



# **Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Whatton**

**For reporting year  
1 June 2021 – 31 May 2022**

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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 the 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) requires that states designate a National Prevention 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 Preventative Mechanism.

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

HMP Whatton, Nottinghamshire, is a category C training prison for male prisoners convicted of sexual offences against adults and children. The certified normal accommodation is 729, the operational capacity is 801 and the average population in this reporting year was 791. HMP Whatton is one of the largest specialist prisons in Europe to offer offending behaviour programmes to people with convictions for sexual offences. The establishment also offers a wide range of learning and skills programmes, as well as employment opportunities such as manufacturing and gardening.

The prison's residential accommodation consists of 13 residential wings: A1 – 8 (constructed in 2006); B1 – 3 (constructed during the 1960s when the prison was a detention centre housing young people); and C1 (constructed in 2005), and C3 (constructed in 2008). C2 was decommissioned in May 2021 and has subsequently been demolished. A replacement modular block is expected to be completed by December 2022.

A care and separation unit (CSU) is attached to the A3 residential unit. The accommodation cells comprise a mixture of single and double cells and modern (with en suite toilet, washbasin and shower) and older facilities (with an in-cell toilet but the prisoners living in these use shared showers). The accommodation in B wing had been unfit for purpose and conditions in this wing were regularly criticised by both the IMB and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). A programme of some refurbishment has begun on the wing in this reporting period. The cells remain the smallest in the prison estate with prisoners using the tops of the retrofitted toilets as tables to eat their food. This is neither hygienic, healthy, or humane. However, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) has no plans to replace the B wings in the foreseeable future.

Accommodation for purposeful activity includes a sports hall (including three badminton courts and a cardiovascular exercise suite), a gym with weight training facilities, manufacturing workshops, a large education unit and a large kitchen facility specifically for the use of prisoners undertaking the national vocational qualification (NVQ) in catering. The establishment has a well-resourced library.

The healthcare unit also includes an end-of-life suite and a dementia care suite.

A 'solar farm' was due to be installed on land adjacent to the prison at the beginning of 2022. However, the Deputy Prime Minister cancelled all the prison and court solar panel contracts before installation could start. To date, there is no information available about when these energy-saving measures will now be installed.

Outside the prison's secure compound, there is a purpose-built visitor centre which is managed under contract with the Prison Advice and Care Trust.

The prison also has an external contract with PeoplePlus, for the supply of library literature. This is sub-contracted to Suffolk Library Services. There are three

externally-commissioned services: healthcare services provided by Practice Plus Group; facilities management provided by Amey; learning and skills managed by PeoplePlus. The prison also has contracts with the Carers Federation, Circles UK, the Safer Living Foundation, Workers' Educational Association and other third sector agencies to improve the resettlement process for older prisoners and those with learning difficulties.

### **3. Executive summary**

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

3.1.1 The Covid pandemic has continued to curtail visit to the prison by Board members and members found it difficult to gather information. Some members made occasional visits and contact with the wing representatives was used as a principal contact, as were telephone conversations with staff and representation at committee meetings. These contacts happened on a regular basis. Towards the second half of the year members began to make regular visits to the prison, gradually establishing the pattern of duties that matched the pre-Covid period.

3.1.2 The Board meetings have continued throughout the pandemic through Zoom video conferencing until the restrictions were relaxed and meetings were held in the prison. The Governor has been meticulous in attending these meetings. In October 2021, the Governor resigned and a new Governor was appointed in March 2022. During the intervening period, the deputy governor assumed the role of acting Governor. The Board has appreciated the co-operation and support of the prison staff who were working under great pressure. It enabled IMB members to return to face-to-face visits quickly. We are particularly grateful for the support of the business hub personnel and our Board clerk in servicing our needs.

3.1.3 The Board has resumed its regular access to the prison with rota visits and the monthly Board meetings at the prison. With the resumption of rota visits, members have been welcomed back and have been making regular monitoring possible.

3.1.4 The Board wishes to commend the Governor, senior management team and the staff of HMP Whatton for their work across a very difficult period. They have carried out their work in a fair and humane way. The restrictions, imposed by the measures to combat Covid-19, were carried out with prisoner welfare the first concern. There was a consistent regime allowing daily telephone calls and regular exercise for each prisoner. Video conference calls were also used regularly. The prisoners understood the reason for the severe restrictions and the prison has been settled over this period.

3.1.5 As the prison lockdown regulations were relaxed and normal activities returned, it was possible to look back over the long period where both prisoners and staff were under strain. The data shows that the issues of discipline were not vastly different from the pre-Covid period and that the prison routine was settled, and provided, where possible, for a range of activities for prisoners in their cells. It was evident that the efforts of the staff to accommodate the changes from work routine and leisure was appreciated by prisoners and that an equilibrium was maintained throughout the period.

#### **3.2 Main judgements**

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

3.2.1 There is much evidence to show that management and staff clearly intend to ensure that prisoners are safe at all times.

3.2.2 During the lockdown there was provision for prisoners who wished to isolate because of their vulnerability to infection, and when prisoners contracted Covid they were isolated away from other prisoners.

3.2.3 Board members have, on several occasions, observed the use of force, but these incidents have not raised any concerns.

3.2.4 During two serious incidents at height, the prisoners were brought down with care and consideration. No force was necessary.

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

3.2.5 Prisoners are normally treated with fairness and humanity. However, for most of the reporting period, the application of the lockdown restrictions has meant that the treatment of prisoners has been undifferentiated and the 22 hours per day in cells has affected prisoners differently. The prison has followed the emergency regime management plan issued by HMPPS. Local initiatives which could have alleviated conditions have not been allowed. Some prisoners have been at work for part of the time in the kitchen and, latterly, the garden but the majority have been in 22-hour lockdown throughout the Covid restrictions. The Board considers this to be less than humane. It failed to keep Covid at bay because prisoners transferred in and out of Whatton all through the lockdown, raising infection rates. Prison staff, through wearing masks and observing hygienic practice alongside rigorous testing, kept outbreaks isolated to a large extent. However, as regulations relaxed in the general community, the lockdown was maintained and became more inhumane as it went on. The Board cannot regard this as fair and humane treatment.

3.2.6 The substandard accommodation in the B wings continues to raise concerns. B wing contains some of the smallest cells within the prison estate. The Board is aware that the Governor and prison managers have repeatedly raised concerns about the quality of this accommodation but no funding for a replacement has been made available. Although these cells are unfit for purpose, HMPPS is content to allow prisoners to be held in this sub-standard accommodation.

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

3.2.7 Healthcare services continued to be under great pressure throughout the period and prisoners' physical and mental health was seen as a priority. The service responded very efficiently to requirements for vaccination programmes and treatment and it is the view of the Board that the service has been equivalent to that provided in the wider community.

3.2.8 The mental and emotional wellbeing of prisoners remains a significant concern due to the effect of prolonged periods of time spent by prisoners in their cells.

3.2.9 The shortage of healthcare staff has increased the risk to the wellbeing of prisoners. However, the Board acknowledges that this reflects the situation

throughout the NHS, and every effort has been made by the on-site team to provide care and support to all prisoners.

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

3.2.10 During the pandemic, the provision of accredited programmes has been curtailed or significantly reduced. Moreover, the resettlement programmes for prisoners had to be suspended. This means that prisoners have not been well prepared for their release into the community. However, since the end of the pandemic restrictions, we are starting to see the reintroduction of more programmes for prisoners.

3.2.11 The IMB is concerned about the backlog of prisoners waiting to complete the accredited programmes for which they have been transferred to HMP Whatton to undertake. Many prisoners continue to express their concerns about the impact that this will have on their sentence plan, parole hearings and subsequent release.

3.2.12 Media reports relating to the changes in the parole system, particularly where it relates to persons convicted of sexual offences, has caused some prisoners considerable anguish. They are concerned that their transfers to category D prisons will be impacted, or their release into the community could now be delayed.

3.2.13 There continue to be delays in transferring category D prisoners to suitable prisons. However, we have seen some reduction in the number of prisoners awaiting transfer (an average of 50 per month in 2021 and 40 per month in 2022).

### **3.3 Main Areas for development**

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

Last year we reported that a prisoner was held for a long time in deteriorating mental health while waiting for secure accommodation and we asked the minister to intervene. There has been one further case this year and, during the lockdown, those prisoners with fragile mental health were also affected by the isolation in cells. The prison has direct responsibility for the social care of these prisoners, some elderly and in stages of early dementia. We ask the minister to look at the evidence and, again, address this issue directly with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to support prisons in providing reasonable and timely support for these prisoners.

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

There will be a considerable backlog of courses and support for the rehabilitation and re-education of prisoners to allow them to progress to open conditions and towards release. Will HMPPS allot extra funding to ensure that the backlog is eliminated and those who have lost out have access to those courses that are important to them in a timely programme for their progress through prison?

Will the Prison Service advise when the energy-saving solar panels will be installed at HMP Whatton?



As we have reported every year, the Board continues to receive applications about the loss of prisoners' property, usually when being transferred from another prison. Responses to prisoners' complaints from other establishments are often late or not received at all (see section 5.8). Each year, IMBs across the country receive assurances that something will be done about this. The new policy framework (August 2022) does not address these issues. Can the Prison Service develop a reliable system of handling and tracking prisoners' property, to reduce these unacceptable losses and to minimise the number of compensation claims?

