



# **Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP North Sea Camp**

**For reporting year  
1 March 2022 – 28 February 2023**

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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 monitoring board (IMB) 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 IMB 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 IMB 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 North Sea Camp is an open category D male resettlement prison with a certified normal accommodation (CNA) of 300 (224 on roll at end of February 2023).<sup>1</sup> Some of the double-occupancy accommodation only has one occupant to accommodate prisoners with medical needs. HMP North Sea Camp opened in 1935 as a Borstal and became an adult male prison in 1988. HMP North Sea Camp is six miles east of Boston and borders the North Sea.

HMP North Sea Camp holds a highly complex group of prisoners, a good number of whom are subject to multi agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA). It carefully manages the risk associated with such prisoners being held in an open prison, with comprehensive risk assessment being a core part of management.

The accommodation comprises four residential units (North, South 1, South 2 and Jubilee 1) within the main prison and several self-catering rehabilitation houses offering 76 places, most of which are a quarter of a mile outside the main prison (the Jubilee project). Selby Unit, which was established for extra single accommodation during Covid was decommissioned this year. Within HMP North Sea Camp there is a kitchen and dining room, a modern healthcare unit, a well-equipped gymnasium, a chapel, a multifaith room, a library, a visitor centre, a large working farm with livestock and horticulture (including capacity for 59 polytunnels, all but 2 of which were in use at the start of the year) and several workshops. The large playing field is used by prisoners for football and outdoor sporting activities and can be accessed by them during association periods in the summer months (up to 8pm).

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<sup>1</sup> Figures included in this report are local management information. They reflect the prison's position at the time of reporting, but may be subject to change following further validation and therefore may not always tally with Official Statistics later published by the Ministry of Justice.

### **3. Key Points**

#### **3.1 Main findings**

##### **Safety**

- The IMB is satisfied, based on our observations, that HMP North Sea Camp provides a safe environment for prisoners.

##### **Fair and humane treatment**

- The IMB at HMP North Sea Camp is satisfied that HMP North Sea Camp normally provides prisoners with humane and just treatment.
- Overall, it is the opinion of the Board, based on our observations that prisoners at HMP North Sea Camp are treated fairly and with respect.
- Moreover, in the view of the Board the establishment has a positive emphasis on the humane treatment of the prisoners in its care. This is evidenced by the continuing efforts to improve the cleanliness and appearance of the establishment.
- The size of the double rooms in all the main accommodation units is not adequate in that it is often impossible to put a chair or table let alone two of each into a room. The cramped accommodation means that the accommodation listed does not comply with the Prison Service Instruction (PSI) when used by two prisoners.

##### **Health and wellbeing**

- HMP North Sea Camp has, at the time of reporting, an aging population. Inevitably, many of them suffer from a range of medical conditions – some of them very serious. Currently, there is no facility within HMP North Sea Camp where prisoners can be suitably cared for during an end-of-life period; there are no on-site residential healthcare facilities. This means that prisoners who have chronic and other serious health issues stay on the units within the prison, surrounded by the other prisoners and the usual activities of everyday prison life.

##### **Progression and resettlement**

- The IMB at HMP North Sea Camp is satisfied that HMP North Sea Camp normally provides a wide-ranging and adequate level of programmes preparing prisoners for release.
- The IMB are concerned that the offender management unit (OMU) is still encountering problems in getting information from community offender managers (COMs). Prisoners should arrive at HMP North Sea Camp with information to allow the establishment to complete an OASys assessment. This does not always happen and in some cases causes delay to the process.
- Education offers a variety of courses to prepare prisoners for release and to give them relevant qualifications to aid employment.
- Paid outside work opportunities continue, enabling prisoners to gain valuable experience of the workplace and demonstrate to prospective employers that they can be trusted in a community working environment.

- Prisoners who use wheelchairs can experience difficulties travelling to and getting overnight accommodation at approved premises (APs) when going on resettlement overnight release (ROR), which can delay their release on temporary licence (ROTL) programme and have a significant delaying effect on their sentence plan and Parole Board hearings.
- Attitudes among staff in the OMU have improved since last year's report, prisoners felt that the OMU were slow to respond to requests. Whilst not exclusively, a lot of delays are caused by outside agencies and outside the remit of OMU.

### **3.2 Main areas for development**

#### **TO THE MINISTER**

- Community offender managers often take a long time to update their part of OASys and complete the paperwork to enable prisoners to sit ROTL boards. This can mean prisoners having to postpone Parole Board hearings as they have not done the required ROTLs and means prisoners may spend more time in prison than strictly necessary. Timescales for return of paperwork would be helpful.
- The situation surrounding imprisonment for public protection (IPP) prisoners, whilst well handled by the establishment, must be resolved to end the insecurity of this category of prisoner. The Board is disappointed by the Government's rejection of the Justice Select Committee's recommendation of a resentencing exercise.

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

- The quality of some of the accommodation is poor and the space allocated to prisoners sharing rooms is not ideal. It was good to see the two-storey aging accommodation units decommissioned, however the Board is concerned that, as yet, there is no plan to replace them.
- Funding needs to be allocated to convert the current dormitories to smaller rooms so that when HMP North Sea Camp is at full capacity, no prisoners will have to share with more than one other person.
- The IMB is concerned by the time taken to complete routine maintenance jobs, and the issues around the transfer of prisoners' property. These are issues that are provided by contracted out services and the Board is concerned that contract failures do not result in penalties to encourage compliance.
- There continues to be a problem with a prisoner's property not always arriving in its entirety on the completion of transfer. Prisoners face a long wait for their property to come and often it does not arrive at all.

#### **TO THE GOVERNOR**

- Continue to provide support to the IPP population.
- Continue to work on the integration of the recategorised prisoners on arrival at North Sea Camp.
- Continue to support the improvements within the Offender Management Unit (OMU).

