



# **Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP/YOI Hindley**

**For reporting year  
1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023**

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## Introductory sections 1 – 3

### 1. Statutory role of the IMB

1.1 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.

1.2 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.

1.3 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** The secure site at HMP/YOI Hindley, was originally opened as a borstal in 1961 but now provides a resettlement and training prison to category C adult, male prisoners and young adults aged 18 - 21 years.

**2.2** The prison has eight residential wings including the pre psychologically informed planned environment (pre-PIPE) 10 bed unit and a separate care and supervision unit (CSU). The pre-PIPE is externally funded and a national resource, receiving prisoners meeting the strict entry requirements from across all areas of the country. Pre-PIPEs are residential units which assist men with diagnosed personality disorders who are not psychologically ready to benefit from a therapeutic facility.

**2.3** Each wing houses the full age range of prisoners with young adults dispersed across the estate. The maximum number of prisoners that can held without serious risk to safety, security, good order and the proper running of the planned regime, known as the operational capacity, was 600<sup>1</sup>.

**2.4** There is an ambitious capital plan in place to significantly extend the current prison estate to increase accommodation from the current 600 to 1094 men, effectively doubling the prison population. Project planning and pre contract surveys/enabling work has now almost concluded and building work on the site is due to begin in earnest in May 2024, with a projected finish date sometime in 2027.

**2.5** The Current core six residential wings A - F vary in size and purpose. The original 4 wings A-D house 83, 75, 84 and 84 prisoners respectively, with E wing accommodating 131 beds and F wing 133. The pre-PIPE has capacity for 10 men.

**2.6** Previously, the prison accommodated men with up to 4 years of their sentence remaining, but recent pressures nationally on prison space, means HMP/YOI Hindley now accommodates prisoners serving life sentences or those with indeterminate sentences for public protection, alongside the original target group.

**2.7** There is a large sports hall marked out for games, including football, badminton and volleyball; 2 fully equipped weightlifting areas; a cardiovascular area; a remedial room, along with good shower and changing facilities; 2 artificial turf football pitches and a grass sports field.

**2.8** The prison has 2 multi faith centres, which provide a full programme of services, groups, group work and support activities for all faiths and none. On the site of the chaplaincy services area, there is a small but impactful outdoor nature area, which houses chickens, rabbits, birds, and beehives. The chickens produce eggs, and the beehives produce good quality honey which is intended to be marketed and sold. The area provides a relaxed, family friendly environment for the men and for those identified families to meet and enjoy the outdoor experience together. This has been particularly effective for those prisoners and family members who experience neurodiversity issues and find it a challenge to be in the main visiting area.

**2.9** From April 2022, primary care staff were transferred over to Spectrum Healthcare Ltd, the largest prison provider in the north of England. Mental Health care continues to be provided by Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

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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.

(GMMH). Psychosocial drug rehabilitation services are provided by 'Change, Grow, Live' (CGL).

**2.10** The Healthcare Centre at HMP/YOI Hindley is purpose built and houses four times a week GP and twice weekly dental surgeries, immunisation sessions and a variety of nurse led specialist healthcare and wellbeing clinics. The impact of Covid19 restrictions have been lifted and prison has not experienced any significant health related infections during the period of this report.

### **3. Key points**

#### **Background**

The context within which the following information is set out, is an important factor to consider. Worthy of note is that over the reporting period, the prison has had a number of changes in some leadership and governance roles and this has enabled a new impetus for change and improvement in identified areas. The increased visual presence of prison governors and senior leadership across the prison estate is apparent. This is complimented by improved communication from leadership. Initiatives worthy of note from a Board perspective include a greater focus on data and analysis to inform planning; newly established leadership of the training and work strategy, which is showing some early positive progress. There is a refreshed prisoner consultation strategy under a newly formed prison council, which whilst it is early days and there have been some initial teething problems, has the potential to establish real and meaningful engagement processes with the prison population, leading to the men feeling they have a greater stake and influence.

**The prison has adopted 5 key strategic priorities that underpin their work. These are:**

- A drugs strategy: to restrict drugs, reduce demand and build recovery.
- To provide purposeful activity
- To have a safer community
- To develop staff
- To have a young adult strategy

Towards the end of this annual reporting year, the prison has undergone a full inspection from HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). Whilst HMIP findings and recommendations have acknowledged the establishment's attempts to improve key areas of operational delivery, at the same time, the inspection has highlighted the considerable and continuing challenges faced by the prison in achieving desired changes in specific areas and successfully achieving the prison's stated priorities.

Issues of concern identified by Board members over the past 12 months, have also been highlighted by HMIP. This has included continued illicit items including drugs entering the prison, thus engendering substance misuse, which in turn often leads to debt and this is a known associated factor in the increasing rates of violence and self-harm that is prevalent throughout the prison; insufficient training and work-related activities for the prison population; and the older residential accommodation being too cramped and becoming increasingly unfit for purpose.

#### **3.1 Main findings**

##### **Safety**

The Board is concerned about the increase in violence, affecting both prisoners and staff at Hindley. There are continuing risks to be managed on a daily basis against this backdrop, including:

- There have been an increased number of violent incidents with a corresponding rise in Use of Force (UoF), with the highest monthly recorded incidence of UoF in October 2023, over the past 5 years.
- The Board acknowledge the initiatives that the prison has implemented to prevent illicit items and substances from entering the estate but remain

concerned that drugs continue to be readily available in the prison and positive drug testing for random MDTs is the highest of all adult male prisons in England and Wales.

- Rates of self-harm continue to be a concern to the Board with HMPPS data indicating that self-harm incidences at Hindley are higher than many other similar prisons. There has been an 87% increase over this reporting period.
- The national problem of overcrowding in prisons, is impacting on HMP/YOI Hindley, who are continuously operating at near or full capacity. This situation offers little operational respite on a day-to-day basis, with diminishing opportunities to implement strategic imperatives. This situation is compounded by rising staff sickness/absence levels and frequent staff turnover (over 60% of new recruits leave the service within their first year).

### **Fair and humane treatment**

- Overall, the Board considers that prisoners are treated with fairness and humanity.
- Hindley IMB have voiced concerns over the year, regarding the numbers of prisoners who have been self-isolating for long periods, especially those with long sentences to serve. Many in this category are in debt and wish to remain in isolation because of this. Whilst the regular safety intervention meetings (SIM), attempt to ensure these prisoners are regularly monitored, engaged and encouraged to re-join the general prison community, this section of the prison population continues to cause concern.