The standard of the accommodation in the healthcare centre continues to be a significant concern (6.1.6). Will the Prison Service, once again, consider substantial refurbishment or replacement of the healthcare facilities so that they match those expected in the community?

## **Evidence Sections 4 – 7**

### **4. Safety**

The Board's view of safety is formed from collective observations of all members during monitoring visits. To supplement this, the Board also undertakes monitoring of meetings that include the monthly safer custody meetings and weekly safety intervention meetings. Whilst it is not possible or desirable for a Board member to attend all meetings, comprehensive minutes are produced after each meeting, and these are always sent to the Board for review.

The prison has a dedicated safer custody team who, in the opinion of the Board, work hard to deliver an excellent service. There is a dedicated external telephone number provided so that relatives of prisoners can speak to this team if they have any concerns.

Peer support groups exist within the prison and are primarily formed from the Listeners and Insiders. These groups continued to receive support from local Samaritans groups throughout the reporting year. The support was facilitated remotely via telephone.

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

4.1.1 The reception area is visited by Board members during routine monitoring. On each occasion it has been found to be clean and tidy with a lot of useful information displayed that may help new arrivals.

4.1.2 Prisoners being transferred in are located on a specific wing where reverse cohorting has been practised during the reporting year. New prisoners are given an induction, but it has not been possible for IMB members to attend for various reasons, including pandemic restrictions and availability. The Board hopes to be able to begin to attend these again soon.

4.1.3 During the reporting year there has been a maximum of four IS91 prisoners; these are prisoners held under Immigration Act powers awaiting deportation upon release. Whilst this is higher than previous years, the number remains low and therefore the Board is unable to comment on this as a specific area of monitoring, but there are no concerns.

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

4.2.1 During the reporting year there was a total of 302 self-harm incidents. This is a decrease from the previous reporting period where there were 496 recorded incidents.

4.2.2 An ACCT is an assessment, care in custody and teamwork document. These are identified care plans for prisoners identified as being at risk of suicide or self-harm. During the reporting year there was a total of 173 ACCT documents issued, a decrease from the previous year's total of 296. At the end of the reporting year the

prison had 16 specially trained ACCT assessors, with seven additional people waiting for that training.

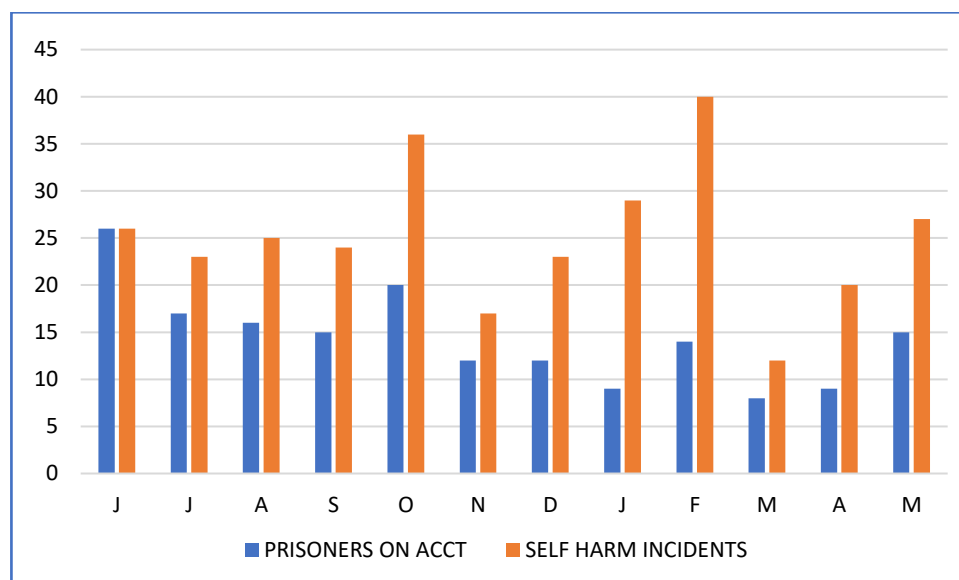


Figure 1 - Comparison of ACCTs and self-harm incidents

4.2.3 It is the opinion of the Board that the decrease in self-harm incidents and the use of ACCTs is likely to be as a result of a less restrictive regime following the easing of restrictions associated with the pandemic.

4.2.4 Prior to the pandemic, the prison had been rolling out a staff training programme focused on suicide and self-harm awareness known as SASH. At the time of the pandemic 93.1% of staff had been trained, although this figure will require revalidating. The prison has stated that they intend to restart this training after the reporting period.

4.2.5 During the reporting year there were eight deaths in custody. This is the same number as the previous reporting period. Seven deaths were from natural causes, and one was apparently self-inflicted.

4.2.6 At the end of the reporting period, the prison had five Listeners; these are prisoners who have been trained by the Samaritans to support other prisoners during personal crises. Listeners are invited to participate in part of the monthly safer custody meetings, and it is the Board's opinion that they provide a vital peer support function.

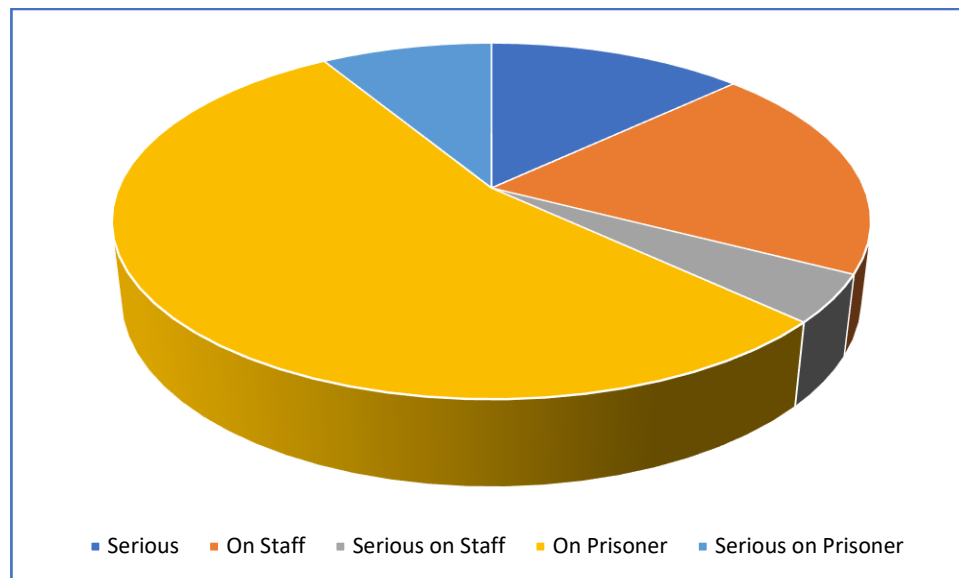
### 4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

4.3.1 The safer custody department carried out an annual violence reduction survey. At the time of reporting, these results were not available.

4.3.2 There continues to be a relatively low number of disruptive incidents at HMP Whatton; a trend considered to be normal based on trends from previous years and

the opinion of the Board, whose members speak regularly with both staff and prisoners alike.

4.3.3 During the reporting period, data provided by the prison indicate there have been a total of 34 assault incidents. Eight of those are considered to have been serious.

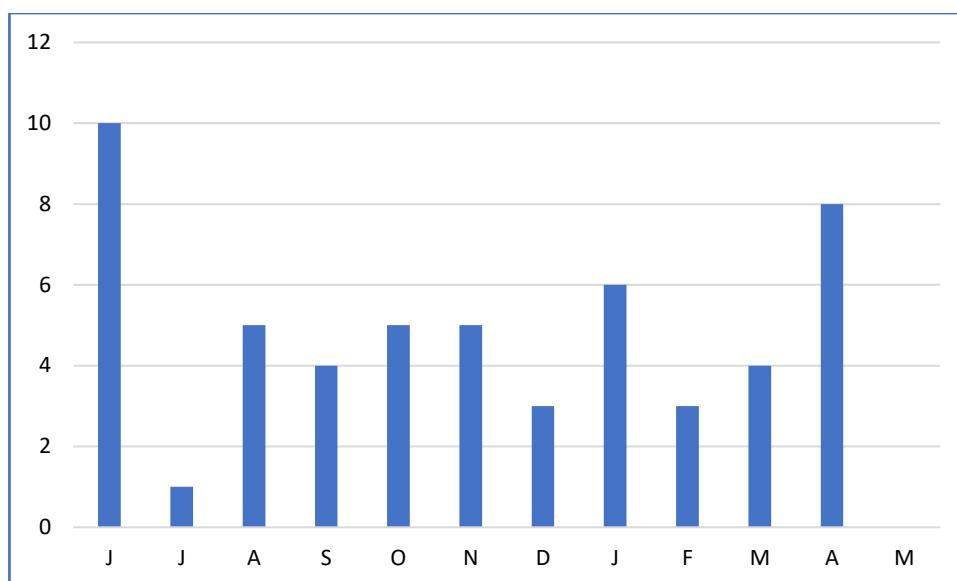


*Figure 2 - Assaults by category during the reporting period according to prison data*

## **4.4 Use of force**

4.4.1 Use of force was required on 54 occasions during the reporting period, a decrease from 96 incidents that were reported in the previous year. The Board regards this to be a low level.