### 3.3 Progress since the last report

Issue Raised	Response Given	Progress
<p><b>Minister</b></p> <p>Community offender managers often take a long time to update their part of OASys and complete the paperwork to enable prisoners to sit ROTL boards. This can mean prisoners having to postpone Parole Board hearings as they have not done the required ROTLs and means prisoners may spend more time in prison than strictly necessary. Timescales for return of paperwork would be helpful.</p>	<p>Every effort is made to obtain the necessary documents so Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) boards can be held promptly, and Parole Board hearings are not postponed. Return of paperwork reminders are regularly sent to COMs and escalated to the Head of Offender Management five weeks prior to the ROTL Board. If there is further delay, where the prisoner has been allocated to a COM and responsibility transferred from the Prison Offender Manager, matters are escalated through the local probation senior management.</p>	<p>Slight progress has been made, but due to the work done by the OMU governor and their team.</p>
<p><b>Prison Service</b></p> <p>1. The quality of some of the accommodation is poor and the space allocated to prisoners sharing rooms is not ideal. It was good to see the two-storey aging accommodation units decommissioned, however the Board is concerned that, as yet there is no plan to replace them.</p> <p>2. Budget needs to be allocated to convert the current dormitories to smaller rooms so that when HMP North Sea Camp is at full</p>	<p>1. HMPPS is considering options for longer-term replacement of the decommissioned Harrison and Llewelyn modular units, and is undertaking a strategic review at HMP North Sea Camp as part of the agency's long-term estates strategy. This is looking at how the reduction in capacity might be reversed to reduce overcrowding, whilst also taking into account the risks of flooding at the site.</p> <p>2. Regarding prisoners sharing dormitories, it is recognised that the rooms are not large enough for two tables, but prisoners are not constrained to their rooms and the regime is structured so that comparatively little time is spent indoors. Work activities encourage people to make the most of the 300 acres of</p>	<p>1. Whilst various visits have been made to site and various proposals made there has been no development.</p> <p>2. None</p>

capacity, no prisoners will have to share with more than one other person.	this resettlement establishment. At this time there is no budget allocated to converting the dormitories to smaller rooms. A Small-Scale Investments team are commissioning a feasibility study on the options available to refurbish various buildings. This includes erecting partition walls in three dormitory rooms located in South Units 1 and 2 to create seven double-occupancy rooms.	
3. The IMB is concerned by the time taken to complete routine maintenance jobs, and the issues around the transfer of prisoners' property. These are issues that are provided by contracted out services and the Board is concerned that contract failures do not result in penalties to encourage compliance.	3. It is acknowledged that the performance of facilities management (FM) has sometimes fallen below expectations. Performance is measured through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), tracking results periodically and applying financial penalties where necessary. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Property Directorate will continue to work with the FM provider to improve reactive maintenance.	3. None
4. There continues to be a problem with a prisoner's property not always arriving in its entirety on the completion of transfer. Prisoners face a long wait for their property to come and often it does not arrive at all.	4. The newly published Prisoners' Property Policy Framework came into effect on 5 September 2022 and replaces Prison Service Instruction 12/2011 - Prisoners' Property. The Framework is the result of extensive consultation, including with the IMB. It has been designed with procedural justice at its core, and aims to ensure consistency and fairness and enhance prisoners' satisfaction with processes and outcomes. Given the nature of property, and the movement of prisoners between establishments, the Framework looks to provide greater direction and standardisation on a national basis. It strengthens processes in relation to the main problem areas identified by IMBs and staff including the handling of valuable property, managing cell clearances, compliance with volumetric control and forwarding on excess property following a prisoner's transfer.	4. None



## **Evidence sections 4 – 7**

### **4.1 Safety in general**

The IMB is satisfied that HMP North Sea Camp continues to provide a safe and decent environment for prisoners.

HMP North Sea Camp has a very initiative-taking and busy safer community team consisting of both staff and prisoners, led by a governor. The establishment stages regular events to enhance prisoner and staff safety, and to promote the wellbeing of prisoners.

The work areas are responsible for giving prisoners all the necessary information about health and safety (endorsed by the health and safety department).

As part of rota visits, IMB members normally inspect any open assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) documents. The IMB periodically attends adjudications and has found them to be conducted fairly and in accordance with procedure.

### **4.2 Reception and induction**

Prisoners arrive in small numbers, and this enables the establishment to concentrate their efforts on getting the reception process correct and to give individual attention; new arrivals are interviewed on a one-to-one basis. This helps the new arrivals to express openly any fears they may have to reception staff. The reception waiting room has been recently refurbished and decorated, with new seating and a new flatscreen television for prisoners to de-stress after their journey, and the décor reflects a calming atmosphere in preparing prisoners for assessments to be conducted.

At reception, all new prisoners are assessed by healthcare and are seen by a Listener and a Mentor (trained by the Samaritans). They also have the opportunity to purchase items from the tuck shop. The new prisoners are then supported throughout the induction process by welfare checks and by the peer supporters, who show them around the prison estate and answer their queries. The induction process is a prisoner-led experience which is monitored to assure it is being delivered.

The new prisoners then go to accommodation reserved for newly arrived prisoners. On arrival, prisoners receive a talk on their first night by the unit officer regarding emergency procedures to ensure they understand how to react in an emergency, and general health and safety information (devised by the health and safety department) is given by the induction orderlies during the prisoner's induction course. On the first night in the prison, they are seen by a safer custody representative who will be available to address any fears or concerns they may have. New arrivals spend at least the first week on the reception wings before being moved, and while there they undertake a comprehensive introduction course covering all aspects of the prison regime, what is expected of them and the systems in operation.

Between March 2022 and February 2023, a total of 202 prisoners were transferred to HMP North Sea Camp. The impact of the Government's root and branch review of the parole system saw fewer transfers in during the last six months of that period which resulted in having approximately 25% spare capacity. March 2023 saw 82 transfers which resulted in a return to a nearly full prison.

The total number of prisoners discharged in the reporting year was 155. There were 77 security transfers. New receptions were 201, temporary release failures were 5 and absconds were 2.

At the end of Feb 2023 the prisoners convicted of a sexual offence (PCOSO) population stood at 57% with a non-PCOSO population of 43%. Over the 12 months the PCOSO population was at the highest in April 2022 (67%) and the lowest in August 2022 (56%).

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

There have been no deaths in custody during the review period. In the 12-month period there were 4 instances of self-harm. All four instances were minor, and all were carried out by one prisoner. The last recorded self-harm instance was December 2022.

The Listeners continued their valuable work and responded to requests for support during the reporting year. The current number of trained active Listeners is 12 and the current number of inactive Listeners waiting for clearance at the end of the reporting period was 2. The Samaritans continued to organise meetings and review all the necessary training needs required for the Listeners.