### **Health and wellbeing**

- Overall, the Board considers the health and wellbeing needs of the prisoners are being satisfactorily met at HMP/YOI Hindley.
- Regular anecdotal informal feedback to the Board, from the men in receipt of healthcare over the past year indicates that they generally feel the health services at Hindley to be of a satisfactory standard.
- Alongside the general clinical services on offer, worthy of commendation is the high standard of other, wellbeing related services provided at Hindley, via the gym and physical fitness team as well as the chaplaincy services and Partners of Prisoners service (POPs). Together, they provide a range of health, fitness and wellbeing related activities and programmes that compliment and support the work of the prison medical team, particularly around the areas of lower-level mental health support, self-care, engagement with prisoner families and overall wellbeing.

### **Progression and resettlement**

- As highlighted in previous annual reports, the Board remain concerned that there have been insufficient activity places to enable all men at HMP/YOI Hindley to have purposeful activities which support progress towards positive rehabilitation. The deficit has been maintained at an average of 100 places throughout the year, despite a rise in occupancy levels to just under 600 men. Credit must go to the education, skills and work teams for the efforts they have made maximising the number of available activity places on offer.
- The above situation has been exacerbated due to the number of half day sessions that have to be cancelled due to lack of staff. This is either due to vacancies or absence. This has been compounded by a number of the men,

unused to regular work, education activity and routine, refusing to attend their allocated activity, despite sanctions imposed upon them.

- Access to the Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) is limited, and available resources allocated to the prison for this purpose do not meet demand. This is a cause of anger, frustration and tension for those prisoners who technically meet the criteria for the programme but cannot access it due to limited training resources. The prison has made valiant and creative attempts to increase and extend the availability of TSP, but it is accepted that they cannot do this in isolation and without additional resources from national funding streams.
- Although staff have worked hard to ensure that the target of 93% of prisoners have accommodation on the first night after their release, it is fair to say that most of those without a fixed address are returning to the northwest (NW) area of England outside of Greater Manchester (GM). Seetec, who provide rehabilitation services for men going to live in other parts of the NW and UK, offer an offsite service to men who are without accommodation upon their release. Igneous provide rehabilitation services for men across GM and have two members of staff within the prison, so are able to offer more individualised support.

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

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

Re-categorisation and release: whilst the pressures on the prison population are appreciated, the plethora of national initiatives regarding re-categorisation and release have caused, and continue to cause, frustration and misunderstanding amongst the prison population. This leads to upset and, at times, anger, when the men are unable to progress to the categorisation status, they think they meet the criteria for. This situation is not helped by prisoners often not being able to access all the courses indicated on their sentence plans.

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

The prison continues to progress plans for significant expansion and on-site work is imminent. Current national financial constraints mean that there is no available funding to upgrade or improve the existing older, cramped accommodation to an acceptable level. The Board are concerned that the current two-tier standard of accommodation, once new work commences, will effectively establish a three-tier standard of accommodation and this could provoke upset and exacerbate complaints from prisoners housed in older, more run-down parts of the prison. The Board feel this is a missed opportunity, to improve the overall prison estate during significant capital programme work.

#### ***TO THE GOVERNOR***

The Board is concerned about occasions when there is a necessary change of regime and/or staffing shortages, that specialist activity is often the first casualty.

For example, key work sessions or specialist activity personnel are often redeployed onto general operational duties. Under such circumstances the reducing violence coordinator is often moved to operations and any scheduled key worker sessions are abandoned. It is hoped the coming year will provide the opportunity to safeguard and ring fence this vital strategic engagement work.



### 3.3 Response to the last report

Issue Raised	Response given	Progress
<b>To the Minister</b>		
Review of prisoners on indeterminate sentences (aka IPP).	The Justice Select Committee enquiry recommendation to review all IPP offenders was rejected, and release continues to be via the Parole Board.	Within HMP/YOI Hindley, one wing landing has been designated for longer term prisoners, including those with indeterminate sentences.
Delays in holding Inquests.	The delay with these cases is as a result of the backlog created by the Covid 19 pandemic. All outstanding Jury cases have now been listed. The Senior Coroner is sympathetic to concerns raised and takes the issue very seriously.	The Board continues to be concerned about this issue and the negative impact on both families and prison staff.
<b>To the Prison Service</b>		
The impact of the prison extension plans on the current, older estate.	The (capital) project team work closely with MOJ Property to maximise benefits to the prison expansion programme. There is currently insufficient funding to replace older accommodation and due to current national population pressures, the current spaces need to remain available. A long-term strategy is being developed.	The Board continues to be concerned about a potential three-tier accommodation standard that will be created under the prison expansion plans.
Prison staff recruitment process.	The current centralised recruitment model ensures a consistent assessment standard is applied which helps to combat unconscious bias. Prisons can bolster recruitment locally with outreach awareness activities.	Whilst this situation continues, much has been done with HMP/YOI Hindley to enhance staff coaching and development.
<b>To the Governor</b>		
Number and length of lockdown periods.	Regime changes have improved the periods of time that men should be out of cell.	Staff absence continues to cause periods of lockdown.

Cancelled work or training sessions and the comparatively low attendance at any purposeful daily activity.	The appointment of the Head of Education, Skills and Work has begun to impact upon availability of work and training opportunities.	A new approach to encourage men into suitable activities to meet their individual development needs is showing early benefit but the challenges continue.
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## **Evidence sections 4 – 7**

### **4. Safety**

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

4.1.1 The prison continues to have a transient population with an average of 12 prisoners arriving weekly. This can present challenges in dealing with prisoners' property transfers and settling the men into their new environment. However, the number of applications (written representations made to the Board) in respect to property is lower this year than last (from 24 to 17).

4.1.2 All prisoners are received into the main reception area where they see healthcare and chaplaincy prior to moving to the early day's unit. Men were allocated to wings despite the difficulties finding appropriate wings for individuals with the prison population being at, or near, capacity throughout the year. This process worked well overall with no notable issues.

4.1.3 Searching of individuals and their property resulted in some illicit items being prevented from entering the prison. These were mainly drugs and mobile phones. In October there were 127 scans carried out, of which 17 were positive with Metallic or Organic items being identified.

4.1.4 The Reception X-ray scanner is now deployed more frequently for men returning to the prison after escorted journeys.

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

4.2.1 There was one death in custody (28<sup>th</sup> February 2023). This was apparently not self-inflicted and the man died in hospital.