4.4.2 The roll-out of rigid-bar handcuffs has continued this year. The purpose of their use is to keep physical altercations under control in a more safe and controlled manner, thereby reducing the risk of injury to officers and prisoners. The IMB has discussed the progress of this with officers, including the training officers, who have continued to consider this as a positive move and a preferable alternative to the deployment of PAVA spray; an incapacitant spray also carried by officers for use in containing violent incidents.



*Figure 3 - Occurrences of use of force by month*

## 4.5 Preventing illicit items

4.5.1 During the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, mandatory drug testing (MDT) was suspended. However, MDT has now been reintroduced.

4.5.2 The Board's monitoring led us to conclude that there is relatively low-level drug use in HMP Whatton, although there continue to be occasional finds of psychoactive substances in prisoners' mail and within the establishment. The security department shares information with the Board and offers a firm reassurance to us that every effort is made by the prison staff to prevent drug use.

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

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

5.1.1 The main impact on this area over the reporting year has clearly been the management of Covid-19, covering both the management of the lockdown required and the Covid-19 outbreaks themselves. The IMB has maintained telephone contact with the wings, and in some cases has been able to speak to wing representatives on a regular basis.

5.1.2 There has been increased cleaning in all areas and fluid-resistant masks distributed to staff and prisoners. Enhanced hand hygiene for staff and prisoners has been encouraged. The wearing of face masks was compulsory.

5.1.3 A Covid-19 protective isolation unit (PIU) was established on A4, together with shielding arrangements on A6 for clinically vulnerable prisoners. Reverse cohorting facilities were also provided on A4 for all incoming prisoners to enable them to have a period of isolation before joining the main prison population.

5.1.4 C2 accommodation wing was decommissioned in May 2021 and has subsequently been demolished. This has reduced the operational capacity from 841 to 799 spaces. A replacement modular block is expected to be completed by December 2022 and then used to house category D prisoners awaiting transfer to category D prisons.

5.1.5 The showers in A4, A7 and A8 have been replaced.

5.1.6 A risk assessment highlighted a medium risk for a potential legionella outbreak. Four hundred thermostatic mains valves have been replaced to eliminate this potential risk.

5.1.7 A 'solar farm' was due to be installed on land adjacent to the prison at the beginning of 2022. However, the Deputy Prime Minister cancelled all the prison and court solar panel contracts before installation could start. To date, there is no information available about when these energy-saving measures will now be installed.

5.1.8 Netting was installed to avoid the health issues arising from pigeon infestation on residential blocks. This has proved to be somewhat ineffective and is being reviewed.

5.1.9 Regular conversations have taken place with the catering manager during the past year. A major electrical upgrade in the kitchens for new equipment has been carried out. Meals have been supplied in foil containers to prisoners who have tested positive for Covid-19, and who remained in their cells to prevent contamination. This has placed considerable strain on the department and is worthy of comment.

5.1.10 In May 2022 (the end of the reporting period), the daily allowance for feeding a prisoner at HMP Whatton was £2.16. The meals comprise:

- a. Breakfast - cereals and toast
- b. Lunch - soup, sandwiches and fruit
- c. Evening - hot meal

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the hot meal is served at lunchtime and sandwiches are offered in the evening. Prisoners with money in their account can supplement their diet by buying snacks from the canteen list.

5.1.11 Increases in food costs and the reduced availability of some provisions (e.g. sunflower oil) have necessitated changes in the menus. Some prisoners have complained the portion sizes have been reduced but our monitoring of the food does not support these claims. The provision of meals for religious groups and special diets are adequately catered for.

## **5.2 Segregation, special accommodation**

5.2.1 The prison operates an eight-cell care and separation unit (CSU). Board members routinely visit the CSU, which is always found to be well kept. Officers on the CSU are always helpful when Board members visit.

5.2.2 During monitoring visits, when Board members speak with prisoners, they have often been complimentary about the standard of care that they are receiving whilst on the unit. Prisoners are provided with books and jigsaws as well as radios. Board members can speak freely with prisoners when they visit the CSU.

5.2.3 During visits to the CSU, it is normal for Board members to inspect ACCT documents for prisoners on the unit, where applicable. There have been no issues raised with these documents that have always been found up to date.

5.2.4 Cellular confinement following adjudication was awarded on 141 occasions during the reporting period. This was a slight increase from the 134 occasions during the previous reporting year.

5.2.5 There have been 22 occasions during the reporting period where prisoners have been located in the CSU under rule 45, good order or discipline (GOOD). For prisoners with continuous stays on the CSU there are periodic GOOD reviews. Board members have reviewed these occasionally and during the latter part of the reporting year, invitations to these reviews have started to be sent to the Board in an attempt to increase monitoring.

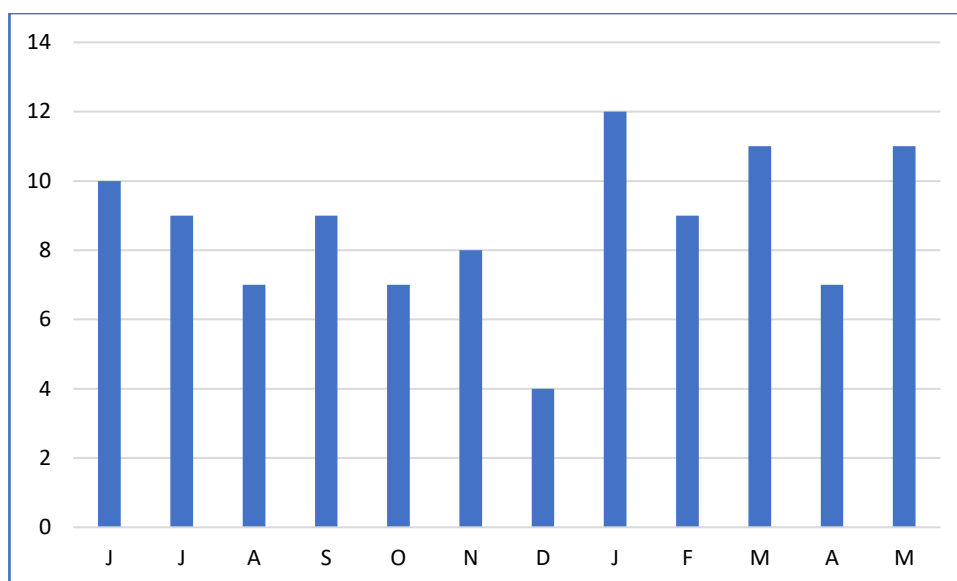


Figure 4 - Total Admissions to the CSU during the reporting year

5.2.6 There was a total of 418 proven adjudications during the reporting year, fractionally more than the 416 of the previous period. Charges were dismissed on 151 occasions, a significant increase from the previous year where this was reported as 62. Board members monitor adjudications by attending as observers during routine monitoring visits. The Board has no concerns about the adjudication process.

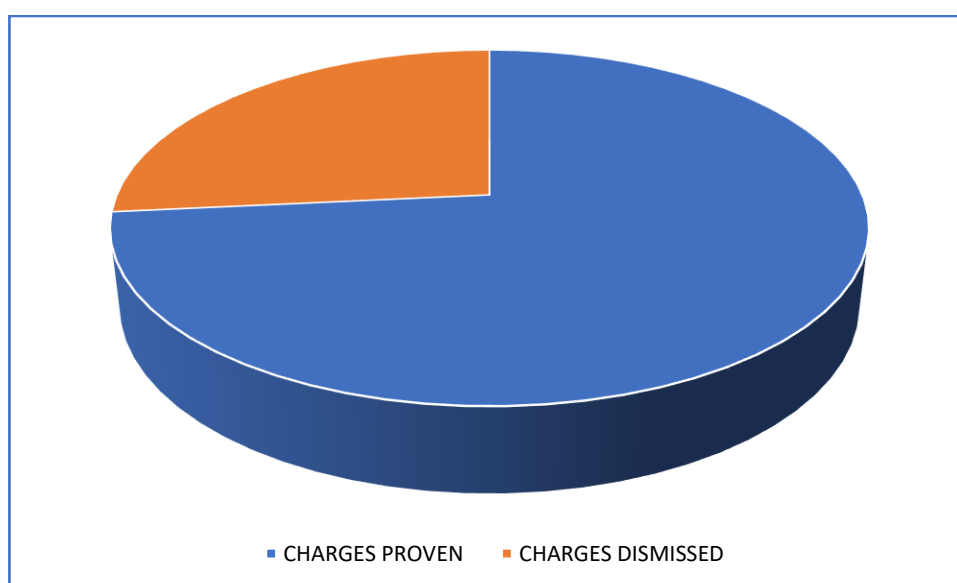


Figure 5 - A comparison of charges proven and dismissed at adjudications during the reporting year

### 5.3 Staff-prisoner relationships, key workers

5.3.1 The IMB monitoring supports the general statement that the staff do their best to ensure that the prisoners are treated fairly and without prejudice. The IMB recognises that the pandemic has affected staff and prisoners alike, and staff absences due to shielding and Covid infection has meant that staffing levels have been stretched, both in administration and in prisoner management.