As part of rota visits, IMB members normally inspect any open ACCT documents. There were 10 ACCTs opened in the reporting year. The ACCT documents inspected were found to be correctly completed with staff engaging with prisoners at the required intervals as detailed in the care plans.

#### **4.4 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation.**

The safety of staff and prisoners is helped by use of the challenge, support, and intervention plan (CSIP) approach whereby prisoners who display challenging, aggressive, bullying, and other unacceptable behaviours are managed and supported on a plan with individualised targets and regular reviews. Only if there is no improvement in their behaviour are prisoners returned to closed conditions. Any member of staff can do a referral to CSIP if they feel that a prisoner needs intervention. In July 2022, the safety strategy was reviewed to meet the needs of the HMP North Sea Camp population, using CSIP not only to manage violent prisoners, but to HMP help and support those with vulnerabilities and victims of bullying and intimidation. This has resulted in many more CSIP referrals and evidence of good support plans. As a result, HMP North Sea Camp was signed off by the National Safety team in December 2022 with regards to the delivery of CSIP principles.

There have been 57 CSIP referrals this year.

March 2022-Feb 2023:

CSIP referrals received	-	57
Investigations completed	-	57

**Actions taken from the 57 referrals:**

CSIP open plans	-	12
No further action	-	30
Support given outside of CSIP	-	15

HMP North Sea Camp continues to utilise the CSIP process to support those who are vulnerable and to challenge any violence.

There have been 2 assaults during the reporting year, one prisoner on prisoner, and one assault on staff. Both incidents were investigated through the adjudication process; neither were serious assaults.

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

During the reporting year there has been no use of force, including no use of battons or ratchet handcuffs. Normal procedures for monitoring use of force remain in place and the Board will continue to monitor this area

The training needs of staff are constantly being reviewed. 98% of staff are trained in use of force, and over 95% in SPEAR and PAVA. A close contact programme is being developed for staff training. Suicide and self-harm training was delivered to over 90% of directly employed staff.

The new security building opened in January 2023; it has a team comprising of one Head of Security, two Custody Managers, Collators and a Prison Intelligence Officer. During the reporting year there has been no use of force, including no use of battons or ratchet handcuffs. Normal procedures for monitoring use of force remain in place and the Board will continue to monitor this area.

The building includes two cells which are used for mandatory drug tests (MDT) and are available to accommodate a prisoner if needed. These have not yet been used.

#### **4.6 Preventing illicit items**

During normal operating conditions, testing would reveal some drug and alcohol use at HMP North Sea Camp. Some prisoners testing positive are returned to closed conditions, but others may be allowed to stay in open conditions and work with We Are With You to stop using alcohol or drugs.

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

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

Prisoners residing within the main prison are accommodated in three one-storey units (North, South 1 and South 2) as well as two multi-occupancy houses (Jubilee). The establishment also has a series of self-catering houses, situated a short walk from the prison's main gate (Jubilee 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). The opening of Jubilee 6, which was the last unit to be opened, generated ten bed spaces. The single accommodation pods that were brought on to the Estate to ensure Covid compliance have now been returned to the Provider.

Accommodation units have a microwave enabling prisoners to warm up soups and other food snacks; there are also dedicated microwaves available for Halal only foods. Amey is responsible for checking the condition of this equipment; if condemned it is replaced by the prison. The Amey process seems to cause delay to the system of replacement. Board games are available from the wing offices. During this year prisoners were required to spend less time in their rooms as covid restrictions were lifted.

The kitchen laundry (workwear, tea towels etc) and prison-issued clothing and bedding all go through stores and are externally laundered at HMP Whatton. The prisoners' personal clothing (non-prison issue) and special washes for medical purposes are done in the on-site laundry.

There are adequate supplies of appropriate clothing, bedding and towels for every prisoner. Staff and stores orderlies work together to ensure there is a good stock of clean items.

The charity HIS Church which rebrands new clothes given to the charity by firms, provides a service to prisoners. Prisoners can visit the shop to view and select products. Regular weekend sales are organised, in the gymnasium, to promote the service amongst the prison population. This service is to be expanded due to its popularity.

The dining hall continues with a takeaway service, with the meals being collected three times a day, with a cooked breakfast provided. The dining hall has some provision for Prisoners to eat in the dining hall, with most taking their food away.

The catering facilities at HMP North Sea Camp are of a high standard. The catering audit remains at green. The kitchen holds a 5-star food hygiene rating from the Food Standards Agency. The food is sampled daily by a Governor or a member of the senior management team. Special food is prepared for religious festivals and events as agreed with the managing chaplain.

The tuck shop enables new arrivals to purchase goods to tide them over until they receive their canteen sheet. It is also available to the rest of the prison; however it

is, in the main, used by new arrivals. This facility is aimed to reduce the risk of new arrivals getting into debt.

## **5.2 Segregation**

HMP North Sea Camp is a category D open prison, and as such there is no segregation unit, although if the two cells in the new security building were to be used, this would be classed as segregation, and the establishment would need to follow the rules under segregation.

The IMB periodically attends adjudications and has found them to be conducted fairly and in accordance with procedure. The number of adjudications conducted this reporting year were:

- January 23: 24 in total, cases proven – 3; 12.5%; adjourned - 8; 33.3% and 5, 20.38% were dismissed, with 8; 33.3% prisoners being transferred.
- February 23: 12 in total, cases proven – 4; 30.77%; adjourned – 4; 30.77%; dismissed – 4; 30.77% and transferred 0
- March 23: 25, cases proven – 0; adjourned – 8; 32%; dismissed – 11; 44% and transferred – 6; 24%

Within the adjudications:

In January 2022

- 10% were for paragraph 9 which is a positive drug test demonstrating that a controlled drug has been used, whether in prison or on temporary release.
- 12.5% were for 12A which is possession of an unauthorised article.
- 37.5% were for a paragraph 8 failure to comply with any condition upontemporary release.

In February 2022

- 23.08% were for paragraph 9.
- 30.77% were for a paragraph 8 failure to comply with a condition of temporary release.

There are no safer custody trends within the adjudication data. There are no trends of disproportionate treatment from protected characteristic groups.