4.2.2 The incidences of self-harm have increased this year, with 54 incidents which is an 86% increase from the previous year. Whilst cutting was the most frequent method of self-harm there has been an increase in the incidents of men swallowing batteries from previous years. In some cases, the reason for self-harm has been identified as an attempt to get out for a hospital visit or to secure a move to the CSU.

4.2.3 There were a number of men identified as prolific self-harmers who accounted for circa 50% of all incidents.

4.2.4 The SIM meeting regularly reviews individuals who present a self-harm risk, are self-isolating or present a risk of harm to themselves or others through arson.

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

4.3.1 There was an overall annual increase in violent incidents of circa 50%. Assaults on staff have averaged in the region of 6 per month.

4.3.2 Violent incidents are reviewed at the violence scrutiny meeting. This is done by observing recorded footage from body worn cameras (BWC) and close circuit television (CCTV.) These reviews are aimed at attempting to identify the main causes and then take remedial action to reduce the number of incidents in the future. These meetings are scheduled to be held weekly; however, they do not always take place. This is mainly due to staff availability. The Board believe this is a lost opportunity to seek

proactive action to reduce the increasing incidents of violence in the prison. Whilst the prison has appointed a coordinator to provide a rigorous overview and develop an understanding of the motivators for violence, the member of staff is frequently re-deployed to cover on the wings for staff shortages. The Board whilst recognising the resource pressures and operational deployment imperatives of the prison, are concerned that this is a missed opportunity to reduce violence and contribute significantly to achieving one of the prison's flagship adopted priorities (to have a safer community).

4.3.3 There has been an overall average of 8 men self-isolating across the prison in the past year. This number in December 2023 was 11. The Board frequently visit these men. Of particular concern are men who have a significant time left of their sentence to serve. The SIM meeting discusses each of these men with the aim of bringing them back into a wing regime as soon as possible. The men are also visited routinely by governors, chaplaincy and mental health staff. The Board have raised the issue of encouraging and supporting the men to move back to the general prison community wherever possible.

#### **4.4 Use of force**

4.4.1 There has been an increase in the incidents where force was used this year. In October for instance there were 75 incidents recorded - the highest monthly number for five years. Incidents were mainly associated with fighting and escorting (usually from a wing to the CSU). The average age of men involved in UoF incidents is approximately 25.

4.4.2 There was no evidence that the number of times UoF was used in incidents involving ethnic groups or men with a particular race or faith were significantly different to the prison population as a whole.

4.4.3 The use of force review team met regularly throughout the year, either under the chairmanship of the head of safety, kindness and decency; the deputy governor; or another governor. The Board monitored a number of these meetings over the reporting period of this report.

4.4.4 The meetings varied in terms of numbers attending. On some occasions last minute action was required in order to find sufficient numbers to hold the meeting. However, overall, with representatives of senior management, trainers, safer custody, healthcare and chaplaincy present, there was adequate skill and experience to enable incidents to be scrutinised appropriately. The statistical analysis information prepared for the meeting was comprehensive with good data analysis, and accurate minutes were produced reflecting the discussion and actions taken.

4.4.5 There were a number of actions placed, throughout the year to further improve the data clarity to aid the scrutiny process.

4.4.6 The improved BWC system has now operated for a year with the availability and wearing of cameras now significantly improved since the last IMB report. 88% of incidents were recorded on BWCs. However, there were still occasions where the cameras had not been turned on as incidents developed, negating the opportunity for subsequent scrutiny to establish if sufficient de-escalation attempts had been made before the use of force was deployed. Closer monitoring of individual officers' performance in this respect and subsequent remedial action, now forms part of the use of force review process.

4.4.7 After each incident, where force is used, a statement is required from officers involved. These form part of the use of force meeting and are reviewed along with the available CCTV and BWC footage of the incident. Whilst there are examples of detailed, well-prepared statements there are still examples of less than satisfactory accounts of the incidents. This impedes the process of transparency, in ensuring force is both compliant with policy, appropriate and proportionate. Actions have been put in place by the prison management to address this shortfall with individual officers.

## **4.5 Preventing illicit items**

4.5.1 The prison has experienced an increase in drug related problems. Mandatory Drugs Testing (MDT) has at times throughout the year resulted in over 50% of prisoners who were tested returning a positive result, peaking at 63% in September. This highlighted the increased incidences of self-harm, debt and violence in the prison. With new and increasingly potent drugs becoming available (for example, Nitazenes), the Board is aware that this is not an isolated problem for Hindley and that such substances have started to enter other prison populations, increasing the risk of serious health problems for users. The main drugs that have been available illicitly in HMP/YOI Hindley, are cannabis, psychoactive substances and ketamine. The Board have detected, first-hand, the very strong smell of cannabis on the wings from time to time during visits this year.

4.5.2 The use of drones continues to present a key route for illicit items to enter the establishment. This appeared to be particularly concentrated on A and C wings towards the end of the year. The prison continues to liaise with the police, local residents and intelligence agencies in attempt to reduce this source of supply.

4.5.3 'Throw over' events (where items are thrown into the prison over the fencing) continue with the rear of E wing being a particular target.

4.5.4 There is minimal deterrent through the routine searching of staff, contractors and other official visitors and their property entering the prison. Infrequent deployment of random searches, x-ray scanning of bags and deployment of drug detection dogs, may be a contributory factor to the prevalence of illicit items entering the prison. The Board consider this to be a missed opportunity to reduce the physical and mental harm and subsequent problems such as debt, bullying and violence in the prison. The Board recognises there are both physical and budgetary constraints and it is not the only route for illicit items entering the prison; however, the Board believes this to be a high priority that, if addressed, could make a notable difference to outcomes for the prison population and improve the working lives of staff.

4.5.5 The production of illicit alcohol ('hooch') in the prison environment, continues to result in behavioural problems and medical risks. An example of this was a prisoner sustaining a head injury through falling whilst under the influence. There have been examples where receptacles used for holding brewing liquids should have been disposed of and not available to the men. The good practice of rendering used containers useless by puncturing them prior to disposal does not appear to be universally or consistently applied across the prison estate.

4.5.6 There has been some investment in renewing windows on two wings (E and F) to prevent access to drones and prevent the men hooking in throw overs of illicit items. However, funding is not available to replace windows on the rest of the estate, which seems to be a false economy on the part of the prison service.

## **4.6 Conventional safety**

4.6.1 There have been a number of cell fires this year (22), which is broadly consistent with the previous two years (2020-22). The causes of men starting fires this year were identified as: nine behavioural; seven drugs/debt related; five mental health; and one accidental. These fires have to date been dealt with successfully without serious injury.