5.3.2 The key worker scheme was severely disrupted by the pandemic restrictions with limited key worker/prisoner face-to-face interactions taking place. The key worker scheme is being reintroduced but will take some time before it is fully operational again.

5.3.3. The Governor has begun to hold surgeries for prisoners on a regular basis again, emphasising the underlying thrust to establish fair and equitable conditions across the prison.

5.3.4 It is also noted that staff training is resuming with new staff recruited over the last year experiencing the differences in regime for the first time. Pressures of maintaining staff levels have also meant that training has not taken place as in normal times.

5.3.6 The pressure on the staffing was clearly shown in data from the Governor in response to Board queries:

- Covid-positive staff: 154
- Symptomatic staff: 108
- Shielding staff: 48
- Reactions to Covid vaccine: 10
- Isolation (various reasons): 313
- Non-Covid absence average: 4.5 days

The Governor stressed that the senior management team were proud to work with such determined staff.

## **5.4 Equality and diversity**

5.4.1 The Prison Service is subject to the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010. In brief, the Act:

- Prohibits discrimination either directly or indirectly
- Requires public bodies to take positive action to advance equality of opportunity, tackle discrimination and promote understanding.

This means that the prevention of discrimination and the promotion of diversity should run through all aspects of prison life.

5.4.2 HMP Whatton works towards fulfilling these responsibilities across its dealings with the prisoners in its charge. The prison offers a range of offending behaviour programmes specifically for prisoners convicted of sexual offences. It ensures that the access to these opportunities is fair and based on need, irrespective of ethnicity, qualifications, or personal characteristics.

5.4.3 This year, the new Governor has brought about a sharper focus on the elements of fairness and justice that are part of the prisoners' contact with difficulties of behaviour, loss of property, placing complaints, and relationships with the prison

regime. The varied racial and religious differences of the current population are also potential flash points with other prisoners or the regime.

5.4.4 There were an average of 45 foreign nationals from 25 different countries, with only Indian, Irish, Romanian and Sudanese having four nationals and the majority of the rest having two nationals.

## Demographic Overview

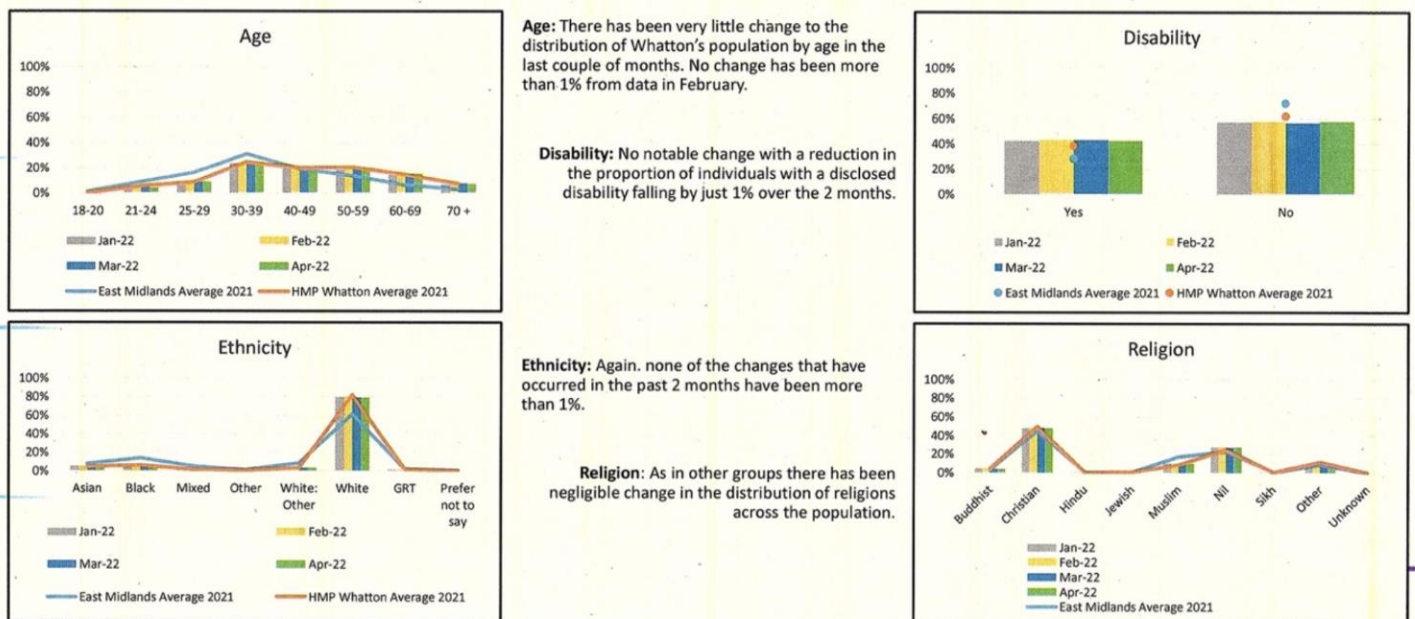


Figure 6 - Demographic overview

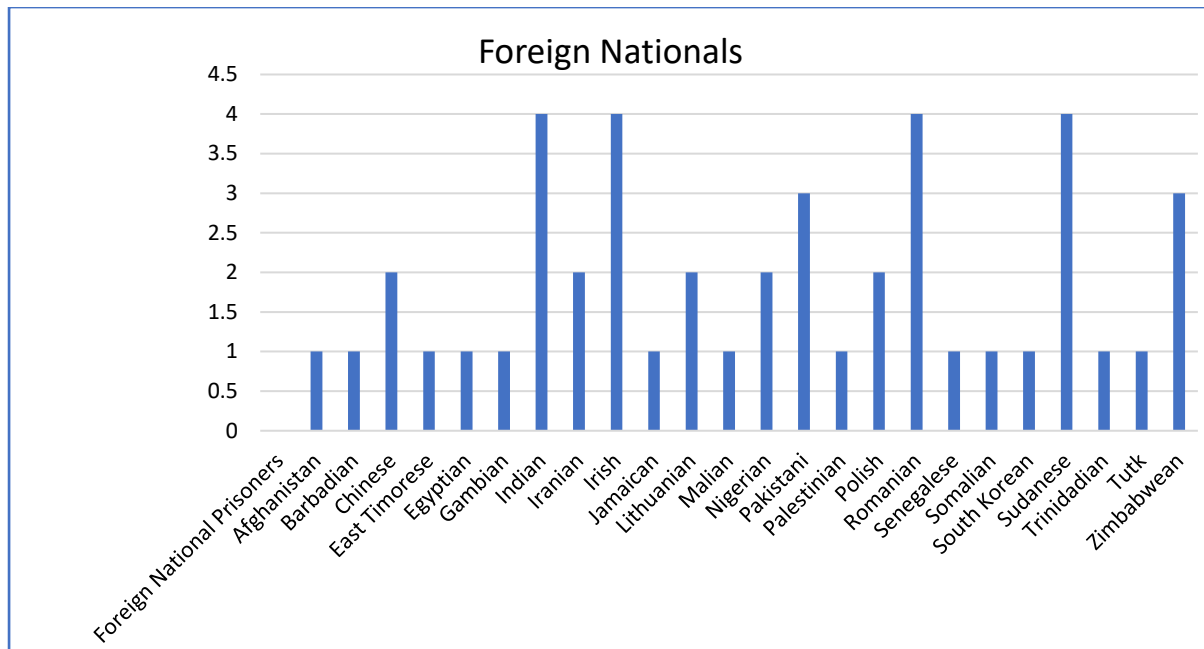


Figure 7 - Foreign nationals numbers (May 2022)

5.4.5 The elements of fairness and justice, against the background of wide ethnic differences, require subtle and sensitive relationships across which fairness and equitable treatment are, sometimes, difficult to ensure. In this mix there is a group of transgender prisoners and those who are bisexual.

5.4.6 Focus group meetings with Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) prisoners have also been started to tackle the area of negative perceptions, including access to jobs and IEP sanctions. The Governor argues that transparency is the key to changing the negative culture and, in the coming year, tasks include looking at prisoner activities allocation and positive recruitment processes. The IMB will monitor this through rota visits.

5.4.7 The HMP Whatton equality action team (WEAT) committee has met regularly through the pandemic lockdown and examined the data in relation to the background of fairness and equality across the defined groupings across the prison. The committee now meets monthly instead of bi-monthly. Prisoners' representatives have joined the group.

5.4.8 The WEAT committee examined, and monitored, the fairness and equality of the allocation of jobs. This was in relation to ethnicity, especially as the majority of the population are white. The monitoring showed that prisoners from some ethnic groups were not applying for work because they thought they would not be selected. This led to unequal allocation, but now that changes have been made, applications from minority groups for jobs have increased.

5.4.9 The repair of wheelchairs – which are for some prisoners the only means of perambulation around prison – was raised as an issue by the WEAT committee and dealt with and an increase in numbers available ensured better access.

