outside workers amongst the current inmate population. Consequently, priority was given to community work on site, e.g. management of the community woodland, the external coffee shop, car wash and grounds work.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) job coach recommenced to support prisoners with online job searches. The information, advice and guidance (IAG) service continued to deliver support to prisoners, preparing them for work and external training opportunities. The job club continued to operate and post-Covid-19 lockdown, an unprecedented interest was shown by local employers offering ROTL placement opportunities, resulting in a good number of men returning to paid outside employment. By December the percentage of prisoners engaged in paid placements was equivalent to the rates pre-pandemic (when the prison had a higher population) and the bounce-back was quicker than anticipated after the pandemic, which has supported prisoners in their education, training and employment plans for release.

Number and percentage of prison population in paid placements

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	Nov	Dec
Number in paid placements	11	16	19	23	24	24	43	61	63
% of the population	17%	25%	27%	15%	13.4%	13.5%	23.8%	34.2%	35.5%

7.3 Offender management, progression

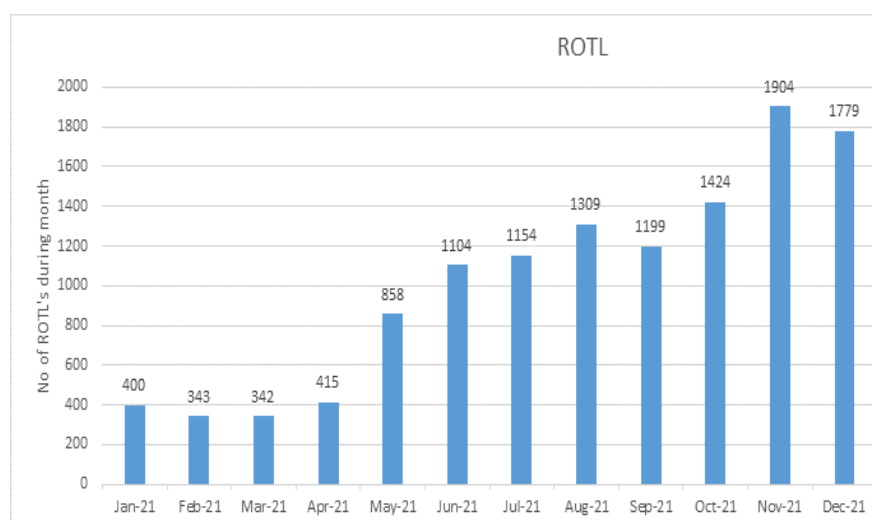
The offender management unit (OMU) worked hard to ensure no detriment occurred to prisoners during very difficult circumstances. Offender management in custody (OMiC) changes created some confusion over roles; community offender managers (COMs) did not always fulfil their obligations to check accommodation prior to ROTL in a timely manner, and the transfer from prison-based to external services was not always smooth.

OMiC did not significantly change the procedures for internal management of prisoners or cause delays to risk assessments being completed. Despite some prisoners still arriving without completed OASys assessments, risk assessments were usually completed within the 12-week period.

Any offending behaviour programmes are usually held at a unit attached to Holme House prison. Few prisoners attend these, and none were run due to the Covid-19 exceptional delivery model.

Staff levels in the OMU were at times diminished by Covid-19 sickness and isolation requirements, with only one member of staff from eight in the office in October. However, with good will and a borrowed offender manager from another prison, commitments to the prisoners were maintained. ROTL and home detention curfew (HDC) continued without cancellations except where prisoners tested positive for Covid-19.

Releases on temporary licence (ROTL) for work per month



The graph shows the number of releases on temporary licence each month.

Releases on home detention curfew

2021	Assessed for HDC	Released	Approved	Unsuitable	Ineligible	Rejected
January	5	3	3	0	1	1
February	1	3	1	0	0	0
March	5	2	3	2	0	0
April	0	1	0	0	0	0
May	1	1	1	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	3	0	3	0	0	0
September	1	0	0	1	0	0
October	1	1	1	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	2	2	2	0	0	0

During 2021 13 prisoners were released on parole. This compared to 17 in 2020.

There were no absconds and 31 failed ROTLs from a total of 12,231 (0.25%) – an extraordinary success rate.

A perceived positive effect of changes instigated due to Covid-19 was that more parole boards sat under virtual meeting arrangements and at a reduced cost to the prison budget.