4.6.2 Fires present a high consequence if even minor circumstances conspire to occur, and the risks can be fatal.

4.6.3 The Board is concerned that whilst the misting/sprinkler system deployed in the cell has been successful to date, it is only effective if the volume of combustible items within the cell are controlled. The Board have been aware of examples this year where prohibited items such as extra mattresses, electrical items (i.e. microwave and a heater) have been found in cells. In addition, some cells have a build-up of litter and other combustible materials deposited in the window grills. Much of this is plastic which if ignited will potentially produce dangerous gases with associated risk outcomes.

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

### **5.1 Accommodation and food**

5.1.1 The current structure of accommodation remains the same with the original four wings (A,B,C and D) felt largely unfit for purpose with cramped cells and a lack of maintenance and refurbishment (originally built for juvenile prisoners). E and F wings, built at a later date, are substantially better, being brighter and with more open space and sight lines.

5.1.2 The Board are concerned that the planned extension of the prison estate programme will change the current two-tier standard of accommodation into a three-tier system of accommodation and are mindful of the potential negative impact this will have on both staff and prisoners. This could be a possible cause of upset and frustration at such a variable standard of accommodation on offer for the men.

5.1.3 There are a number of cells with dual occupancy, which are only intended for single use. This situation mitigates any essential privacy entitlements. Due to the Board expressing concerns about privacy issues, particularly in relation to the shared toilet facility, any missing screening curtains were fitted, to improve the situation and provide a basic degree of privacy. This is to be commended. However, men are routinely required to eat within the cell environment.

5.1.4 The Board undertakes regular “deep dives,” of the residential wings. This in-depth scrutiny of wings on a scheduled basis has revealed some cleanliness, maintenance, and hygiene issues over time. This is often in relation to cleaning equipment left in poor condition, litter and piles of unused and outdated publications left in the common areas and some electrical equipment being out of use. Some wings have reasonable amounts of recreational equipment for prisoners to use, whilst others are poorly stocked. There was a purchase of some Board Games and other recreational type of items to occupy the men, but it was difficult to see whether these were being meaningfully utilised. The exercise yards are generally well used, and some do have outdoor gym equipment that is in reasonably good condition.

5.1.5 Although there are industrial type washers and dryers on the wings, on occasions these are not working, causing prisoners some concerns and frustrations about how they will get their clothes laundered.

5.1.6 The kitchens have responded to prisoner complaints about lack of variety, cold presentation and “odd” combinations of menu and food ingredients. Kitchen staff have consulted widely and produced colour coded information for prisoners to consider when ordering their food. A recent visit from environmental health inspectors graded the kitchen as 4/5 which is a significant improvement from a previous grade of 1. This is to be commended, given the kitchen area is in the oldest part of the buildings.

5.1.7 There remains a challenging budget for the kitchen manager to organise and plan for, as there has been a reported 100% cost rise in some basic foodstuffs. Supply problems have at times proved difficult, as last-minute notice of shortages often leads to substitute provisions which are not popular with the men. However, to work in the kitchen remains a popular choice for prisoners.

5.1.8 Some aging and inefficient cooking equipment leads to problems for cooking 3 meals a day for around 600 people. The kitchen staff do well in these difficult circumstances and are often inventive in how they produce the food on time each day. The Board regularly visit the kitchen and taste the food on offer, which is generally of a

good standard, although at times, portions can appear small. There is a keen awareness throughout the kitchen of the need to ensure that separate meals and containers are used if there is a religious or health need to do so. Religious festivals such as Ramadan where the serving of food, utensils and timing is an important factor, has been strictly adhered to.

5.1.9 The issue of specialist diets has been highlighted by the Board – these are costly and more difficult to provide. The normal meal allowance is £2.70 per day, per man, whilst a kosher meal would cost £8.70, which is a huge price difference. It was agreed by the prison that menus should be suitable to meet lifestyle, medical and religious choice, enabling a balanced diet to be provided for all the men. In order to implement these dietary changes in a safe, fair and equitable way, healthcare staff undertook an individual review of those men on special diets. This resulted in many of the men who had previously been on a self-selected special diet, returning to the general menu. This was not universally welcomed and resulted in a number of applications being sent to the IMB. The Board has looked into the special diet policy and how it is being applied and is satisfied that the new criterion for a special diet is fairly applied. There are no longer any self-referrals for a special diet being accepted by the kitchen and only healthcare recommends prisoners requiring special food as part of an assessed medical need.

5.1.10 The Board is pleased that prisoners will continue to be consulted about food and that theme days, festive days and other celebrations will be provided for.

## **5.2 Segregation**

5.2.1 The CSU is generally well maintained and has been recently redecorated in the common areas and in some individual cells. There is now less of a ‘clinical’ feel on the unit which presents as a clean, warm and welcoming environment, with the addition of plants and some wall art. Some prisoners with complex needs have on occasions damaged their cells to the extent they become unusable. Fortunately, in time, these are repaired and can be occupied again. The office area in CSU, although limited in space has been reorganised and decorated and appears to be a more efficient workspace.

5.2.2 The problem of prison spaces nationally impacts on transferring prisoners both out and within the prison itself. Many CSU prisoners indicate that they prefer to stay there where they feel safer and away from wing troubles and problems.

5.2.3 The Board continue to be impressed by the leadership and staff working in the CSU. They are adept at dealing with complex, vulnerable prisoners, some of whom are both violent to staff and to themselves. Staff have effectively dealt with increasing volatility on the wings and consequently in the CSU. The Board have raised issues around the capacity of CSU to take in the numbers of men deemed eligible to reside there. There is often a need to undertake a virtual daily risk assessment on who should remain in the CSU and who presents less of a risk and can be moved back to the wings or transferred out of the prison. The reasons for this are understood but could present a potential risk in that men who are not ready to leave the CSU may be moved prematurely because of the daily pressures on this service.

5.2.4 A total of 211 prisoners were located on the CSU during 2023. This consisted of 150 adults and 61 young offenders (18-21 years). The average age of prisoners located on CSU was 29.6 with the majority being adults aged 22 - 50 years.



5.2.5 In 2023 Hindley had a total of 19 prisoners that were located on the CSU beyond 42 days. Four of these had extended stays beyond 84 days. All extended stays were authorised in line with prison policy and protocol.