5.4.10 The IMB has undertaken monitoring of the recategorisation process. Samples of the recategorisation outcomes are reviewed to judge the fairness of the process in the light of the prisoner's records. The decisions have been made in the light of the evidence in each case.

5.4.11 Following negative comments and perceptions from BAME prisoners, the Board has been monitoring the adjudication outcomes to assure equality. The following table shows that there has been no bias in the decisions being made:

	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	TOTAL
CHARGES PROVEN BAME	3	3	4	2	5	3	3	7	5	6	5	5	51
CHARGES PROVEN MIXED	0	1	2	2	5	3	1	0	1	0	3	2	20
CHARGES PROVEN WHITE BRITISH	37	27	24	22	25	16	19	18	47	34	35	42	346
CHARGES PROVEN OTHER	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
CHARGES PROVEN NON- STATED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARGES DISMISSED BAME	0	2	2	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	5	5	20
CHARGES DISMISSED MIXED	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	7
CHARGES DISMISSED WHITE BRITISH	4	13	11	10	13	8	13	1	6	10	20	13	122
CHARGES DISMISSED OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
CHARGES DISMISSED N/STATED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARGES ADJOURNED BAME	3	1	8	4	1	0	1	9	3	1	14	2	47
CHARGES ADJOURNED MIXED	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	1	0	1	2	10
CHARGES ADJOURNED WHITE BRITISH	13	5	8	10	22	26	12	23	30	14	40	25	228
CHARGES ADJOURNED OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	6
CHARGES ADJOURNED NON- STATED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARGES NOT PROCEEDED WITH BAME	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARGES NOT PROCEEDED WITH MIXED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARGES NOT PROCEEDED WITH WHITE BRITISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARGES NOT PROCEEDED WITH OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARGES NOT PROCEEDED WITH N/STATED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>860</b>

Figure 8 - Adjudications by ethnicity

5.4.12 The key worker system is helping to ensure that prisoners feel listened to. There is support available for autistic prisoners, using the Autism Support Knowledge (ASK) profile; although progress with this was hampered by the pandemic it is now starting to return to pre-pandemic levels.

## **5.5 Faith and pastoral support**

5.5.1 The chaplaincy team reflects the diversity of faiths in the prison and continues to work hard to cover as many areas as possible. In addition to their statutory duties of attending the CSU, inductions and the healthcare centre, they have been providing an improved level of pastoral support to prisoners and staff during the pandemic lockdown.

5.5.2 During the Covid-19 restrictions, pastoral care by the chaplaincy has been of paramount importance. Prisoners of all faiths, and none, have been supported by the team. Prisoners who were distressed were able to see an appropriate faith chaplain, and bereaved prisoners received specialist assistance by appropriately trained staff. In special emergency circumstances, virtual teleconference meetings with family were arranged.

5.5.3 The chaplaincy and the kitchen cater for the various religious and dietary needs, especially in the celebration of the religious festivals through the year. Even during the Covid lockdown, every effort was made to support prisoners and their religious observances.

## **5.6 Incentives schemes**

5.6.1 The incentives policy framework (IPF) provides a system of privileges, which is a key tool for incentivising prisoners to abide by the rules. It aims to encourage them to engage in rehabilitation, including education, work and substance misuse interventions. It allows privileges to be taken away from those who behave poorly or refuse to engage.

5.6.2 Because of the restricted regime introduced for all prisoners in response to Covid-19, the basic level (bronze) of the incentives scheme was suspended at the start of the first lockdown. Prisoners have been categorised as standard (silver) or enhanced (gold) and have enjoyed privileges associated with their status level. There have been few opportunities for prisoners to improve their status level.

5.6.3 The Board monitors the fairness and consistency of the incentives scheme. We occasionally receive complaints from prisoners that they have been unfairly punished by reducing their incentive status. However, our enquiries have not found any evidence to support this view, nor have we observed any malpractice by the staff.

## 5.7 Complaints

5.7.1 The complaints system has been reviewed and the issues of length of time and clarity of outcomes have been revised. The new system has addressed these factors and the new process has instituted monitoring points and timescales. This has made a recognisable difference and improvement.

5.7.2 Throughout this period, despite the difficult circumstances and periods of change, the Governor and staff have worked hard to provide systems that give fair and equitable treatment to prisoners. Some aspects of the complaints and multiple applications presented by some prisoners have given skewed data. However, the changes in the complaints system have eradicated this to a large extent.

CATEGORY OF COMPLAINTS													
	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	TOTAL
Accommodation/cell move	2	6	2	1	2	6	1	2	2	6	3	2	35
Appeal	20	14	19	13	25	26	18	24	9	14	28	42	252
Bullying/discriminating	0	0	2	3	2	4	0	5	7	2	0	3	28
Canteen/Argos & game orders	5	11	4	7	9	8	3	7	11	6	8	4	83
Confidential access	3	2	4	1	2	2	0	1	3	29	48	43	138
Category	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	0	1	2	1	3	26
Child protection issues	4	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	2	4	2	2	22
Complaint to other prisons	25	12	10	13	24	8	15	7	4	11	13	16	158
Complaint/problems with staff	14	17	17	4	14	5	4	11	13	16	12	10	137
Decency	16	4	4	11	14	8	9	8	5	3	3	3	88
Food	4	3	9	8	12	5	15	6	6	7	7	7	89
Incentives scheme	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	5	5	24
Labour/work/education/gym	13	22	12	9	13	17	12	12	17	10	6	14	157
Lifer issues/problems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mail	5	7	2	5	2	6	12	10	6	2	6	10	73
Medical	13	11	14	18	10	10	3	15	10	7	6	10	127
Money/postal orders/pay	11	7	7	7	6	4	5	5	2	5	5	12	76
Newspaper/magazines	3	2	2	3	2	4	6	4	1	8	4	6	45
OASys/report	1	2	0	0	6	0	2	3	1	3	1	2	21
Pre-release/release/ROTL	1	2	4	3	3	0	2	0	2	0	3	5	25
Prisoners	4	9	14	7	7	6	4	3	6	3	5	2	70
Privileges taken away	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Property	16	7	13	19	21	22	16	16	18	12	13	21	194
Psychological/sex offender. treatment programme issues	1	5	3	3	1	1	2	1	4	2	1	4	28

Racial	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Regime	17	10	3	17	3	8	9	11	4	7	13	13	115
Transfer prison	5	3	2	1	3	0	1	2	3	3	4	4	31
Telephone/PIN phone	5	7	4	1	2	5	2	4	5	5	6	8	54
Visits	6	2	4	1	2	6	5	1	3	0	3	5	38
Other	36	28	27	38	26	53	28	32	31	50	35	48	432
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>2568</b>

*Figure 9 – Number of complaints received by category*

## 5.8 Property

5.8.1 As reported in the previous Board reports (and in reports from many other establishments), the issue of prisoners' property transferring with them is still a concern. There have been several complaints submitted to the Board regarding property that did not arrive with the prisoner on transfer. The Board is not confident that communication is good between establishments, with some prisons ignoring enquiries from the prison's administrative staff. There seems to be no continuity in ensuring that property follows a prisoner, and there is no robust audit trail. This is an unacceptable situation, which causes distress and anger to prisoners.

5.8.2 As we have reported every year, the Board continues to receive applications about the loss of prisoners' property, usually when being transferred from another prison. Responses to prisoners' complaints from other establishments are often late or not received at all. Each year, IMBs across the country receive assurances that something will be done about this. The new policy framework (August 2022) does not address these issues because the tracking of prisoners' property is not included.

## **6. Health and Wellbeing**

### **6.1 Healthcare: general**

6.1.1 Healthcare is provided by the Practice Plus Group (PPG), formerly known as Care UK, covering primary care and integrated mental health services. In addition to the PPG, dental care is subcontracted to Time for Teeth, but all other clinicians are provided by PPG.

6.1.2 Staffing remains an issue. In January, it was reported that only two healthcare managers were employed, and one was due to leave in February, two nurses were due to leave and that the two managers had to deal with one hundred patients each. Supply staff were said to be unreliable and that they needed time for key training. This meant that they had to be escorted everywhere until they had completed the training.

6.1.3 The healthcare service has benefited from good leadership and good coordination across all health and social care functions. During the pandemic, despite extreme pressure of staffing and social distancing, healthcare effectively maintained baseline services. Good working relationships continue between healthcare and the prison in general.

6.1.4 Health priorities during the pandemic included medication management, welfare checks on prisoners in isolation and mental health provision for those needing support.

6.1.5 Face-to-face visits to prisoners were arranged during the pandemic when necessary, and the good relationship between the prison and healthcare staff ensured that prisoners were well cared for and supported. When prisoners were asked how they felt about the care they were receiving, many praised the work carried out by nurses and clinicians.

6.1.6 The provision of healthcare services is limited by the poor accommodation, which the IMB has reported annually. Cramped space, mould and damp have created further difficulties for healthcare staff during this very difficult time. Due to the aging prison population and their range of complex healthcare needs, the healthcare unit is not fit for purpose. No provision has been made to provide suitable alternative accommodation for the healthcare unit while extensive refurbishment of the heating pipework in B wing is undertaken during the next two years.

