



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP/YOI Portland

**For reporting year
1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

Published December 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 board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison is situated.

Under the National Monitoring Framework agreed with ministers, the Board is required to:

- satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release
- inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom authority has been delegated as it judges appropriate, any concern it has
- report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.

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

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

2. Description of the establishment

2.1 HMP/YOI Portland is a category C prison for adult residents with sentences of six months to four years on average. It is also, currently, a national resource for young adults (aged 18-21 years). It is a designated resettlement prison for residents with a home in Avon, Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, and more recently, further afield. Portland began the process to transition into a category C adult male prison in January 2020. At this time, Dorset became part of its catchment area. Approximately 65% of the population is between the ages 18-34¹, of which approximately 20% are young offenders. This fluctuates slightly during the course of the year.

2.2 The operational capacity of the prison is 530 residents. Accommodation consists of seven wings: Benbow, Raleigh, Drake, Nelson, Grenville, Collingwood and Beaufort. There is a free-standing care and separation unit (CSU). Collingwood is assigned the role of first night centre. Nelson and Grenville are primarily populated by young adults. Beaufort houses self-isolating and enhanced residents.

2.3 Education, including some vocational training programmes, is contracted to Weston College. The prison operates a number of workshops, providing recognised skills and qualifications.

2.4 Healthcare services have been delivered by Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust since December 2022.

2.5 Family Services are provided by PACT.

¹ 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

Generally, the Board's perception is that the prison is well controlled and the prisoners feel safe. Staff and prisoner relationships and observed interactions were positive and the atmosphere on the wings is relaxed. Although violence increased, which could be attributed to men spending more time out of their cells, the zero-tolerance policy to drugs and violence was welcomed by prisoners as it contributed to a well-controlled prison. Segregation was used infrequently.

Fair and humane treatment

Prisoners reported feeling they were respected and that staff were approachable. They could see the improvements being made on a regular basis to their accommodation. They also had more confidence in the discrimination incident reporting process and felt it was handled fairly. There has been an increase in self harm since the previous reporting period, the shortage of mental health staff has meant that more urgent care was prioritised, and prisoners are waiting longer to see a qualified professional to assist with their needs.

Health and wellbeing

The library facilities are excellent, and a wide range of initiatives are provided. The gym is viewed as one of the most positive aspects of prisoners' time at Portland, and the introduction of the Rugby academy was a welcome addition to the curriculum. Medical facilities were good and able to keep up with demand, although mental health support was lacking due to staffing shortfalls. Time out of cell was limited for the population not in full time work or with an enhanced status, although this improved as the year progressed from once per day to twice per day.

Progression and resettlement

Key work plays a critical role in understanding the needs of each prisoner at each stage of their sentence through one-to-one discussions. However, this was limited in the first half of the year to only vulnerable individuals. It was increased in the second half of the year to include a broader population but still fell short of the entire population. This meant there was more dependency from other prisoners on the Offender Management Unit (OMU) to answer questions that would have been addressed in a key work session. This also meant that getting to speak to the OMU was sometimes difficult.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

As a result of the 2021 reforms in relation to prisoner resettlement, the resettlement programme is fragmented and underfunded. Will the Minister consider reverting to a properly funded resettlement service based within each establishment?

With the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 being on hold currently, when does the government intend to roll it out on a national basis?

TO THE GOVERNOR

The Prison Council serves a very useful purpose in bridging communication between prisoners and management of the prison but, in practice, many prisoners are not aware of its role or who their representative is. What are your plans to strengthen its effectiveness through better publicity and awareness raising?

Internal Property – there is a need to improve communication to prisoners of the reason for the delays in receiving internal property and, when a prisoner is prevented from receiving property, communicating what is allowed and how to order goods in a more specific way as a means of explanation. How do you plan to improve this?

Key work is crucial to the early identification of deteriorating mental health. If an individual has mental health issues it can adversely affect their ability to engage with learning and training. It therefore makes sense to prioritise key work over training and learning opportunities rather than being seen as an “add-on” with the option to drop it if staffing is short.