5.2.6 The Board both monitors the standards in the CSU and where possible, monitors the reviews of prisoners detained there. The Board agrees that reviews which were monitored followed the required processes and reached reasonable decisions. The drive to design an exit plan for each prisoner was observed to be generally well executed. Prisoners were listened to, but governors often have to be firm about managing prisoner expectations. The Board feel that sometimes prisoners are allowed to behave somewhat unreasonably during the review process, with a lack of consistent expectations around presenting behaviour during a review i.e. slouching in the chair, swearing unnecessarily, and dictating what they (the prisoner) expect to happen. This behaviour varies depending on the governor leading the review.

### **5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers**

5.3.1 The Board had real concerns about the lack of keywork undertaken (where a designated officer provides ongoing 1-2-1 support to a prisoner,). There was a persistent problem of cancelled sessions, often due to operational staffing shortages and the need to redeploy personnel.

5.3.2 The prison has targeted the 18-25 age group (typically 150 eligible young adults) to engage in programmes of work. This is via a programme called Choices and Changes. The focus of this is to encourage a developing maturity to emerge within the young people. It is hoped that the national approach to young adults (YA) will be adopted in the prison. The prison operates an incentives scheme that rewards good behaviour whilst allowing privileges to be taken away from those who behave poorly or refuse to engage. There are three distinct levels - basic, standard and enhanced - with additional privileges as men increase through the levels. A high percentage of the YA population were on basic regime, of which 70% are responsible for violent incidents occurring in the prison. These YA need to be involved in the incentives privileges framework (IPF), having already identified that neurodiversity, financial acumen and a lack of parental support and guidance are the main issues that they are struggling to manage.

5.3.3 The prison has identified that they need to have ring fenced key workers and to do more training with the younger officers who often lack the maturity themselves to deal with high pressure/high risk scenarios. Given lockdown conditions are no longer necessary to implement, it is disappointing that this was not more firmly established. The daily and weekend regime, although changed towards the end of the year, is in place now, acknowledged by both prisoners and officers. The lack of key work is impacting on prisoner/staff relationships and the Board would hope that this becomes more of a priority in the future.

5.3.4 The Board have been pleased to note that the appointment of a new head of education, skills and work in January 2023 has led to a more consistent approach with a full induction programme established with greater emphasis on meaningful engagement of the men during the day either in work or training.

5.3.5 There have been a number of events in the year which have supported improving relationships, often involving sport or physical activity. A staff relations visit day was held in the Autumn, it was very successful and shared the workplace with

families. The prison continues to support charities, with staff and prisoners working together - this is to be commended and can distract prisoners from becoming self-absorbed and introverted, providing an opportunity for them to feel good about helping others.

5.3.6 There are approximately 40 prisoners serving a life sentence in Hindley and the plans for the 'lifer' unit have been put in place. This is a welcome initiative, including enrichment programmes being offered to them.

## **5.4 Equality and diversity**

5.4.1 The prison has recognised that improving staff awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) along with other issues such as neurodiversity, is important to achieve. The training on EDI available to staff means that as well as increasing awareness and understanding, neurodiverse prisoners can be approached and dealt with in a more individual, person-centred way. Trainees are to be offered training on communication skills and cultural differences. They acknowledge that better communication happens more readily on the pre-PIPE unit within the prison, who benefit from the support and guidance of a psychologist.

5.4.2 Prisoners tell IMB members they feel that there is not enough diversity or transparency applied in everyday actions. For example, when kitchen serverly workers are appointed, there appears to be little transparency about how the selection process has been put in place. The men will often accuse officers of being disrespectful and discriminating. The Board monitors this area and responds to any prisoner applications received on the subject. The prison investigates incidents in the use of force meetings held regularly and acknowledges that some of the incidents could be due to neurodiverse issues – making staff understanding and increased awareness of such issues a key priority to implement.

5.4.3 The prison is planning to identify diversity champions and possibly appoint an independent black, Asian and minority ethnic lead officer. This is in response to recent accusations from some Muslim prisoners who claim they feel discriminated against. The prison does act on information which the Board is able to share with it, in respect of religious beliefs and requests. One example that came to the attention of Board members was when a group of Muslim men on one wing complained that they had to use a microwave that had previously had non halal meat in it. They requested a separate microwave for exclusive halal product use. Once raised by the Board, the issue was taken forward by the prison leadership who asked the prison Imam to investigate and advise on this issue, which he did, and his advice was implemented and fed back to the men accordingly.

5.4.4 There remains a lack of meaningful data on disabilities of prisoners and staff. 47% of prisoners involved in use of force incidents are thought to have had some sort of disability. Unfortunately, many of this group are prisoners with learning difficulties whose needs are not formally identified or assessed fully, and therefore their presenting needs are potentially going unmet.

5.4.5 The physical facilities for disabled persons are very poor throughout the estate. This is largely due to the age of the estate. It is hoped that the pending capital extension programme will provide improved facilities for those prisoners and staff who have physical disabilities.

5.4.6 Prisoner Forums and wing committees have recently been replaced by a new prisoner council. Each wing has an elected representative, cleared by security, with a lead on a specific area for which they are responsible e.g. accommodation, residence and living standards. The Board has requested information regarding meeting times to be able to monitor meetings if possible. The prisoner council has yet to become firmly established, leading to some initial disenchantment from prisoners, who can soon lose faith in new initiatives if they are not pursued relentlessly. This is very much a work in progress and establishment and consolidation of this new forum is being monitored by the Board and the project lead regularly provides updates on the progress of this work.

## **5.5 Faith and pastoral support**

5.5.1 The Board remains impressed by the commitment and service provided by the chaplaincy team. They perform a critical pastoral role for prisoners.

5.5.2 Their role is widespread across and beyond the prison community– visiting those self-isolating, anyone in the CSU or on review, prisoners who are being inducted, prisoners undergoing an assessment care in custody teamwork (ACCT) review, and providing much needed practical help where it is required. This is a small sample of the role they perform. They are well liked and respected by all, and it is well deserved. They have managed to continue with this even though they have been short staffed.

5.5.3 The chaplaincy office and grounds are welcoming and interesting, with a range of small animals including rabbits, chickens, and birds. There is also a number of beehives, and the chaplaincy team are supporting the men to make their own honey. Allocated prisoners care for the animals and tend the grounds, which provides a relaxed, welcoming outdoor environment. The chaplaincy has provided special meeting sessions for the families of prisoners who are neurodiverse. Prisoners themselves describe this as therapeutic, giving them a focus away from the wings with dedicated time that meets specific needs.

5.5.4 Chaplaincy cater for those with or who have no faith – celebrating a wide range of significant calendar events over the year e.g. Remembrance weekend, where a very touching display in the prison grounds was effective and symbolic in promoting understanding and engagement.