## **5.3 Staff-prisoner relationships**

IMB members have observed generally positive and supportive relationships between staff and prisoners. On arrival, prisoners are allocated a personal officer, a Prison Offender Manager (POM) and a case administrator and in addition can speak

to the unit officers who the Board have observed to be approachable and able to advise and assist prisoners.

Prisoners are given advice on where to find information about their legal rights as part of the induction process. This information can also be obtained from staff members, such as their personal officers, wing officers, other supervisors etc. Under normal operating conditions, information is accessible in the library, in the prisoner advice centre (PAC) or via the application system.

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

The IMB is satisfied that prisoners are treated equally, and that any differences resulting from protected characteristics are addressed appropriately.

The IMB is satisfied that most of the prisoners at HMP North Sea Camp are able to access regimes and facilities. There are continuing efforts to meet prisoners' special needs, including the internal bus service around the prison and the purchase of and installation of additional mobility aids such as grab rails. A number of mobility scooters have also been purchased for those with determined mobility issues.

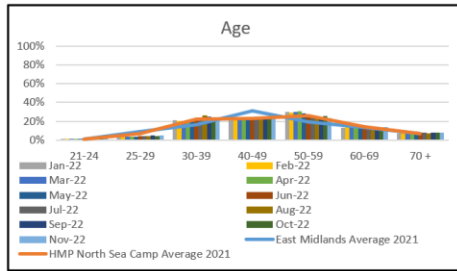
Prisoners normally have access to information they require on equality and diversity issues via displays on notice boards and the relevant PSIs are available. Prisoners who struggle to read or write can get help from the library, or the prisoner advice centre (PAC).

Prisoners are advised how to submit discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFs) during the induction process, if the situation warrants it.

HMP North Sea Camp has a prisoner-run equalities hub. There is one full-time equality orderly and one full-time safer custody orderly based there. The equal opportunities officer holds regular equality action team meetings. Orderlies from across the prison attend these meetings. Special events for the year include Black Lives Matter, Holocaust Memorial Day and other relevant events. The department acknowledged Black History Month in October as an opportunity for prisoners and staff alike to continue the journey in breaking down stereotypes and to build an increased sense of unity and inclusion.

The prison has a diverse ethnic population. At 28 February 2023 the breakdown was as follows:

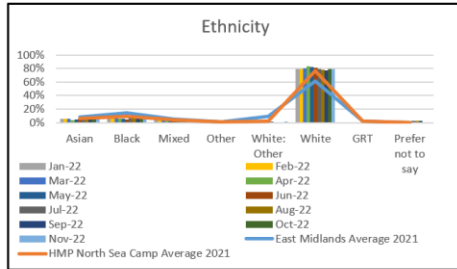
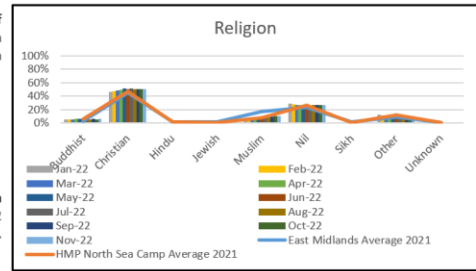
## Demographic Overview



Across the period the population of North Sea Camp has reduced from 282 in September to 262 in October and 248 in November.

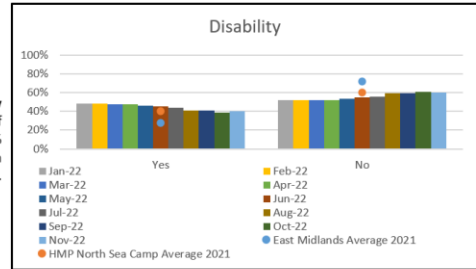
**Age**  
A few minimal changes in the distribution of age, none of more than 2%.

Only 3 small changes across the 2 months, each of 1% only.



Some small changes of 1%. The biggest change is the "Prefer not to say" group which has reduced from 3 to 0%.

**Disability**  
There was a fall in the proportion of individuals disclosing a disability to 39% in October, this has increased again in November to 40%.



### Ethnic groups

Asian/Asian British: Any other background	0.38%
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.75%
Asian/Asian British: Indian	0.38%
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	3.38%
Black/Black British: African	1.13%
Black/Black British: Any other Background	0.75%
Black/Black British: Caribbean	4.51%
Code Missing	0.75%
Mixed: Any other background	0.75%
Mixed: White and Black African	0.38%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	2.63%
White: Any other background	1.13%
White: Eng./Welsh/Scot./Northern Irish/British	81.95%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.75%
White: Irish	0.38%