3.3 Response to last report

Issue raised	Response given	Progress
To Minister:		
Need to direct resources to resettlement	Minister – no change	Still requires more resources
Need to make work in the prison service attractive	Minister referred to increased pay	Being implemented
Need to incorporate multi-disciplinary approach to support mental health of prisoners	Legislation for accessing placement in secure hospital	Being Implemented
Need to strengthen provision of resettlement services	See above	
To the Prison Service:		
Monitoring of service provided by external contractors	Prison Service not aware of issues	No evidence of recent issues
Funding for relief of heat issues for Beaufort wing	Prison Service putting in capital works programme	Currently on list for 2025 with local interim provision of cooling measures
To the Governor:		
All prison officers wearing BWVCs	Regulations now in force	Majority are now wearing BWVCs
Need for inter-departmental communication relating		Education now sharing information gained

to prisoners' pathways to resettlement		
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Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

The Safer Custody Team (SCT) are responsible for the wellbeing of all prisoners in the prison. As part of the reception process, all newcomers observed were assessed on arrival by prison and healthcare staff, for most of the year new arrivals stayed in Collingwood, considered the reception wing.

The induction process is a requirement of all new arrivals. All observed residents completed a detailed worksheet designed to help identify any learning difficulty and disability (LDD) issues.

Recovery workers, the chaplaincy, healthcare, education and offender management unit meetings took place to discuss any issues or concerns. The feedback from prisoners to the IMB was that they felt safe upon arrival, and this was further evidenced in the survey performed during the Inspection earlier in the year.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

The Safer Custody Team (SCT) were seen to regularly check on all residents in healthcare, the CSU and those on an ACCT (assessment, care in custody and teamwork).

The incidence of self-harm was high. There was an increase from 262 incidents in 2021/22 to 416 in the current reporting year. Much of this increase was attributed to the last three months of the reporting period. For example, Jan-Mar 2023 averaged 52 incidents per month vs 28 in previous months, primarily due to a number of repeat self-harmers. This is taken seriously by the Senior Management Team at Portland.

There was one post release death in the reporting year, which was apparently self-inflicted. This concerned a resident who died the day after he was released. The initial report from the Prisons and Probations Ombudsman published in August 2023 said he was given good substance misuse advice in preparation for his release but was not offered a naloxone kit (a drug that can reverse or reduce the effects of an opioid overdose). The naloxone kit is now offered to all prisoners who have engaged with the substance misuse service (SMS) at the time of release.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

All violent and use of force incidents were analysed at a weekly safety intervention meeting. As trends emerged, they were then fed into the diversity and inclusion panel for discussion within resident focus groups representing each of the protected characteristics. The number of violent incidents over the period was 187, an average of 15.5 per month compared with an average of 8.5 per month in the previous reporting period.

There is a zero-tolerance policy towards violence and drug use. An amnesty was held during the year to encourage residents to remove all excess items that might be used for substance misuse or pose other risks, for example weapons.

The Safety Intervention Meeting (SIM) also reviews the acts of violence, self-harm, and self-isolation, to understand if they are related to debt, drug use, or targeted against protected characteristics, such as disability/ethnicity, or religion. The Board found the meetings were thorough and fairly assessed the issues.

4.4 Use of force

All use of force (UoF) incidents are analysed at the weekly Use of Force Learning Panel and summarised at the monthly Use of Force Committee meeting. For the 2022-23 reporting period there were 329 UoF incidents (27 per month). In the previous period the figures were 225 (19 per month).

Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) were encouraged, but not mandatory until the second half of this reporting period. From the Board's perspective, at use of force (UoF) reviews it was apparent that it was more common for newly recruited prison officers (POs) to wear BWCs. It was quite common for BWC footage to be available once less experienced POs came to the support of colleagues rather than being available from the start of the incident. This is improving with the mandatory requirement to wear BWCs.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

Mandatory drug testing (MDT) of 5% of the prison population restarted in May but moved to 'suspicion only' testing in November. In accordance with national and regional guidelines however, mandatory drug testing will resume in May 2023.