## **5.6 Incentives schemes**

5.6.1 There has been a revision of the IPF scheme setting out the principles and differentiated levels – the idea is to provide a genuine incentive.

5.6.2 Some prisoners, particularly young adults (YAs), say they do not see the benefits of the enhanced status. This issue is to be addressed via a project *which* supports YAs through accredited training, mentorship and workshops. It is a challenging project, working not only in prisons but in schools, youth clubs, social care locations and across local authorities. It offers positive solutions to the challenges today's young people may face. The prison has yet to see the benefit of these interventions as the highest numbers of those on basic regime remains the 18-25 age group.

5.6.3 Regime data by ethnicity viewed earlier in the year, shows that over 20% of black, Asian and minority ethnic prisoners are on basic regime. Muslim prisoners were the highest number in this group i.e. 13.2% of the 20% ethnic minority population.

5.6.4 Adjudications are held regularly, but at times cases have been insufficiently prepared. This has led to 16% of cases being adjourned and long delays between hearings. As a result, cases have collapsed as being ‘timed out’. One particular case started in May 2023 and was still not completed by October 2023. As a result, the independent adjudicator took the decision to dismiss the case due to the time delay. Overall, 14% of referred cases have been dismissed. This lack of consistency in approach can lead to the men playing the system to their advantage.

## **5.7 Complaints**

5.7.1 Complaints have been dealt with far more efficiently in 2023. Data by age group shows that the highest number of complaints are from men aged 30-39 (46.4%), followed by ages 21-24 (12.5%). The lowest number are from men aged 50-60+ (0.9%).

5.7.2 Complaints data regarding ethnicity, shows that white British prisoners complain the most (72.3%), followed by black, Asian and minority ethnic prisoners (less than 20%). However, some prisoners make regular and sometimes numerous complaints about the same or similar matters. The prison eventually takes measures to stop vexatious complaints happening. There have been directions to ensure that there is no element of discrimination in complaints. It is hoped that this may be progressed further if the prison council meets more regularly, and this becomes embedded practice.

5.7.3 There were 24 discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRF) submitted in the year with 23 investigations completed. Forums on all protected characteristics are held throughout the year for different minority groups within the prison. There are named lead officers for all the protected characteristics within the Equalities Act.

## **5.8 Property**

5.8.1 This continues to be a key issue for prisoners, although 2023 mirrors the improvement seen in 2022, with regard to applications received by the IMB in respect of property issues.

5.8.2 Prisoners continue to express frustration and become upset and angry when their property is “lost,” or misplaced, especially on transfer from other establishments. A very recent example of this was in December 2023, when two prisoners were transferred out, both to another local prison in the same transport. One prisoner had all his property follow him to the new prison; however, the other prisoners’ items on the same transport, could not be found at the new destination. The IMB facilitated enquiries in both prisons, but this did not result in the man receiving his possessions. He was and remains understandably very upset.

## **6. Health and wellbeing**

### **6.1 Healthcare general**

6.1.1 The change in primary health care provision to Spectrum Health Care has been generally regarded as positive by the prison population. Notwithstanding the very transient prison population and the difficulties this brings to service delivery, the Board observed a good standard of care during 2023.

6.1.2 The head of healthcare has been in post since July 2023 and is well-respected and this structure change has been constructive.

6.1.3 A member of the overall healthcare team (primary and/or mental health) attend CSU reviews, ACCT reviews and make daily visits to CSU.

6.1.4 The Board have observed good relationships between health and other professionals across the prison and across other related services. The local health delivery Board meet regularly to maintain links between services, local authorities and health commissioners.

6.1.5 On arrival at the establishment, the men receive an initial reception screening within 24 hours at the prison by the healthcare team, who refer to the mental health care team as appropriate.

6.1.6 Staff shortages on occasions have resulted in the non-availability of some prescribed drugs at weekends which was highlighted by the IMB. The prison continues to monitor this concern.

6.1.7 Spectrum Healthcare, via patient satisfaction surveys, regularly monitor and record data associated with patient satisfaction. The Board queried how the analysis and data was used by the provider to improve services and collaborate with the prison service. Collaboration between the provider and prison service is complimentary.

6.1.8 The change of provider for psychosocial service substance misuse to *Change Grow, Live* (CGL), has been positive with both individual and group interventions being provided.

6.1.9 The prison continues to employ a drug strategy manager who provided an important steer to ensure there was an effective substance misuse strategy to counter the rise in the availability of illicit substances within the establishment.

6.1.10 HMIP undertook a full inspection of the prison during November 2023. Overall, health services were deemed to be of a good standard.

### **6.2 Physical healthcare**

6.2.1 As the service continues to recover from post Covid measures, the rate of attendance for GP and dental services continue to fluctuate.

6.2.2 The Board have regularly observed a number of men who have missed their health appointments or not attended as expected. A revised system of appointment slips was introduced. Concerns were raised by healthcare staff & substantiated by conversation with the men who indicated that they missed appointments because they did not receive an appointment slip in advance. This appears to be due to a lack of training of night staff who were unaware of the requirement to distribute the slips to the men in readiness for their pending appointment.

6.2.3 Two GPs deliver six sessions a week, one for substance misuse. Health staff visit CSU daily, with GPs visiting three times per week. There is around a one week wait for a GP appointment. A dentist offers five sessions a week, alongside two weekly dental hygiene sessions. There is an approximate wait of 2-3 weeks for a dental appointment, depending on need.

### **6.3 Mental health**

6.3.1 The mental health services at HMP/YOI Hindley are provided by the Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. The service operates with a model of care and assessment, interventions and support. The service is reportedly highly valued by prisoners and staff.

6.3.2 The regime changes at HMP/YOI Hindley, as a result of staff shortages, have impacted on mental health services and this continues to be monitored by the Board.

6.3.3 Constant supervision/watches on men have increased during 2023 and some men who are on constant watch, particularly in CSU, present with multiple, complex mental health issues. Whilst CSU staff in conjunction with the mental health team, provide a good service to this group, it raises the question of whether men suffering from such complex mental health conditions are best placed in CSU and would they fare better in a health specific environment better suited to their needs.

6.3.4 The Board raised concerns on the transfer of prisoners with complex medical/mental health needs via various weekly monitoring reports in 2023. There were two occasions when HMP/YOI Hindley was not informed of the prisoner's medical condition on arrival and the consequences of this were raised on two separate occasions (April and September). HMP/ YOI Hindley are looking to improve the process.

6.3.5 The average wait for an appointment with mental health staff was 10 working days although urgent assessments are completed on the day.