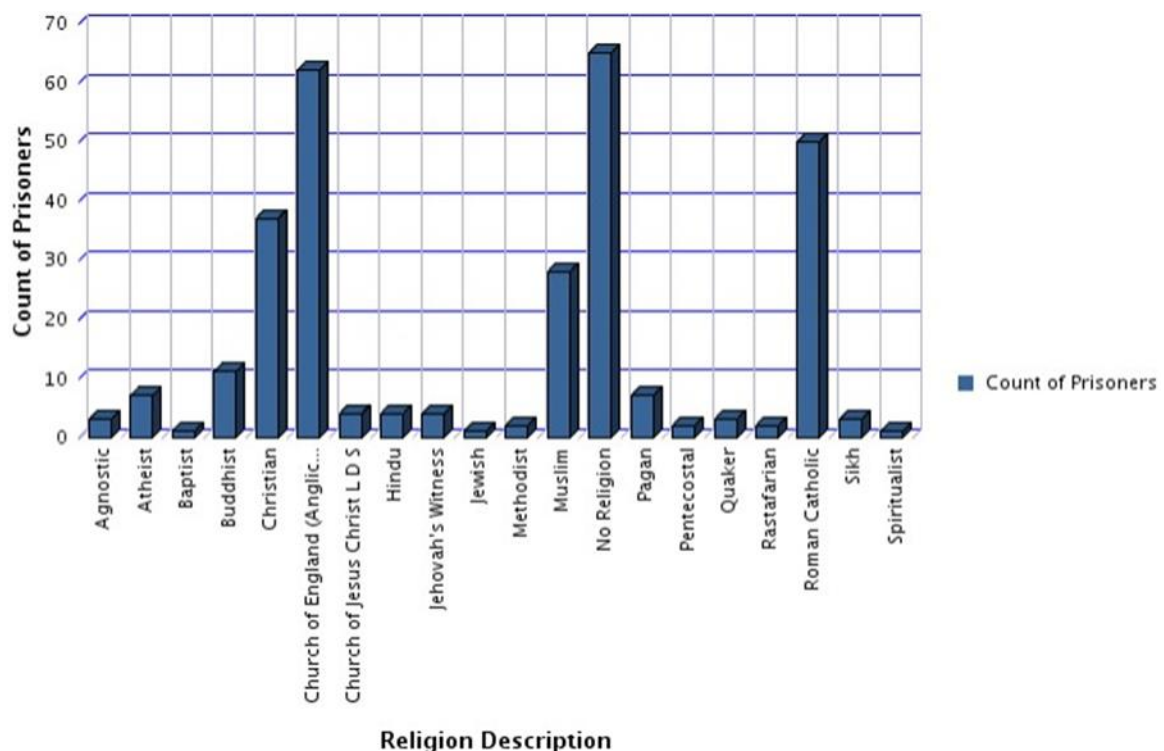
## 5.5 Faith and pastoral support

The chaplaincy department at HMP North Sea Camp provides pastoral support to all prisoners and staff, irrespective of their faith. In a normal year the chaplaincy would facilitate corporate worship and religious study for many faiths and facilitate several secular meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. The chaplaincy is also responsible for running the veterans' cabin (currently there are 14 veterans at North Sea Camp), supervising the various visiting groups. It also looks after the welfare of discharged prisoners offering support as requested.

The chaplaincy consists of one full-time managing chaplain, one deputy chaplain and eight regular sessional chaplains. All but two faith chaplains have now returned, after Covid.

The managing chaplain and his staff continued to work with prisoners by way of pastoral visits and support. The chaplaincy team also provided support when relatives and friends died as ROTL was not possible for funerals. Some live streams of funerals were facilitated. If this was not possible a memorial service was arranged in the chapel.

There are currently 13 recognised faiths or denominations represented in the prison. 10 prisoners class themselves as atheists or agnostics, with 65 prisoners declaring they have no faith or religion. The largest group of prisoners who profess a religion are the 62 who class themselves as Church of England. Fifty class themselves as Roman Catholic.



## **5.6 Incentives schemes**

The incentives scheme involves warnings being issued for negative behaviours. Too many warnings trigger a review which might result in loss of privileges and downgrading to a lower incentives level. Ninety-nine percent of the prisoners were on the enhanced incentives level at the end of the reporting year.

On arrival at HMP North Sea Camp, prisoners are placed on enhanced status. Most prisoners at HMP North Sea Camp remain on enhanced status. Those who have had their level downgraded are helped to work towards a return to enhanced status.

## **5.7 Complaints**

Prisoners are advised how to complain about prison matters; the complaint forms and procedures are fully explained during the induction process. These include comp 1, comp 1A and comp 2 and governor complaint forms. An induction to the IMB is also included, including how to make an IMB application.

During this year the prison handled 603 complaints, with the most frequent subjects being property at 112, residential issues at 77 and the OMU with 76 complaints.

## **5.8 Property**

Reception staff undertake thorough property checks when prisoners arrive. Unclear property cards from other establishments are rewritten with the old ones retained for cross reference purposes. New prisoners often arrive with large amounts of belongings. Having spent many years in prison, they can have accumulated a lot of property that has been in store at the prison they came from as well as property they have had in their rooms (in possession property). However, some of those transferring are told that they can only bring three bags plus legal papers, plus one oversized item with them on the transport. On arrival at HMP North Sea Camp, those prisoners with a lot of property are given time to select their most needed items before the remainder are stored on their behalf either in the prison or at Branston, the central prison storage facility.

## **6. Health and wellbeing**

### **6.1 Healthcare: general**

Healthcare at HMP North Sea Camp is provided by Nottinghamshire NHS Foundation Trust. Healthcare forums occur every 2 months and are deemed extremely useful in ongoing health management at North Sea Camp. Staffing levels are good with only 1 vacancy waiting to be filled. Currently there is a total complement of 22 made up of 4 Administrators, 1 pharmacist, 3 mental health nurses and 14 nurses. Although the risk of Covid has diminished, there have been some isolated outbreaks. The diagnosis is purely done by Lateral Flow Tests and repeated on days 5 and 6 and there are daily visits by the Health Team in their cells until the test shows negative.

Most prisoners are complimentary about health care services at HMP North Sea Camp. Two years ago, a survey was done by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) where they found that 81% of the respondents expressed the opinion that the overall quality of care at HMP North Sea Camp was good and that the healthcare team was conscientious, skilled and compassionate and worked flexibly to provide their services. The next HMIP visit is scheduled to be performed in 2 – 3 years' time; however, they are expecting a visit from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in the near future.

There were 17 health complaints which was 6 more than during the last period despite a reduction in prisoner numbers. Analysis of the complaints showed that 8 concerned the Physiotherapist. There were 3 complaints concerning slowness in issuing prescription medicines due to the national shortage. Other complaints were about a 4 week wait for a routine dental appointment and appointment waiting times. All complaints were dealt with by the Health Centre staff and reached a satisfactory conclusion.

There is no in-patient healthcare provision at HMP North Sea Camp. Prisoners who require 24-hour nursing care or operations would be admitted to whichever NHS hospital is best suited to deal with their medical problems.

### **6.2 Physical healthcare**

Most medical issues are resolved at HMP North Sea Camp with all prescribed medicines issued on site. Those who need more complex treatment are treated at local hospitals and dental surgeries. The GP visits HMP North Sea Camp twice a week and conducts an online surgery on a weekly basis. The Dental Van visits every Tuesday though there was a short period in early 2023 where the van became unserviceable for a few weeks. Prisoners did not suffer as appointments were arranged within local community Dentists. More complex procedures are carried out off site in Boston or Spalding as appropriate.

Now that the pandemic is virtually over, all medical care at HMP North Sea Camp is back to a normal regime. Any delays in off-site medical appointments are subject to the usual exigencies of the NHS, though mitigated by the pro-active stance of the medical staff at HMP North Sea Camp in obtaining outside appointments.