Paper-based Spice (a psychoactive substance) and self-brewed alcohol (hooch) remained the prevalent illicit substances of interest. There were spikes of Spice and 'hooch' in November, and in March, which led to additional training for wing staff in the use of Naloxone, and a scheme is underway to train prisoners in its use. The dog teams have proved very effective in finding illicit substances and the dog handlers also now routinely carry Naloxone. Naloxone is a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids. A noticeable increase in debt, violence and self-harm followed the March spike but was under control by the end of the reporting period.

The security team maintained 100% searching and swabbing of incoming mail and parcels with the aid of the Rapiscanner and the Smiths Detection Machine. The use of the body scanner on all new arrivals and transfers continues to be an effective tool in the reduction of illicit items, particularly phones, chargers and sim cards. Intelligence led spot searches, often with dogs, also prevent the ingress of banned items. While every attempt is made to prevent illicit items from entering the prison, they do still come in. Intelligence at the latter end of the year suggested that Spice was being produced within the prison from crystal form, again, this is being closely monitored within the prison.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

All residential units were clean and generally well-maintained. Cells in Beaufort wing have in-cell showers.

All residents were able to access notices, make medical appointments, make general applications and order food and canteen.

There were few applications to the Board relating to food during the reporting year (1.13% of all applications received – see section 8). Staffing levels in the kitchens varied during the year and the lack of a kitchen manager until January 2023 has meant there was more reliance on prisoners and, on occasion, prison officers. Special menus for cultural days and religious festivals were much appreciated, and three prisoners were employed to cook during Ramadan with spices provided by the local Imam. Special diets were catered for; the Board received some complaints that these lacked variety. Work in the kitchens was popular and there was always a waiting list.

The Governor placed a high priority on the appearance and cleanliness of the prison. Regular Board observations established that common parts inside and outside were regularly and effectively cleaned and, once restrictions were lifted, working parties worked hard on keeping flower beds attractive.

5.2 Segregation

The CSU has 10 cells, which are similar to those in the rest of the prison. Occupancy of the unit fluctuated during the year with monthly averages ranging from four to nine.

Residents with complex needs and challenging behaviour were seen to be managed sensitively by staff with a substantial input from the mental health team. Owing to their complex needs, some remained on the unit for long periods, and there were five occasions where a resident remained in the CSU for over 42 days; all necessary reviews were carried out.

The Board attended 35 adjudications during the reporting period and is satisfied that they were conducted correctly.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

Key work is an essential tool which re-enforces positive working relationships between officers and prisoners on the wings on a one-to-one basis. However, key work was limited to the most vulnerable, those on ACCTs and those soon to be discharged during the year, a population of only 18 prisoners vs 530 potential, as determined by Safer Custody. This was deemed necessary due to restricted staffing levels in the prison.

However, a relaxed atmosphere between officers and prisoners was observed on wing landings. While there have been accusations of bullying and racism against a few staff members, these appear to be the exception to a generally positive relationship between prisoners and officers throughout the prison.

The prison council is formed of men representing the views of the prisoners on their wing plus some officers and has met on a number of occasions during the year. It offers a forum for a constructive discussion on issues important to prisoners such as food, property and pay, etc.

However, prison council wing representatives lack visibility and prisoners are not always aware of what their role consists of. There is a need to strengthen the prison council by offering a better level of support to wing representatives by (a) being clear about their role and (b) actively publicising it on the wings and through the induction process.

5.4 Equality and diversity

Over the year there was a continued focus on protected characteristics. This drive was led by the Governor, the SMT and the Diversity & Inclusion lead.

During the year the following events have been run in the prison:

- Black History Month
- LGBTQ+ Month
- Disability Month
- International Women's Day
- International Men's Day
- Inclusivity Month
- Islamic awareness Month

The discrimination incident process continues to be taken seriously by the SMT. It has become impressively efficient and well-documented, and reports appeared to be well investigated by managers, with an average of one to two raised per month. On following up with some prisoners who raised DIRFs, they felt the process was handled quickly and fairly.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

The chaplaincy team were observed to be proactively engaged in a programme to link residents with appropriate local faith communities on release.

The Board heard positive comments regarding religious festivals throughout the reporting year.

5.6 Incentives schemes

The incentive process changed in Jan 2023 for the better, to encourage and reward prisoners with good behaviour who were also engaging in work or education i.e., as their course level increased so did their salary in regard to employment, or they were given other rewards such as extra gym sessions and an increased spending allowance.