6.1.7 The head of healthcare is a member of the senior leadership team of the prison, which she has found useful.

6.1.8 Relationships between wing staff and healthcare remain good, especially in the CSU. It was reported that an orderly had praised the work of mental health staff but added that this does not seem to be widely recognized. Healthcare also works closely with the offender management unit (OMU), gym staff, probation staff and kitchens.



6.1.9 Weekly remote phone calls by IMB members confirmed that most prisoners felt well cared for and safe with face coverings and social distancing being observed by all.

6.1.10 Prisoners wishing to raise concerns can submit forms to healthcare for resolution. If this fails, the formal complaint procedure can be used. During the reporting period 126 concerns were registered.

6.1.11 The IMB received 13 applications concerning healthcare during this year.

6.1.12 The accommodation used by healthcare is inadequate and impedes the healthcare provision for prisoners. This has been mentioned in previous reports, and still remains unsuitable.

## **6.2 Physical healthcare**

6.2.1 The safety of prisoners has been the priority during the pandemic, and this has therefore affected other services such as dentistry, physiotherapy and ophthalmology. However, the service provided was excellent despite staffing and Covid-related difficulties.

6.2.2 Reception of new prisoners has been reduced due to the pandemic, but more time was required to provide medication to prisoners in their cell rather than them collecting it themselves. Also waiting room capacity was reduced significantly to observe social distancing regulations.

6.2.3 Vaccination clinics were held and all prisoners had access to vaccinations. Again, in spite of very difficult circumstances, the prisoners were vaccinated effectively and efficiently. There were 712 prisoners vaccinated at the start of the pandemic and a further 90 in September 2021. This is a credit to the staff.

6.2.4 Last year's report on the prison's ability to cope with the pandemic was positive in every area. The vaccines were administered to mirror the roll out in the community regarding age.

6.2.5 At weekends there are two registered general nurses and one healthcare support worker on duty.

6.2.6 Several hospital appointments were carried out by telephone to enable ongoing care to be facilitated, but hospital visits were carried out only as far as circumstances the prison regime allowed. Sometimes, shortages of staff prevented outpatient visits to take place. We are concerned that some appointments were cancelled at short notice by the hospitals.

6.2.7 On leaving prison, every patient receives a discharge letter, which has a summary of their medical records. This is given to their GP once they have registered with a GP practice. Also, at least two weeks' worth of medication is given to the prisoner to help them until they are registered with a GP. Most of the prisoners from HMP Whatton go to approved premises, which has a pharmacy attached.

### **6.3 Mental health**

6.3.1 The mental health team comprises one mental health nurse, who is also the clinical lead. A further mental health nurse has been appointed but she is waiting for vetting to be carried out. Two more are still needed. There is one registered nurse for learning difficulties, one learning difficulties psychologist and one learning difficulties assistant.

6.3.2 Prisoners can self-refer for mental healthcare and all referrals are reviewed at daily meetings. A daily duty professional covers referrals and ACCT reviews and a weekly multidisciplinary team meeting is held to discuss more complex cases. It was reported to the IMB that supervising officers who attend ACCT reviews, around four or five a day, get no time off or counselling afterwards while psychologists do. This seems unfair.

6.3.3 There is a range of mental health provision, including distraction packs, but generally the wing staff have done a sterling job in maintaining good mental health for prisoners giving time to talk to them and show understanding of the difficulties everyone has had to face.

6.3.4 The healthcare department works very closely with all departments. An example of this is the fact that gardens department has opened up an area that had been closed, so that prisoners suffering from mental health problems can use the gardening experience to help them cope with depression, anxiety etc.

6.3.6 Though not supported by statistical evidence, it seems evident that a large proportion of the prison population suffers some form of mental disorder.

6.3.7 Transfer to secure mental health hospitals has not always been easy, as the prison refers the prisoner, but it is up to the hospital to assess, agree the need for a bed, and await a bed, before the place is available. This sometimes causes great delay and problems for the prison who must deal with the prisoner and has a serious impact upon the mental health of the prisoner. Recently, a prisoner was referred, but it took a very long time before he was allocated a place.

### **6.4 Exercise, regime**

6.4.1 Time out of cells has been drastically reduced for most of the year due to the frequency of Covid outbreaks and staffing issues. Despite this, most of the prisoners are grateful that staff have taken good care of them and kept them safe, though some have felt the strain of isolation and boredom.

6.4.2 According to the IMB rota reports and accounts by wing staff and healthcare officers, the prisoners adjusted very well to the new structure of the lockdown regime. Most understood the reasons, as they were clearly informed by wing staff. As time passed, more had difficulty coping with the long time spent in cells.

6.4.3 Exercise time was reduced for prisoners during lockdown, due to staffing pressures and the need for social distancing. Time for showers and exercise was

reduced to 30 minutes. This was increased as conditions improved but fluctuated according to the number of Covid cases.

6.4.4 By November 2021, the gym had been reopened and prisoners were getting four periods each per week which covered sessions including games, use of the cross trainer, cycle or rowing machine, and weight training.

6.4.5 The enthusiasm of officers and the assurance of the exercise programmes had greatly improved morale and the mental health of prisoners. It was heartwarming to see such enthusiasm for their work and they even sought suggestions to further improve provision. However, in August 2021 it was reported that instructor numbers had reduced due to two leaving. Redeployment meant that the number of sessions at the weekend was reduced. Nine hundred hours were lost in June and 2,000 hours in July. Ball sports, badminton and cycling were not allowed and will not resume until Stage 2 is resumed. This changed as circumstances changed, but on the whole prisoners coped well.

6.4.6 A large number of distraction packs were made available to prisoners to help them cope with the difficult conditions. Some enjoyed them but others found them boring.

## **6.5 Drug rehabilitation**

6.5 There is no dedicated programme for drug rehabilitation, but patients receive support and clinical treatment for substance misuse, as required.

## **7. Progression and Resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

7.1.1 Education at HMP Whatton is provided by PeoplePlus. There are places for 58 full-time and 96 part-time students. There were 838 courses completed during this reporting period; a credit to staff and prisoners coping with the difficulties. A new PeoplePlus regional manager has been appointed and will visit soon to see how the new education plans at HMP Whatton have been embedded.

7.1.2 The prison population is varied, ranging from highly intellectual graduates to those who are illiterate on entry.

7.1.3 All prisoners are assessed on entry and those with poor basic skills were provided with basic skills training in literacy and numeracy; initially this went up to level 2 but this has now been raised to level 3, a significant improvement.

7.1.4 Open University courses are available and other distance learning for those who wish to improve their learning and job opportunities. Many prisoners will be unable to return to their former work or career on release, due to the nature of their offence. It is, therefore, important that opportunities are made to improve prisoners' chances of securing employment on release.

7.1.5 A new music workshop has been started and links with Safer Living Foundation continue.

7.1.6 An art academy has been introduced which does not require academic qualifications to join. This should promote more uptake for the art classes. Artwork from this course is to be exhibited around the prison.

7.1.7 Attendance at education sessions is improving, with 90% attendance recorded during this period of reporting. Work given out is recorded and tracked, as too is the return of the work which means if it is not returned, it can be followed up by the tutors. Meaningful marking and comments are given to help improve understanding and quality of the work, which is helpful to prisoners. However, it is reported that the in-cell workbooks are not always successful. Additional help is needed for those who have additional learning needs. It has worked well for those prisoners who are motivated. Almost everyone is seen in a 1:1 situation or a small group and exams are still being undertaken with little backlog. Towards the end of the prisoner's sentence, efforts are made to complete courses started, and plans are in place to increase the numbers being seen.

7.1.8 Staffing within the education department has been a problem during Covid with several members testing positive, thereby reducing the availability of classes. Those protecting family members by shielding have also been absent. There are currently six staff vacancies, most of which are long standing. This has been a big hindrance to the progress planned for greater numbers taking part in sessions. It also hinders the development of vocational training, such as gardens and bricks. The prison is currently waiting for assessors to be recruited for these courses.

7.1.9 Mental health support for education ceased during the lockdown but is due to restart before the end of this reporting period. All sessions were cancelled since June 2020 but some face-to-face sessions resumed after lockdown with reduced numbers attending, again due to Covid issues. The number of sessions cancelled numbered 133.

7.1.10 The library has not been opened normally since the start of the Covid in 2020. It has been run on a fortnightly basis and a system introduced where prisoners can request up to three specific books to be delivered to them on the wings, in addition to a trolley with a selection of books available. This has been successful. Prisoners have often been reported to be reading when members have visited living areas or the CSU. This has been a positive outcome.