There has been an increase in the number of 'did not attend' (DNA) up from 9% to 15% and then down to 10%. This increase, despite the reduced population at HMP

North Sea Camp, is put down to the number of shorter-term prisoners who seem to not want to engage.

The enhanced in-house system for testing for Bowel Cancer which commenced 2 years ago continues to operate at HMP North Sea Camp and has been deemed successful in early diagnosis of the illness.

Waiting times for prisoners needing to see hospital consultants were between 3 and 6 weeks – considerably less than for those in the community due to the pro-active stance taken by the Health Centre staff.

Emergency dental procedures are done at the Johnson Hospital in Spalding. However, if other urgent treatment is required there is an established system for accessing local dentists.

The site is not easy to negotiate for those with disabilities and it is often necessary for another prisoner to be willing and then trained to assist. Over the period of this report the number of prisoners requiring a personal emergency evacuation plan (PEEP), whereby another prisoner is detailed to assist them to reach safety if any emergency arises, has reduced to an average of 13, commensurate with the reduction in the prison population. However, it is anticipated that this may increase over the next year due to the forecast increase in the prison population.

Previously, there were concerns about the increasing age of the prison population, however, this year the percentage of prisoners over 50 years of age has remained static at 50%, though it is anticipated the percentage will fall due to the prospective influx of younger more short-term prisoners when HMP North Sea Camp will reach full complement.

In February 2021 it was 45% (source Health Centre, HMP North Sea Camp).

In February 2022 it was 51% (source Health Centre, HMP North Sea Camp).

In February 2023 it was 50% (source Health Centre, HMP North Sea Camp).

The number of prisoners at HMP North Sea Camp who suffer from serious health conditions has remained fairly static over the period.

	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>COPD</b>	<b>Diabetes</b>	<b>Stroke</b>	<b>Reg. Disabled</b>
<b>End 02/2021</b>	5	23	34	11	8
<b>End 02/2022</b>	5	15	39	8	6
<b>End 02/2023</b>	5	11	34	10	9

Source – NHS Healthcare Manager – HMP North Sea Camp

The number of prisoners with moderate disabilities is as shown below and is commensurate with the decrease in prison population.

	2021	2022	2023
Hearing Impairment (not profoundly deaf)	48	43	36
Reduced Mobility	44	29	17
Learning Difficulties	47	40	35
Mental Illness	10	39	31
Visual Impairment (not severely impaired)	28	34	62

Source – NHS healthcare manager, HMP North Sea Camp

The apparent increase in visual impairment is due to the redefined criteria for impairment in that anyone who wears glasses for any reason, is considered to be impaired.

There is no dedicated palliative care unit at HMP North Sea Camp. However, if prisoners have a terminal diagnosis, they are cared for by the prison healthcare team. Where such a prisoner is sharing a double room, he will be transferred to a single room. If a prisoner were to require 24-hour healthcare and/or complex pain relief he would be found a bed in a local hospital or hospice.

### **6.3 Mental healthcare**

The mental health team is staffed by 3 full time nurses with one vacancy, yet to be filled. The vacancy is not causing any detrimental impact on the service provided.

The new mental health clinic attached to the health centre, which opened in November 2021, is a useful addition to the estate. Identification of prisoner mental health issues is mainly done by self-referral but prison officers occasionally contact the mental health team if they feel that intervention may be necessary.

Some appointments take place in the mental health unit. Staff visit prisoners in their cells if this is deemed to be safe and appropriate.

Previously, there had been concerns of an impending rise in dementia cases. However, at the end of the reporting year, there were no prisoners diagnosed with dementia at HMP North Sea Camp.

### **6.4 Social care**

Social care is overseen by Lincoln & Boston Councils who visit fortnightly or on demand if necessary to conduct mobility assessments and then provide any necessary special equipment. They also liaise with Probation regarding those being released from prison. The service is now functioning normally and appears to be working well.

Because of the age of some prisoners at HMP North Sea Camp the establishment works closely with Lincolnshire County Council and Boston Borough Council and their staff attend and complete assessments on individuals who may require additional items in rooms to support them, such as pull up rails, a hospital bed and, if required, any equipment that is deemed necessary.

### **6.5 Time out of cell, regime**

Post Covid the gymnasium has been fully open for training and exercise with organised sessions taking place. The Gymnasium is well equipped and well-liked by the prisoners with enthusiastic Staff members who are well dedicated the task in hand.

During good weather, the playing fields are well utilised by prisoners taking exercise. Organised sport and exercise is carried out on the playing fields and it is often very busy, especially on nice sunny days.

### **6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation**

“We are with you” (formerly Addaction) provides a service for substance misusers (drugs or alcohol) or any prisoner who has substance related concerns. The professional team provide clinical treatment, group work, and one to one psycho-social support. The department’s objectives are to provide clinical support and reduce the risks of substance related harm whilst in custody and upon release, and support in avoiding problematic drug use and to increase awareness of substance-related issues. On release prisoners are referred into the community so they can continue with their engagement.

### **6.7 Soft skills**

Prisoners were kept informed about what was happening and what facilities were available in the prison via newsletters, notices and prison officers. The notice boards are plentiful and kept up to date with all that is happening at HMP North Sea Camp

The equalities and safer custody team organised in-room quizzes and puzzles for the prisoners. All of the support groups are back up and running and are fully functional – much of their work is conducted by the prisoners themselves.

## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

The Education Department has a complement of 14 staff who all report to the Prison's Head of Learning Skills. The incumbent chairs a monthly Quality Improvement Group (QIG) which monitors and evaluates performance and take up of educational opportunities against the pre-determined departmental key performance indicators.

The aim of the education service is to prepare prisoners for the world outside and enable them to be in a position to successfully apply for work once they leave HMP North Sea Camp and live life outside of the prison gate. Literacy skills are known to be an essential requirement for those seeking employment. As such, the Education Department are starting to embed functional skills and reading skills across the wider establishment, e.g. all workshop areas now have a dedicated reading area promoting reading for pleasure.

In order to identify where support is required for low level readers, workshop supervisors have engaged in training to enable them to identify those prisoners whose reading ability is below average.