6.3.6 The pre-PIPE unit runs separately from the main mental health services, under a national contract. The unit can house ten men with a maximum of three under the age of 21 years of age. Men unable to comply with the regime requirements are placed on a main residential wing. The atmosphere and the general condition of the pre-PIPE unit is of a good standard and the unit presents as calm and welcoming, with fitness equipment, pot plants and a rabbit hutch, which supports the relaxed but active environment that is often seen by IMB members. The PIPE unit obtained an Enabling Environment award during the year from the Royal College of Psychiatrists, which is testimony to the admirable work undertaken by staff on the unit.

6.3.7 On several occasions, the IMB reported to the Governor, via monitoring reports, concerns about the lack of meaningful activity that is putting additional pressure on the mental health of prisoners. Further information on this is set out at section 7 of this report at point 7.2.

6.3.8 Healthcare staff raised concerns with the Board about expected mandatory attendance at every ACCT review (healthcare are scheduled to attend all ACCT reviews). This means that nurses often have to leave operational tasks to cover attendance at the meetings, which can disrupt health service provision.

## **6.4 Social care**

6.4.1 The prison works closely with the local authorities to deliver any required social care to those that meet requirements.

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

6.5.1 Physical exercise (PE) is an integral part of health and wellbeing for prisoners. The gym is very popular, and classes are well attended. The PE team/staff are well respected by the prison population. Modifications to the gym timetable over the year, with a revised regime, now includes a session from 6-7pm for full time workers and additional football /racquet sessions at the weekend. The gym sessions are linked to the IPF and those on basic level received reduced gym sessions.

6.5.2 The maximum number of 25 in the gym provides a better prisoner experience with sufficient equipment and less tense atmosphere.

6.5.3 The prison PE team have reintroduced Park Run every Saturday, with 3 wings a week having the opportunity to participate.

6.5.4 PE on prescription or socially prescribed PE was launched as an initiative in the prison during the year.

6.5.5 The Manchester City work in the community course continued throughout the year with specifically target groups of men under 25 years from Greater Manchester with 3-6 months of sentence remaining. This built on the first pilot held in 2022 which was successful with 10 of the initial 12 completing the programme, with positive feedback from tutors and prisoners. The second group undertook the programme in 2023 over a shorter period which only 4 of the 10 completed.

6.5.6 There is a challenge finding suitable candidates for this course as the offender management unit (OMU) provides an initial list of eligible prisoners. The PE team then interview all of the nominated men to check if they even like football. The activities are reviewed for those available (not in employment at the time), security then review the revised shortened list and then the PE team compile the final list of men to start the course.

6.5.7 The Board feels as if there may be too many obstacles to fill the course places and there is a question of whether the entry bar is set too high. The PE team have indicated they are willing to take less suitable men.

6.5.8 As detailed already, the Board have raised concerns that staffing shortages at HMP/YOI Hindley on occasions results in a restricted regime with time out of cells limited alongside a lack of meaningful activity and work and training opportunities. This situation can adversely impact upon the health and well-being of the men.

## **6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation**

6.6.1 As indicated already in this report, the prison has reported a higher level of positive mandatory drug test results, and the numbers were rising at the end of 2023. The number of men under the influence of drugs or drink is of concern as this increases the risk of a serious health consequence if the trend is not reversed. The prison has issued staff with a card outlining in brief what to do if a man is observed in this

condition. For men entering the prison with a dependency issue, there is support provided, including a care plan.

6.6.2 There is support and incentive plans for those entering the prison to stop vaping and there is a peer support strategy in place.

## **6.7 Soft skills**

6.7.1 The prison offers the opportunity for prisoners to utilise their gardening skills. The flower beds are tended by the men who enjoy the opportunity to tend and grow plants in the spring/summer months.

6.7.2 The centre housing chaplaincy services offers men the opportunity to care for a range of animals (rabbits, bees, birds and fish). The pre-PIPE unit now houses a rabbit hutch and is welcomed by the men.

6.7.3 The chaplaincy provides a range of group and individual support programmes.

6.7.4 There is a group of trained listeners available across the prison.

6.7.5 There is a group of prison council representatives representing each wing.

6.7.6 The wings have been refreshed with a range of murals painted by the prisoners and the prison displays a large and impressive range of artwork completed by the men.



## **7. Progression and resettlement**

### **7.1 Education, library**

7.1.1 After undertaking initial education, skills and work induction on arrival at the prison, the men are referred to a week-long induction to education activities (resulting in potential achievement of pre-requisite health and safety qualifications such as food hygiene), which are required to undertake work.

7.1.2 This model, however, has been disrupted by the lack of availability of essential information, advice and guidance (IAG) staff, who are key to both the men's induction and successful release plans.

7.1.3 The library continues to provide a wide range of books, literature, and associated information for the men, who have expressed their appreciation of the facility, to IMB members. The library environment is bright and welcoming, and the men can be observed reading books, newspapers, studying for courses and playing chess in what is a calm, quiet and conducive to learning environment.

7.1.4 During the earlier part of the year, education classes were the most poorly attended activity, especially by men who thought they could acquire a job on the wings more quickly.

7.1.5 The appointment of the head of education, skills and work (ESW) in June 2023, has positively impacted upon this situation and led to an overall review of HMP /YOI Hindley's education 'offer', which by year end, included roll on/roll off (RORO) English and Math classes, with weekly entry points becoming available. All other classes operate a 'cohort' model, meaning one cohort completes a course before a new group of men are allocated a start date.

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

7.2.1 Throughout the year there was insufficient activity places available for prisoners (see Fig 7.2 at Annex C).

7.2.2 By the end of December 2023 there were 515 places available (280 full-time and 235 half time). This figure compares to 444 places in April 2023 (246 full time and 198 half time).

7.2.3 The proportion of full-time places (54%), remains roughly the same, but attendance at part time activity remains a risk to the overall purposeful activity figure.

Factors which prevent full allocation of the availability of places include:

- insufficient staffing both in the administration of activities and also lack of cover for staff absences for those delivering activities in both work and education.
- Higher levels of population 'churn' (38% of the population compared with 32% in the previous year).
- Insufficient promotion of vacancies directly to prisoners. This is published weekly directly to residential wing staff, wing managers and key workers and is included in the Governor's and deputy governor's weekly update.
- A lack of priority and profile placed on education, work and skills activity, due to inexperienced prison staff who may not be fully aware of the importance of this for the men.

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

7.3.1 The OMU has been adversely impacted by a shortage of staff alongside a plethora of re-categorisation and new release schemes introduced to reduce the pressure on the prison population nationally.