## **7.2 Vocational training, work**

7.2.1 Options for employment on release from HMP Whatton are restricted owing to the nature of the offences committed. However, the education department promotes self-employment courses and training together with educational courses to support the prisoners. These courses are all valuable on release, and include:

- Multi-media – A small workshop runs the prison radio from its own studio and offers printing and other ancillary services both internally and to other establishments and coordinates the Shannon Trust mentors.
- Woodwork – This facility has contracts within public-sector prison industries and promotes the Woodwise certificate in the safe use of woodworking machinery.
- Waste management – Offers recycling qualification level 1 Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board (WAMITAB), delivered by PeoplePlus.
- Horticulture – An excellent facility offers City and Guilds level 1 award and certificate, and a diploma in horticulture skills. The department supports the prison grounds and has won the Windlesham trophy several times. There is also a large produce garden supplying the staff canteen.
- DHL – offers City and Guilds level 2 certificate in warehousing and storage, this facility is used by both the prison itself and others in the area.
- Staff mess – offers level 2 NVQ in catering and hospitality, together with barista training.
- Kitchen – offers level 2 food hygiene certificate and NVQ level 1 in catering and hospitality.
- Textiles workshops – offer level 2 NVQ certificate in manufacturing sewn products; basic and advance overlock certificate; a cutting course; and a basic machine maintenance course. Their products supply all of the prison's need together with a limited external requirement
- Laundry contract services – offer Guild of Cleaners and Launderers technician certificate and supply all of the prison's requirements together with outsourcing to several other establishments.

- Main stores – offer Independent Training Standards Scheme and Register (ITSSAR) certificate in counterbalance and reach forklift truck driving, and portable appliance testing (PAT) testing course, provided and delivered by PeoplePlus.

7.2.2 Over the course of the year, as the pandemic restrictions were eased, the attendance at courses has been able to increase, and at the end of the reporting period, although it was still not possible to have full attendance across the courses as the social distancing requirement was still present, there were several systems in place to maximise attendance. For instance, different areas of the prison would attend different courses on different days to maintain safe segregation, therefore the number of places available has varied wildly over the course of the year. Communication with prisoners about work is generally efficient and thorough, although a limited number of administrative issues have been seen over the year which have slowed some prisoners' entrance into employment. Security issues with particular roles are common for some prisoners, but the activities team works hard to find appropriate work for each individual.

7.2.3 During the reporting period the pandemic had a huge impact on the attendance of workshops. However, on average throughout the year:

- 73% of prisoners were available to attend workshops
- 9% were unemployed
- 15% were either retired, medically retired or medically unfit
- The remainder were scheduled to attend offending behaviour programmes

7.2.5 The activities hub, industries and PeoplePlus staff work closely together, making full use of the facilities and with an innovative approach to finding suitable work, within the constraints of the prison budget. The relationship with senior managers continues to be effective and the overall service provided is excellent and appreciated by most prisoners.

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

7.3.1 Despite the large number of changes under the offender management in custody (OMiC) model, the quality of supervision, sentence planning and risk assessment is good. OMiC has now been implemented, and work continues to embed the changes, which include full responsibility for the OASys completions across the levels of risk while the prisoners are in custody.

7.3.2 The education department is now inviting prisoners, within three months of their release, to complete a written disclosure of what they have to reveal by law to a prospective employer. This includes information about their skills, qualifications and the type of work they would be best suited for. The disclosure is supported by a CV and interview guidance, and links into the preparation for release course. This has been well received by the prisoners.

### 7.3.3 The prison population averages:

- Category C 750
- Category D 41
- IPP/Lifers 184

7.3.4 A total of 176 prisoners are serving either life sentences or indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP sentences) as of May 2022. An analysis of the IPP prisoners showed that a majority of them were serving terms over tariff. The periods of imprisonment over tariff ranged from six months to 26 years. The following table show the lengths of sentences over tariff:

Sentence type	Tariff end date	No. of years over tariff	Sentence type	Tariff end date	No. of years over tariff	Sentence type	Tariff end date	No. of years over tariff
LIFE	29/06/2013	9 years	IPP	12/04/2017	5 years	LIFE	10/02/2011	11 years
LIFE	23/10/2024	0	LIFE	01/06/1998	24 years	IPP	26/10/2012	9 years
IPP	27/04/2013	9 years	IPP	01/04/2014	8 years	LIFE	04/01/2018	4 years
ISPP	15/07/2008	14 years	ISPP	07/02/2015	7 years	LIFE	21/02/2018	4 years
LIFE	19/01/2011	11 years	LIFE	01/03/1985	37 years	IPP	14/08/2008	13 years
LIFE	27/12/2007	14 years	IPP	02/04/2016	6 years	IPP	10/01/2014	8 years
LIFE	29/05/2019	3 years	ISPP	30/03/2008	14 years	IPP	21/12/2008	13 years
IPP	02/05/2010	12 years	LIFE	13/11/2013	8 years	IPP	21/03/2019	3 years
IPP LR	16/05/2008	14 years	LIFE	18/11/2027	0	IPP	30/11/2016	5 years
LIFE	14/07/2016	6 years	LIFE	16/06/2009	13 years	LIFE	14/08/2009	12 years
LIFE	08/11/2024	0	ISPP	14/08/2014	7 years	LIFE	28/10/2024	0
IPP	26/01/2014	8 years	LR	18/01/2014	8 years	LIFE	26/12/2028	0
LIFE	15/11/2006	16 years	IPP	13/10/2016	5 years	IPP LR	15/12/2019	2 years
IPP	17/01/2019	3 years	IPP	11/04/2014	8 years	LIFE	23/05/2008	14 years
IPP	31/01/2010	12 years	LIFE	21/02/2026	0	IPP	24/07/2017	5 years
IPP	12/01/2011	11 years	LIFE	01/09/2002	9 years	LIFE	23/04/2020	2 years
IPP	19/09/2012	9 years	LIFE	06/09/2020	1 year	ISPP	24/02/2014	8 years
IPP	13/07/2019	3 years	LR IPP	02/09/2015	6 years	IPP	01/02/2020	2 years
IPP	30/10/2010	11 years	IPP	29/02/2016	6 years	LIFE	02/04/2023	0
IPP	21/12/2018	3 years	LIFE	20/09/2009	12 years	IPP	23/08/2015	6 years
LIFE	17/10/2007	14 years	LIFE	12/06/2018	4 years	LIFE	26/02/2003	19 years
LIFE	17/07/2025	0	IPP	10/02/2016	6 years	IPP	06/07/2005	17 years
LIFE	25/09/2007	14 years	IPP	14/12/2018	3 years	LIFE	20/01/1997	25 years

LIFE	01/05/2021	1 year	LIFER RECALL	01/06/2008	14 years	LIFE	05/06/2029	0
LIFE	07/12/2022	0	LIFE	12/07/1995	27 years	LIFE	11/12/2020	1 year
IPP	12/03/2017	5 years	ISPP	19/12/2008	13 years	IPP	08/01/2017	5 years
IPP	05/02/2012	10 years	LIFE	01/04/1998	24 years	IPP	01/08/2011	10 years
ISPP	05/03/2009	13 years	IPP	09/08/2008	13 years	LIFER RECALL	25/02/2020	2 years
IPP	05/01/2015	7 years	IPP	29/07/2011	11 years	IPP	08/04/2019	3 years
IPP	26/03/2013	9 years	LIFE	03/01/2011	11 years	IPP	24/08/2009	12 years
IPP	07/01/2014	8 years	IPP	10/11/2009	12 years	LIFE		
IPP	28/08/2010	11 years	IPP	01/01/2013	9 years	IPP	15/07/2017	5 years
IPP	18/10/2014	8 years	IPP	14/03/2014	8 years	IPP	17/04/2014	8 years
LIFER RECALL	19/01/1996	26 years	ISPP	20/01/2019	3 years	LIFE	12/05/2019	3 years
LIFE	08/10/2003	18 years	LIFE	21/01/2011	11 years	IPP	06/01/2009	13 years
LIFE	04/05/2007	15 years	IPP	09/04/2015	7 years	IPP	26/10/2008	13 years
IPP	16/01/2013	9 years	IPP	10/04/2017	5 years	IPP	16/11/2011	10 years
LIFE	14/02/2013	9 years	IPP	19/07/2015	7 years	IPP	09/01/2008	14 years
LIFE	25/09/2015	6 years	LIFE	01/07/2000	12 years	IPP	04/08/2013	8 years
LIFE	13/07/1997	25 years	LIFER RECALL	04/10/2011	10 years	IPP	02/01/2014	8 years
LIFE	20/08/2016	5 years	IPP	19/11/2015	6 years	IPP	15/07/2012	10 years
IPP	23/06/2012	10 years	LIFE	29/11/2014	7 years	IPP	06/09/2010	13 years
LIFE	24/03/2029	0	IPP	18/01/2011	11 years	IPP	10/07/2012	10 years
IPP	31/10/2014	7 years	LIFE	23/08/2009	12 years	IPP	21/05/2014	8 years
IPP	20/09/2010	9 years	LIFE	01/03/2002	10 years	LIFE	04/02/2014	8 years
ISPP	11/05/2019	3 years	ISPP	21/01/2013	9 years	IPP	13/02/2008	14 years
ISPP	27/07/2013	9 years	IPP	19/04/2020	2 years	IPP	12/04/2011	11 years
IPP	13/09/2007	14 years	LIFE	13/11/2006	15 years	IPP	06/01/2012	10 years
LIFE	15/03/2018	4 years	LIFE	02/01/2022	6 months	LIFE		
IPP	27/01/2002	10 years	LIFE	22/11/2021	8 months	IPP	10/10/2011	10 years
IPP	01/10/2016	5 years	IPP	06/09/2007	14 years	LIFE	23/11/2009	12 years
LIFE	14/01/2007	15 years	IPP	12/04/2009	13 years	LR IPP	08/04/2009	13 years
LIFE	02/10/2007	14 years	IPP	31/07/2009	13 years	IPP	09/06/2010	12 years
LIFE	10/12/2007	14 years	LIFE	24/09/2021	10 months	ISPP RECALL	12/01/2008	14 years
LIFER RECALL	13/12/2002	19 years	IPP	27/10/2012	9 years	LIFE	12/07/2027	0
IPP	05/06/2011	11 years	LIFE	01/08/1998	13 years	ISPP	11/07/2009	13 years
IPP	19/01/2016	6 years	IPP	02/03/2016	6 years			
IPP LR	05/06/2012	10 years	IPP	30/09/2009	12 years			