People Plus provides the offenders' learning and skills service (PEF, Prisoners Education Framework) education provision. Their funding is from within the Prison budget based upon attendance at classes and learning outcomes.

Evening, weekend and Saturday classes are on offer to allow those in full time employment the opportunity to further develop and to engage in learning.

Although the prison has experienced a significant reduction in the size of the prison population, class sizes have actually increased from the previous year. However, they have yet to achieve full capacity on a consistent basis.

The Education Department offers a wide range of courses that are all designed to develop employability, functional skills, digital skills and personal and social skills in preparation for life outside of the gate. Courses include: Customer Service Skills, Employability, and How to Apply for Employment.

Some of the courses include the development of social skills, again aimed at assisting prisoners to be able to manage their lives independently once they leave the prison. Those courses include Basic Cooking Skills, Information, Advice and Guidance, Money Management, Shopping, The Technical World (contactless payments, Applications for Online Benefits, Amazon internet shopping etc.) The Technical World course utilises the virtual campus and aims to develop awareness of modern digital platforms.

Course duration varies dependent upon the course content.

A course in Mental Health Awareness was rolled out in May 2022 and is ongoing. Additionally, the Peer Mentoring Level 2 course has recently commenced and is developing and training prisoners to function as Mentors within the Prison environment.

The Shannon Trust scheme which also successfully operates in the prison is still continuing.

The national Go Red for Dyslexia Day on 11 October 2022, aimed at raising awareness of dyslexia as a potential barrier to learning, was marked with all education staff wearing red T shirts.

National Poetry Day was also celebrated in October and the Functional Skills English Group students were again tasked to produce poetry to reflect their views on freedom.

Library timetables are displayed in all education and workshop areas to raise awareness and to promote opportunities to engage in reading.

The library is well run and support for the prisoners from library and other staff is well received. The library offers a range of services which includes a wide range of fictional and non-fiction books, a wide range of foreign national titles, a collection of quick read books, and newspapers and magazines.

There is a reference section which is available for research and information and includes dictionaries and prison reference materials. The library also has an employability skills section and enables access to Shannon Trust mentors who are able to support prisoners to learn to read and to improve their reading skills. The library lends out CDs, DVDs and jigsaws to prisoners on short term loans.

The library now has a number of computers and prisoners are able to undertake Theory Driving Tests online.

The library now holds in excess of 9000 books. Donated books and DVDs are checked for suitability with any deemed inappropriate being taken to a High Street Charity Shop.

A comprehensive stock take of all library items was undertaken across a 3-day period during February 2023.

## **7.2 Vocational training, work**

During the reporting year an increased number of prisoners worked for an external employer. Prisoners worked as cleaners, in the kitchen, in the staff mess, in recycling, constructing lobster pots, badge making, woodworking, car washing and in land-based activities. Vegetables continued to be grown and supplied to the kitchens and farm shop, which is open for Jubilee prisoners and staff.

NVQs and Food Safety Courses are being reintroduced for those prisoners working in the kitchens. These courses are validated by Highfields, a national body, as the Awarding Body. Plans are afoot to change to City and Guilds qualifications. Other prisoners can earn Diplomas in Painting and Decorating, certificates in Warehousing and Storage, and Forklift Truck Operations. Additionally, there is the opportunity to achieve their construction skills certification scheme (CSCS) card which enables prisoners to gain employment on construction sites upon release as well as a Health and Safety in the Workplace Level 2 qualification.

The Prison continues to operate an Employment Hub which is now very well established. There is a good process for identifying a prisoner's skill set which informs finding the appropriate education workplace for an individual prisoner. The Hub personnel work closely with the IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) provider and with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Evening drop in sessions are available to facilitate time for prisoners to be able to raise early queries as and when they arrive at HMP North Sea Camp.

The Employment Hub processes support in sequencing and allocating prisoners to the correct learning pathways.

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

Prior to transfer from closed conditions, an OASys is completed to inform the inmate's recategorization decision. Within 8 weeks of their arrival at HMP North Sea Camp prisoners are required to have a completed OASys report which assesses the prisoner's risk of reoffending and the risk posed to the public etc. The Service has a digital tracking system in place to ensure compliance. Tracking is monitored on a monthly basis.

The OASys is updated by HMP North Sea Camp with input from outside agencies such as COMs and is reviewed at regular intervals. This enables HMP North Sea Camp staff and the probation service via the POMs to assess how a prisoner is progressing with regards to their risk of reoffending.

Since the Prison population reduced across the year to 300 maximum, the Service is able to state that there is a full complement of staff (7). There is no intention to recruit to the 0.5 whole time equivalent vacancy.

The job roles comprise Head of Offender Management Services (HOMS), Head of Offender Management delivery (HOMD), supported by a team of POMs and administration. Following the pandemic there is a flexible working arrangement in place to facilitate both home and on-site work.

Management changes in the OMU at a senior level have stabilised and improvements have been maintained. The Board have observed probation staff to be approachable, client focussed and aim to offer support and signposting wherever possible.

The offender management in custody (OMiC) model is in place and all staff are trained in its application. Not all prisoners have an allocated COM. Accordingly the POM is responsible for case management, with a COM being allocated 8.5 months prior to a prisoner's release date. At that point a handover will take place and the prisoner is able to meet with his COM to establish a professional relationship. The on-site POM will remain in support and will drive the release and create the risk and release plan. Any risk information is shared together with any information relating to progression on the sentence plan, as well as any outstanding work which may need to be continued following release, e.g., mental health, substance misuse etc which may be identified as potential trigger factors towards re-offending. Since its

introduction all prisoners must have a completed OASys assessment prior to transfer from the sending establishment.

The number of IPP prisoners who are serving indeterminate sentences is normally around 24% of the prison population. Currently 34% of prisoners at HMP North Sea Camp are serving a life sentence and 57% are sex offenders. This provides a challenge to the support services provided by the prison. However, all these prisoners are able to access the full range of activities offered at HMP North Sea Camp. Some prisoners may find it difficult to obtain work in the community (voluntary or paid) because of the nature of their offences.

The OMU holds daily 1 hour non bookable drop-in sessions to allow those prisoners engaged in outside employment to be able to access the Service. Three Case Administration managers meetings are held each week and these are bookable appointments via the Prisoner Advice Centre. The previous Lifer and IPP forums have been discontinued due to a low take up throughout the year. However, in conjunction with the Psychology Service, those over tariff IPPs are subject to a red, amber, green rated progression system to facilitate the creation of an action plan to assist the prisoner to progress.