During the course of the year the prison system also withdrew the extra financial contribution that prisoners received during Covid, this was a difficult transition for the prisoners as they grew dependant on this during the two previous years.

The Board welcomes the new programme introduced of 'super enhanced' statuses to suitable Beaufort residents as this provides additional privileges, and the criteria to

qualify is clearly displayed on the wing and in other common areas visited by the prisoners.

5.7 Complaints

All complaints, including those made against staff, appeared to be taken seriously and were thoroughly and promptly investigated. Property continues to be a main contributor to the number of complaints received by the prison as well as through applications to the IMB. Delays in delivery, loss of personal possessions between prisons and delays in communication between the property office (Reception) and prisoners remain a significant problem and point of frustration for prisoners. Of the 1184 complaints received by the prison 18% (212) related to property.

5.8 Property

Approximately 30% of total applications to the Board related to missing or delayed property, delays to receiving property within the establishment (20%) and delays receiving property during transfer from another prison (10%). Staffing shortages in the prison were the main reason for the delays in getting property to the prisoners and Reception was often the first area closed to provide staffing on the wings. The delays due to a transfer from one prison to another were the result of prison transportation refusing to take more than two bags at the time of transfers. This resulted in the originating prison having to courier the bags at a later date.

Information regarding property that does arrive with the prisoner in the prison is efficiently recorded and the safe custody of valuables works well. Where the board has observed problems through applications, it is about property ordered by the prisoner whilst in prison and the length of time it takes to be delivered to the prisoner.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

In December 2022 the contract for healthcare moved from Practice Plus Group to Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust and this move was achieved without disruption to on-site services. All staff were transferred across the new employer and an experienced temporary Healthcare Manager was brought in from HMP Belmarsh. Some additional staff were appointed and, at the time of writing, the prison awaits a new permanent Manager.

The reduction in Covid has seen health services bounce back to pre-epidemic levels. In an average week, approximately 350 men receive healthcare of some sort. Appointments were quicker than one might expect in the community, with an average turnaround for medical appointments being under 48 hours. Outpatient clinics are run just as they would be in the community.

According to the Prison records, staff vacancies were high and the use of agency staff provided an additional 200 hours per month. Priorities now include the appointment of a Senior Psychologist and a Senior Nurse. Staff shortages in mental health mean the prison doesn't always comply with NICE (The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guidelines for talking therapy pre-medication.

The last six months have seen the establishment of Healthcare Reps on each wing. These men signpost care paths to the men and attend a monthly forum to discuss issues with staff. The board observed that this might be one of the contributing factors to a decrease in healthcare complaints to approximately twelve a month, as issues are addressed on a more immediate level.

A Health Centre phone has been installed, which connects to the in-cell telephone units already in position across the prison. There are now treatment rooms on three wings, which brings the staff into daily contact with the wing populations. Grenville has been designated a drug recovery wing and is slowly being populated with suitable men.

Healthcare staff attended all observed ACCT reviews and safer custody meetings, where their input was clearly valued.

6.2 Physical healthcare

Healthcare continues to try and balance having medication available when needed versus excessive retention or transfer of medication. There continue to be ongoing issues with illegal psychoactive substances, which requires health staff attendance and has an impact on services provided.

Dentistry suffered the biggest challenges due to the national suspension of all treatments creating aerosols. With several additional clinics, the dental service has now managed to clear the backlog and is predominantly sustaining the caseload. At the end of the reporting year there were only seventeen men awaiting treatment.

Over the last year Healthcare Services have made real progress but a continuing shortage of staff in key areas is now slowing advances.

6.3 Mental health

Mental health issues have been a challenge for the prison over the last year: as an indication of the number of prisoners suffering from some form of mental health illness, we were informed that at the end of March 2023 there were 130 people receiving a long-term prescription for antidepressants. Of these, approximately 50% had arrived at Portland with a prescription. A total of 15 prisoners had arrived having been previously under the care of their local community mental health team. The number of open ACCTs at any one time is another indication of the size of the issue, those numbers include prisoners self-harming and/or suffering from suicidal ideation. It is more often than not that the prison has one or more prisoners on constant supervision.