Prisoners were generally happy with the support they received from staff and key workers. All respondents to an exit survey stated they were well treated on reception at Kirklevington, 82% said their needs were met by the induction programme and 89% felt their applications and complaints were dealt with appropriately. The exit

survey revealed 69% believed they had contributed to their sentence plan and their opinions were valued.

This reflects the impressions of IMB members during monitoring visits.

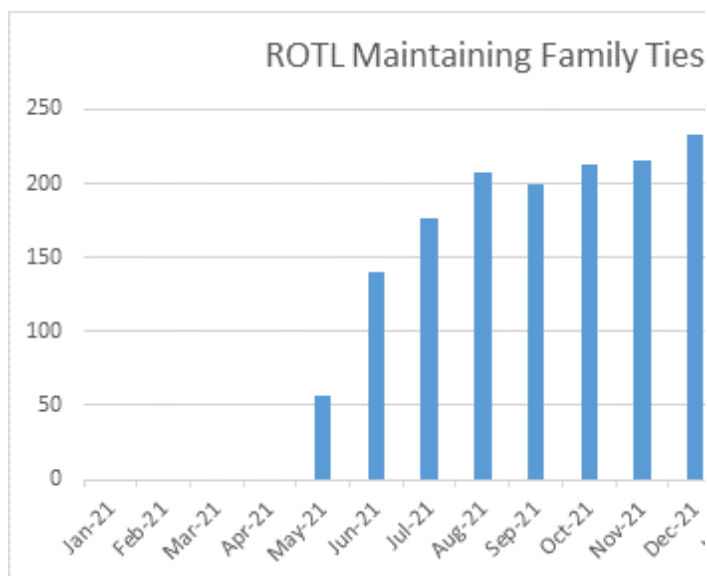
7.4 Family contact

Again, every effort was made to maintain family links, but unfortunately ROTL was paused until May due to the pandemic. In place of the planned family days the prison worked with Nepacs to provide fun activity packs which were sent home with children. This received positive feedback.

A family worker was appointed to work some evening and weekend hours to improve the service to the men. Unfortunately, she withdrew and the new appointment will not commence until February 2022.

Normal visits were introduced as soon as possible when restrictions were lifted.

Video calls were not particularly successful at Kirklevington and caused some frustrations to prisoners and staff with constant breakdowns and failures of the technology when operated and the prisoners did not readily want to access the system. The prisoners had in-room telephones and as these were single occupancy, preferred to contact families by phone or to wait for ROTL. A survey within the prison confirmed this. The prisoners appreciated the additional £5 weekly PIN credit mandated by the government.



The table shows that, as restrictions allowed, prisoners were able to enjoy family home visits.

In October 2021 a successful family day was held. A second, planned for December, was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. As an alternative, a craft activity pack, book and selection box was provided for children during family visits.

The success of the prison in supporting prisoners in maintaining family links is reflected in the fact that 77% of prisoners returned to their family home on release.

Storybook Dads offered the opportunity for families to send DVDs to a prisoner, but only five took up this offer.

7.5 Resettlement planning

A total of 113 prisoners were released from the prison during 2021. An exit survey carried out by prison staff involved 61 prisoners:

- 2% had served less than 12 months.
- 19% served 12 months – 4 years.
- 72% served 4+ years.
- A further 7% were released after indeterminate sentences.
- 35% of respondents stated they had employment on release.
- 15% said they would be self-employed.
- 7% would be at college.
- 7% would be retired.
- 13% would be in receipt of disability or carers' benefits.
- 23% would be unemployed.

Statistics showed that 28% of prisoners were in employment six weeks after their release.

Kirklevington provided good support to prisoners as the head of reducing reoffending continued to be committed and proactive in seeking partnerships and opportunities to enhance employability and develop their skills.

There was very limited face-to-face work at the beginning of the year, with only level 3 (high risk and potentially homeless on release) prisoners meeting through the gate staff. Despite the difficulties of finding hostel places and housing under the prevailing Covid-19 measures, every man released from Kirklevington had accommodation, most returning to the family home. There were ongoing issues with obtaining debit cards for bank accounts, but credit unions were able to help some men. This issue has been raised to the New Futures Network team who lead on prisoner banking, as unfortunately the criteria for obtaining a bank account is that the prisoner must be within three months of release; this does not take into consideration those prisoners in open conditions who are accessing ROTL.

The through the gate provisions which supported prisoners in their resettlement on release ceased in June. The new model of community provision was not identical and several gaps in provision were identified. This caused some confusion about roles and responsibilities within all the organisations. The head of reducing reoffending at Kirklevington appears to have been well prepared for the changes and gaps were filled promptly with, for example, the prison taking on the opening of bank accounts prior to release.