ROTL is a big part of a prisoner's progress towards release and delays of any sort, either actual or perceived, are always a cause of concern to prisoners. There is no minimum time frame in place for a ROTL application under the new Policy. Prisoners are made aware of the ROTL process at induction and support is also offered by the POM who meets each prisoner within 14 days of their arrival at HMP North Sea Camp. An up to date OASys is necessary before prisoners can be considered for ROTL. Once an application for ROTL has been made the information is sent to the COM or to the Duty COM. A response should be received within a 4-week period. However, ROTL Boards may be delayed if responses from external agencies, for example Police, are outstanding. Prisoners with IPP sentences who form a significant percentage of the prison's population, get particularly anxious about delays in their ROTL process as many are years over tariff. OMU staff have been issued with a staff guidance document to ensure that all staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to a determination to suspend a ROTL.

The few releases under home detention curfew (HDC) had been completed in a timely manner.

There have only been five absconds over the reporting year.

OMU Managers chair the fortnightly interdepartmental risk management meetings. Attendance includes POMs, Security, psychology and COMs are also invited. All new receptions are discussed, as are high risk prisoners and those who are pre-release i.e. 8 months prior to the release date, are also discussed to ensure that all information is shared and any concerns are identified at an early stage. An action plan may be drawn up to manage a new risk or a decision made to return to closed conditions should the level of risk be deemed to be unmanageable in open conditions.

#### **7.4 Family contact**

Social visits take place in the visits hall. Lincolnshire Action Trust conduct Family days in the visits hall. This offers an improved environment for children and for the family as a whole. Lincolnshire Action Trust have Caseworkers who are in place to facilitate a prisoner receiving additional information about his family and his children. The Caseworker will work and liaise with the relevant POM.

#### **7.5 Resettlement planning**

All prisoners at HMP North Sea Camp eventually go out on ROTL, resettlement day release (RDR) and resettlement overnight release (ROR) in preparation for release back into the community.

Following the Government's decision in November to reject the proposal to undertake a resentencing exercise for anyone serving an IPP sentence, all IPP prisoners have been spoken to and offered support. Prisoners have presented to OMU as disheartened, disappointed, frustrated, worried, anxious and experiencing loss of hope for future release. Work at HMP North Sea Camp is ongoing to support those directly affected.

The HOMD is developing a training package for Operational Support Grades in relation to Public Protection matters to upskill them in their duties of monitoring relating to Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse and to be able to utilise the skills in supporting prisoners towards release and ongoing life once through the gate.

## The work of the IMB

### Board Statistics

Recommended compliment of board members	10
Number of board members at the start of the reporting members	7
Number of board members at the end of the reporting members	5
Total visits to the establishment	184

### Applications to IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
<b>A</b>	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>B</b>	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>C</b>	Equality	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>D</b>	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>E1</b>	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>E2</b>	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>F</b>	Food and kitchens	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>G</b>	Health, including physical, mental, social care	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>H1</b>	Property within the establishment	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>H2</b>	Property during transfer or in another facility	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>H3</b>	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I</b>	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>J</b>	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>K</b>	Transfers	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>L</b>	Miscellaneous	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
	Total number of applications	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>

In addition, there were 7 Prisoners in total that raised the same Application more than once, the breakdown is as follows:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>
<b>D</b>	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	3
<b>E2</b>	Finance including pay, private monies, spends Prisoner 1	2
<b>E2</b>	Finance including pay, private monies, spends Prisoner 2	2
<b>H2</b>	Property during transfer or in another facility	2
<b>H3</b>	Canteen, facility list, catalogues,	2
<b>I</b>	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	2

## Annex A

HMP North Sea Camp has the following contractors/agencies delivering services:

- Healthcare is provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.
- Education and training are provided by PeoplePlus.
- Family services are provided by Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT).
- Drug and alcohol support and counselling are provided by We Are “With You (formerly Addaction).
- Resettlement services are provided by the Probation Service.
- The library service is provided by Greenwich Leisure Ltd on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.
- Facilities management is provided by Amey (delivering maintenance and stores facilities).
- Voluntary organisations providing assistance to prisoners include Community Links, Samaritans, the Royal British Legion, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), Alcoholics Anonymous, local church groups, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, St Barnabas hospice and Early Prevention of Cancer (EPOC), Just Lincolnshire (working with the prison on equalities).

## **Annex B**

### **Abbreviations and glossary of terms**

ACCT - assessment, care in custody and teamwork

AP – approved premises

CSIP – challenge, support and intervention plan

CNA – certified normal accommodation – the total of all rooms in a prison that can be routinely used to house long-stay prisoners

COM - Community Offender Manager

COPD – chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Covid-19 – the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that emerged in December 2019

CRC – community rehabilitation company

CVP – cloud video platform

DIRF - discrimination incident reporting form

EPOC – early prevention of cancer

HDC – home detention curfew

HMP - His Majesty's Prison

IMB – Independent Monitoring Board

IPP – indeterminate sentence for public protection

LAT – Lincolnshire Action Trust

MAPPA – multi-agency public protection arrangements

MDT – mandatory drug testing

OASys – offender assessment system – identifies a prisoner's likelihood of reoffending and their risk of harm to others

OLASS – offenders' learning and skills service

OMiC – offender management in custody

OMU - offender management unit

OS – offender supervisor

OU – Open University

PAC – prisoner advice centre

PCOSO – prisoners convicted of sexual offences.

PEEP – personal emergency evacuation plan

PIN phone – personal identification phone – phone allowing calls to be made to agreed telephone numbers once a code has been inputted

PO – personal officer

POM – Prison Offender Manager

PSI – prison service instructions

RDR – resettlement day release

Reverse cohorting – holding newly arrived prisoners in a special unit where they can be in quarantine for 14 days

ROR – resettlement overnight release

ROTL – release on temporary licence

shielding – ensuring that those vulnerable to infection are kept apart from others for at least 12 weeks

SPL – special purpose licence to leave the prison for an appointment, an event

SSAFA – Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association

TTG – through the gate



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