Figure 10 – IPP/life prisoners time over tariff (May 2022)



7.3.5 At the time of writing this report, 35 category D prisoners were being held at HMP Whatton (a category C prison) and awaiting transfer to open conditions. It was identified that a significant number of prisoners were being returned to the establishment from open conditions, and that there was a need to prepare prisoners for what they might expect in an open establishment. To address this issue, a preparation for open conditions course was set up and delivered on a quarterly basis, and prisoners identified to move to open conditions in the next few months were invited to attend. The course involved staff from the open prisons attending HMP Whatton to deliver a presentation on what to expect in their respective establishments, and a Q&A session on subjects such as release on temporary licence (ROTL). The course was a success, and became the basis for research and the subsequent establishment of the 'category D survival course'. This has now been amalgamated with the original preparation for open conditions course. However, the course was suspended throughout the pandemic and had not restarted by the end of the reporting period.

## **Programmes**

7.3.6 HMP Whatton is one of the largest specialist prisons in Europe to offer offending behaviour programmes to people with convictions for sexual offences. There are a number of specialist programmes designed to address offending behaviour. Some programmes are designed to address sexual or violent offending. Others may relate to emotional management, substance abuse, cognitive development and victim awareness, or gambling. Programmes can be mandated through a sentence plan or may be a mandatory requirement for parole consideration. Some of these programmes can be entered voluntarily.

7.3.7 In our previous year's report, we stressed the impact of the pandemic on the drastic reduction in accredited programmes such as Kaizen and Horizon. During the reporting period (2020-2021), only 72 prisoners completed their courses; the average in a normal year would be 180 to 200.

7.3.8 The suspension of most of the accredited programmes has been a source of frustration to many prisoners. They arrive at HMP Whatton with the expectation that they will start an accredited programme as part of their sentence plan. However, because of the pandemic restrictions, this has not been possible. Prisoners are being prioritised depending on their sentence or potential release date. Communication to prisoners has been poor, leaving them uncertain as to their future and the possible impact on parole hearings.

7.3.9 As of May 2022, some courses were still one-to-one for the whole six-month course, as opposed to pre-pandemic, when there would be four groups of eight prisoners. It is not possible to give any priority to those due for a parole hearing, which is the main concern for prisoners. Those with a conditional or tariff release date within 18 months or so are given priority. This allows for any additional courses to be completed. Another issue is the backlog of training of staff relating to the pandemic programme reduction.

7.3.10 A snapshot for the first week in May 2022 showed that 40 prisoners were enrolled on courses versus 28 psychologist facilitators assigned. However, two new eight-prisoner groups are due to start shortly.

### **Circles of support and accountability/Safer Living Foundation**

7.3.11 Since August 2014, the Safer Living Foundation (SLF) has been running the first ever UK prison-based circles of support and accountability (CoSA) project from HMP Whatton for high-risk adults with a sexual offence conviction. The focus has been to provide this service for older (55+) and intellectually-challenged male prisoners.

7.3.12 CoSA is a successful community initiative that has been proven to reduce sexual offending. A 'circle' is a group of three to four volunteers from the local community who meet regularly with a person with a sexual conviction after release (known as the 'core member'). The volunteers create the 'circle of support' around the core member and offer, with supervision, social, practical and emotional support to the individual.

7.3.13 The circle begins around three months before the individual is released, and then continues through the transition period from prison to community, and for the next 12–18 months in the community.

7.3.14 In April 2020, a new support and mentoring project was established by the SLF to help prepare people for release.

## **7.4 Family contact**

7.4.1 Visits are well managed and facilities for family visitors are good. There is a purpose-built visitor centre, which is managed under contract with the Prison Advice and Care Trust. Sadly, because of the offences they have committed, 34% of prisoners do not receive family/domestic/social visits. Family social visits were cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

7.4.2 Remote social video calls, previously delivered by Purple Visits, have been made available in small numbers.

7.4.3 The prison has restarted social visits using social distancing. This has meant that only 10 visits can be held at a time, with a maximum of three visitors for each prisoner.

7.4.4 Family days are normally held three times per year. Regrettably, they have had to be cancelled since the March 2020 Covid-19 lockdown.

7.4.5 Prisoners have access to communal telephones on their wings to contact family and friends. All telephone numbers must be approved, and access granted via a personal identification number. The decision to give prisoners an extra £5 PIN credit every week during lockdown was much appreciated. However, this has now been withdrawn to the consternation of the prisoners.

## **7.5 Resettlement planning**

7.5.1 The progress of most prisoners towards rehabilitation and resettlement was hampered by the consequences of lockdown. Until June 2021, the establishment's resettlement package was being delivered by the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). The CRC played a major role in resettlement. It contacted prisoners 12 weeks prior to their release date in order to offer advice, which covered accommodation, finance, establishing contact with the DWP for help with universal credit, and ensuring contact with families, doctors and potential employers. In June 2021, control of all probation services passed to the National Probation Service and the CRC contract was cancelled. The Board accepts that the transfer of service provision from the CRC to the Probation Service will take some time to embed.

7.5.2 It is not always possible, or practical, to send prisoners to a resettlement prison three months before release. Therefore, HMP Whatton continues to release several prisoners into the community each month.

7.5.3 Six months prior to a prisoner's release, the prisoner's multi-agency public protection arrangements are reassessed by the multi-agency team. Normally, prisoners are offered a two-week course in preparation for their release. The course is presented in collaboration with:

- Geese Theatre Company
- Department for Work and Pensions
- National Probation Service
- The Reducing Reoffending Partnership,
- The OMU and,
- On occasions, ex-prisoners from Whatton.

The course is offered in such a way that prisoners are invited to seek advice in their own areas of need, to aid their resettlement. However, this course was suspended during the pandemic and has not restarted.

7.5.3 On average, 85–90% of HMP Whatton's population are classified as high-risk prisoners, which means that they must be released into supervised accommodation, which is usually probation approved premises. Securing accommodation is an arduous task and the prison is very often only notified of a release address within the last five days before release (frequently on the day before release). Without a release address, employment is practically impossible.

7.5.4 Medium-risk prisoners are advised to contact their local council and ask for emergency accommodation upon release. This can result in prisoners with a conviction for a sexual offence being housed, for a short time, in accommodation that could be in breach of their licence conditions. This is regrettable and is discriminatory and unlikely to support rehabilitation.

## The work of the IMB

The Board has tried to work as a team through the past year. Personal circumstances have meant that members have had to self-isolate, suffered with Covid, and were at risk of transferring contamination back to members of their own family. Each month, the Board meeting on Zoom kept members up to date with the issues and enabled the Board to discuss the state of the prisoners with the Governor. The collection of IMB applications was not always possible, but members carried out their monitoring and followed up of complaints by telephone. Members were grateful for the work of the IMB clerk in servicing both the Board meetings and the circulation of information. Some members managed to visit the prison although their visits were restricted by the levels of infection of the various wings. Workshops were closed, and it was only possible to talk to prisoners' wing representatives by telephone.

It was good to be able to go back to regular monitoring as the regulations lifted earlier this calendar year and by April the Board routines were back in place.

The recruitment campaign, postponed until the end of 2020, did not materialise until much later. It was unsuccessful as far as Whatton IMB was concerned and this has led to a gradual reduction in the number of active members. The remaining group has lost two more members this year and now recruitment is an urgent and important need.

The Board Development Officer has now been able to reopen training activities and visits to other prisons with reciprocal visits to HMP Whatton are being arranged.

The Board is getting to know the newly-appointed Governor who continues the co-operation and discussion with the Board that we enjoyed with her predecessor.

### Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	12
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	10
Total number of visits to the establishment	177 <i>(Limited by the Covid-19 restrictions)</i>
Total number of segregation reviews attended	1

## Applications to the IMB

<b>IMB Code</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Previous reporting year</b>	<b>Current reporting year</b>
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	2	2
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives schemes, sanctions	6	5
C	Equality	3	1
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell	4	11
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions	8	12
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	8	4
F	Food and kitchens	3	7
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	13	14
H1	Property within this establishment	7	20
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	11	18
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s)	1	8
I	Sentence management, including HDC, release on temporary licence, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	20	10
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	12	10
K	Transfers	3	3
L1	Miscellaneous	58	44
L2	Complaints system	-	13
	Total number of applications	159	182



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