This year has seen an increase in violence between prisoners and the number of prisoners in debt to each other, resulting in additional stresses and pressures on men with potentially fragile mental health. A number opt for self-isolation which puts other pressures on an individual's state of mind. The fact that some prisoners may be living in fear is an additional element influencing their mental health.

Early awareness of a prisoner's deteriorating state of mind should come from key work but this depends on the officer involved having sufficient knowledge and awareness of mental health issues to identify a potential problem and take steps accordingly, and the prisoner receiving key work in the first place. As key work is fundamental to spotting deterioration in mental health, it is important that officers are trained in mental health awareness.

Mental health provision in the prison is managed within the general healthcare contract. It follows a Stepcare system, starting with the GP and following the community model. Care is provided through 2 Band 6s, 2 HCAs, 1 psychiatrist, 1 psychologist and 1 assistant psychologist. However, work has been hindered in this reporting year as there have been difficulties recruiting a psychologist for HMP Portland. At the end of the year, group work was offered on sleep hygiene and mood management with 8 people in a group at any one time.

The mental health team includes a discharge coordinator who ensures that medication, together with a letter to a GP is recorded and continued in the community.

6.4 Social care

Social care is provided by the local council if required and screened for shortly after arrival at the prison. They ask about daily life and if support is required.

6.5 Time out of cell, regime

After the wild fluctuations during Covid, the regime has been successfully re-established.

The unlock time for prisoners in work is currently in excess of six hours with workshops operating morning and afternoon. All activity/industry sessions are now working at full capacity. Approximately 20% of the men are occupied full time, 60% part time and the remaining 20% are awaiting deployment or refusing to engage. This has improved from the first half of the year where 20% of the men were locked

up during the working day as there was not enough work opportunities available or the prisoner chose not to work.

Facilities at Portland for physical activity are excellent and the establishment has at last managed to fill its physical training instructor positions. Men are offered at least one gym session a week and several manage more. The rugby academy continues to enthuse eligible candidates.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

The substance misuse team had a caseload of 230 at the end of the reporting year, which is 43% of the prison population. This is slightly less than the previous year, of between 45% and 50%. As observed by the board, new arrivals at the prison were treated with care and respect by the reception team. As reported in prison records, those on opiate substitutes (between 87 and 97 during the period) were seen by health staff by day two of arrival at the prison; and in the first week to have a meeting with the substance misuse team and, if required, were assigned a recovery worker and offered a modular programme to address their issues. Staff shortages in the substance misuse unit in the spring of 2023 have impacted the delivery of some recovery services, such as the use of the gym for those in recovery,

For nine months of the reporting period the Grow Project, based on Grenville wing, gave support to those wanting to come off drugs and there was a waiting list for those wishing to take part. The feedback from prisoners was extremely positive but the project is currently on hold until the team know the direction the prison wishes to go regarding a recovery wing. There has, however, been a monthly focus on one particular aspect of drug use with posters and literature distributed to the wings.

In January 2023, Buvidal (buprenorphine), an injectable alternative to methadone was introduced for prisoners within six months of release. By March there were eight on this programme with numbers increasing. Those leaving the prison on release are helped by a designated community worker within the substance misuse team who provides medication referrals and ongoing support information.

6.7 Soft skills

There were plans to start a yoga group in April 2023.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

Every prisoner has the ability to study and improve skills such as maths and English, giving them a better foundation to move on and study for professional qualifications. These courses were offered during the year. Ofsted found that 'leaders considered the curriculum carefully. They made sure that the education, skills, and work offered were sufficiently broad to meet the varying needs of prisoners.

Progression across the Educational and vocational curriculum needs to be celebrated. 48 learners achieved 1 level of progression, 22 learners moved 2 levels and 8 achieved 3 levels of progression. 105 learners completed 2 courses, 42 completed 3, 13 achieved 4 courses and 5 learners completed 5 different courses within the year. As well as this, 113 learners moved from non-accredited to accredited qualifications.

Ofsted found that 'prisoners treated each other and staff with respect. They behaved well in learning and work activities. Prisoners' relationships with each other improved through their interactions during education and the working environment'.