With regard to accommodation support on release, the previous through the gate support worker continued to monitor accommodation referrals to external contracted providers, with Thirteen Housing Group holding the contract for sourcing accommodation for low to medium risk prisoners being released to the local area.

Low to medium risk prisoners were catered for through their resettlement plans, but high risk and potentially homeless prisoners became the responsibility of the community offender manager (COM) in their home area. As the prison is a national resource, COMs from out of area may not have been able to attend the prison in person, especially when Covid-19 restrictions were in place. Covid-19 restrictions also generally disadvantaged prisoners in need of accommodation. Good will on the part of all organisations and services seemed to have mitigated many of the negative impacts within this prison.

Approximately half of the men released each month from Kirklevington were from outside the north east area. To address this, two new partnerships began with organisations committed to support released prisoners, Tempus Novo covering the Leeds/Yorkshire area and Clean Slate Solutions covering those residing in Teesside. As well as supporting prisoners into sustainable employment, they provided day-to-day practical support for newly released men, to provide wrap-around mentoring support in addition to the workplace, and further partnerships are being sought for other areas.

All 113 prisoners who completed their sentence at Kirklevington during 2021 had accommodation on release.

Type of accommodation on release

Housing on release	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Family home	31	16	22	18
Hostel	0	0	0	0
Flat	0	0	0	1
Hotel/B&B	0	0	0	0
Other	0	3	1	2
Bass accommodation	0	1	0	1
Approved premises	4	4	2	3
Transient/short term	0	2	2	0

The work of the IMB

The Board has been able to meet its commitment to monitoring duties and has been able to report on issues of concern and to identify good practice at each of those visits within Covid-19 restrictions.

Covid-19 meant differences in the way we would normally operate, restricting rota visits and the ability to meet face to face as a Board. Visits had been suspended at the beginning of the year, but rota visits recommenced in April by the majority of the Board. Board meetings were held every month, by teleconference at the start of the year, returning to the prison for face-to-face meetings in April. Quarterly area meetings were held by teleconference and quarterly meetings of the open estate were held by Zoom.

Throughout the restrictions we were able to attend the prison morning briefing, by telecom, and together with the daily update all information was emailed to the board daily, keeping us fully in touch with prison activity. We were able to attend all other meetings, if desired in the prison by telecom, and minutes were distributed to evidence activity. It was a difficult time for monitoring, but as a Board, and with the assistance of the prison, we felt that we had covered most of the issues. We were well supported by the Governor and staff during these unusual times, together with good communications through the IMB clerk and the Governor's secretary.

The Governor or deputy attended Board meetings, providing updates to the members regarding current issues and developments as well as giving feedback on issues raised by the Board relating to the daily activities and operation of the prison.

Important issues raised during the Board meeting were noted and followed up by members during their rota visits. Weekly rota visits continued to take place, two visits per week. All visits were logged, stating locations the member had visited, and a report was published with copies to all the Board and the Governor/deputy governor.

There were few written applications received this year, all successfully dealt with, and there were a reduced number of 'on the hoof' applications recorded in our reference book. As members go through their visits, most of issues arising were dealt with immediately and resolved without the need of application but were recorded on our reports.

For annual reporting purposes, each member of the Board is allocated to at least one specialist monitoring area. This improves the Board's overall knowledge and depth of monitoring. Teamwork continues to play a vital part of compiling our annual report.

We had a full Board of nine members throughout the year, but one member tendered her resignation as at the end of the year, and two others indicated they will be leaving during 2022. To reinstate the Board's complement of nine members, a recruitment campaign during the first six months of 2022 has been agreed.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	9
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	9
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	9
Total number of visits to the establishment	168
Total number of shifts on the 0800 telephone line*	Does not apply
Total number of segregation reviews attended	Does not apply

Applications to the IMB (including via the 0800 telephone line)

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	2	3
B	Discipline, including adjudications, IEP, sanctions	6	1
C	Equality	0	0
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	6	3
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	3	2
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	3	2
F	Food and kitchens	1	
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	10	2
H1	Property within this establishment	1	
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	3	1
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	0	0
I	Sentence management, including HDC, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, recategorisation	9	5
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	2	4
K	Transfers	0	0
L	Miscellaneous, including complaints system	4	3
	Total number of applications	50	26



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