Ofsted found that the library was good – it supported education and staff organised a range of initiatives. Enrichment activities are at the centre of what the Library and Learning Resource Centre (LLRC) do to provide learners with opportunities to engage in personal and social development activities that sit outside of the core curriculum. The IMB Board noted the new librarian has made significant changes in the reading material, worksheets, and opportunity for parents to record stories to be played to their children.

The LLRC Art Exhibition included over 40 pieces (learners and staff work), 3D models, origami, and mixed media (two full sized chandeliers made from 310 Vape Caps) as well as painting and drawing. 70 members of the public attended the ticketed event, with excellent feedback given.

7.2 Vocational training, work

New learning models were introduced this year with the construction academy, outreach peer mentoring and the football academy.

A total of 100% of learners now have an active Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The vast majority of ILPs capture skills starting point and most learners record transferable skills progress. Significant progress has been made; however, more learner reflection, developmental feedback and SMART targets are required.

During this reporting period the majority of work available to prisoners was part time only and very few were eligible for release on temporary licence (ROTL). In the first half of the reporting period many of the vocational workshops were not running due to staff shortages, although this improved in the second half of the year. Ofsted found that 'leaders had improved the quality of education, skills and work at the prison since the previous inspection and had achieved most of the recommendations.

7.3 Offender management, progression

The Offender Management Unit is responsible for helping prisoners achieve their sentence plan while in prison.

7.4 Family contact

The perception of prisoners was that social visits were not frequent enough for those who could leverage the social visitor days, and the location of the prison made it difficult and unaffordable for families to visit, which added to their sense of isolation. However, the installation of in-cell telephones was welcomed and made phone calls to family a more frequent occurrence, as well as the re-introduction of family days as approximately 35% of HMP Portland's population have children.

7.5 Resettlement planning

The Board has, from time to time, taken the opportunity to talk to prisoners who have just been released and are waiting on the pavement outside the prison for transport, about their experience in prison and their preparation for release. In general, men have indicated that (a) they have a place to go to and (b) they have gained some additional skills to prepare them for work. They appear confident going forward, many stating an aim of never returning to prison.

In December 2022, the prison set up a weekly multi-disciplinary meeting to consider all aspects of individuals' needs on release and to check that they are going to be met. This includes representatives from SMS, DWP (the Department for Work and Pensions), health, housing advice, the resettlement team and the OMU. However, in theory, under the reforms made in 2021, Community Offender Managers (COMs) are responsible for each prisoner 7.5 months before their release, and they are not present at the resettlement meeting.

In terms of resources, the prison is fortunate in having access to housing advice and a full-time member of staff of the DWP based in the prison. However, its resettlement team was severely depleted by the reforms of 2021 which has resulted in the workload of the entire prison falling on one full-time person, reduced by 1.5 members of staff. The establishment also planned to set up an Employment Hub from the beginning of 2023. This is currently on hold due to the long-term sickness of the officer who is to manage it.

It is estimated by OMU staff that prisoners being released with no fixed abode (NFA) are approximately 10% of the total but the accurate figures rest within the local Probation Service system. We have been pointed to the need to extend to a national basis the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 (CAS3). This would provide 83 nights' accommodation for prisoners who would otherwise be NFA. It would only apply to prisoners released on licence. Those who reach the end of their sentence, even if they are high risk, leave the prison with no support or supervision.

As reported last year, there continues to be overlap, confusion and lack of communication between the OMU and its Prisoner Offender Managers (POMs) and COMs. This can result in actions being duplicated or falling through a "gap" in the system when one party assumes action has been taken by the other. It also means that the POMs spend some time "chasing" their colleagues in the community who are also working under extreme pressure and can therefore be hard to reach.

8. The work of the IMB

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	13
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	4
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7
Total number of visits to the establishment	153

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year 2021/2022	Current reporting year 2022/2023
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	23	8
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	5	4
C	Equality	4	6
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	10	14
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	14	16
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	14	16
F	Food and kitchens	3	4
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	20	52
H1	Property within the establishment	24	70
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	37	34
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	6	28
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	41	50
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	17	24
K	Transfers	15	14
L	Miscellaneous	6	14
	Total number of applications	239	354



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