7.3.2 During 2023, circa 70% of prisoners arrived at HMP/YOI Hindley without an initial assessment of their risk and need under the offender assessment system (OASys).

7.3.3 Prison offender managers worked effectively to ensure the vast majority of prisoners entering HMP/YOI Hindley had an assessment and approximately 82% of these assessments were also reviewed during the year.

7.3.4 Prisoners expressed their frustration to IMB members at the lack of availability of Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) courses at HMP/YOI Hindley. Whilst the prison has followed national guidelines on allocation to TSP, the presenting situation has prevented men from completing their sentence plans and therefore prohibited them from being considered for re-categorisation to be considered for a move to a category D, open prison.

### **7.4 Family contact**

7.4.1 Partners of prisoners, (POPs) are the family support providers who establish good links with prisoners from their arrival.

7.4.2 During the year there has been an expansion of the 'neurodiversity' family visits which began for men with children with neurodiverse conditions e.g. autism (ASD) and /or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Following the work of the newly appointed neurodiversity support manager these visits are now available to prisoners with these conditions.

7.4.3 These visits built up to at least twice a month by the end of the year and there was a total of 14 such family visits during the year.

7.4.4 In addition, there have been 16 family visit sessions which allow more informal family gatherings for men.

### **7.5 Resettlement planning**

7.5.1 The IMB have been impressed with the improvements in resettlement planning during the year. The resettlement Boards are held most Monday afternoons and are well attended by prisoners invited to them around 12 weeks before their release date.

7.5.2 Most men (93%) have arrangements in place prior to release.

7.5.3 However, we are aware that accommodation for men living outside Greater Manchester is more complicated to secure and this appears to be related to the lack of a presence of the rehabilitation service provider, Seetec, within the prison.

## **8. The work of the IMB**

**8.1** The IMB monitoring HMP/YOI Hindley has a recommended complement of 13 members.

**8.2** At the start of the reporting period, there was a total of 12 IMB members, with 11 attending and completing required duties. One member was undertaking an agreed period of leave of absence. Over the year, there have been a number of changes to the Board in quick succession. One member resigned; another transferred to a different Board; towards the end of this reporting period, one member left due to family issues and a more recently recruited member to the Board, left soon after the start of her induction period, due to a health-related matter.

**8.3** Two members have been on extended leave of absence during the reporting period, one being the Chair of the Board.

**8.4** Two members of Hindley IMB are also monitoring at HMP Risley. With one member also having monitored at HMP Forest Bank during the year.

**8.5** The number of applications received by the Board fell in 2023, from 142 in 2022 to 86 in the current reporting year. This mirrors the reduction in prison complaints received (see below table for details). There is no significant information available to suggest a reason for this reduction. The main concerns brought to the attention of the Board, as indicated in the table below, involved sentence management/categorisation, prison issues including bullying and loss of property during transfer.

**8.6** In respect of prison complaints logged by the prison, there has been a reduction over the reporting period. Down from 2,046 in 2022 to 1,585 in 2023. Property was the highest category of complaint to the prison in 2023.

**8.7** There has been an increase in IMB monitoring at prison segregation reviews (up from 119 in 2022 to 127 in 2023).

**8.8** There has been a reduction in visits to the establishment by Board members during 2023 (down from 357 in 2022 to 240 visits in 2023), however, they have endeavoured to maintain effective monitoring throughout the year.

**8.9** There was a triennial review of the Board undertaken during 2023, where members of the Board underwent an appraisal and were then subject to re-appointment by the Minister for a further three years. This demonstrated that all IMB members at that time, were compliant with expected attendance and actively undertaking their duties as a Board member (with the exception of those who were on an agreed leave of absence). All members reviewed and signed continuing compact agreements.

**8.10** Whilst retaining its independence, over the year, the Board at Hindley has had an open and honest relationship with the Governor and senior leadership of the prison. Despite the challenges there is good communication and openness with a shared desire to improve the prison facilities.

**8.11** The Governor or deputy governor continue to attend part of every Board meeting. This supports open dialogue and understanding from different perspectives.

## Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	13
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	12
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8 (includes 6 active members, 2 of whom are on multiple Boards and 2 members on sabbatical).
Total number of visits to the establishment	240

## Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	10	5
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	3	4
C	Equality	5	4
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	14	6
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	5	1
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	3	2
F	Food and kitchens	8	4
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	20	7
H1	Property within the establishment	10	7
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	14	10
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	3	0
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	32	20
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	12	12
K	Transfers	2	3
L	Miscellaneous	1	1
	Total number of applications	<b>142</b>	<b>86</b>

## **Annex A**

### **List of service providers**

- Maintenance: Amey
- Resettlement services: Seetec and Igneous
- Healthcare: Spectrum
- Psychosocial services: The Growth Company and Change Grow Live
- Mental healthcare: Greater Manchester mental health NHS foundation trust
- Education services: Novus
- Initial Advice and Guidance services: The Growth Company
- Employment, Training and Education (ETE) services): Achieve North West Connect

## Annex B

### Further tables on the work of the IMB

#### *Applications to the IMB by month*

REF	CATEGORY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
A	Accommodation / Laundry / Clothing / Ablutions			1			1	1				1	1	5
B	Adjudications / Discipline/ Incentives scheme	1	1						1				1	4
C	Equality & Diversity		1			1			1		1			4
D	Education employment training / TOOC / Purposeful Activity			3			2			1				6
E1	Letters / Visits / Phones / PP Measures								1					1
E2	Finance / Pay / Private money / Spends	1		1										2
F	Food / Kitchens	1								1	1	1		4
G	Health		1	3				1	1			1	1	8
H1	Property within Hindley	1		1			1	1			2	1		7
H2	Property during transfer / other jail	2	2	2		1	2		1					10
H3	Canteen / Facility list / Catalogues													0
I	Sentence / HDC / ROTL / Parole / Re-cat	2		7	3	1		1			3	1	2	20
J	Staff / Prisoner (inc bullying)	2	2	3		3	1	1	1					13
K	Transfer			1			1	1						3
L	Misc					1								1
		10	7	22	3	7	8	6	6	2	7	5	5	88

*Segregation reviews: comparison table*

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total number monitored by IMB</b>	180	75	93	119	127

*IMB member visits: annual breakdown 2023*

	Board meeting	Non-prisoner areas	Direct monitoring of prisoners	New member training	TOTAL	Number of serious incidents monitored this month
JANUARY	6	2	12	2	22	
FEBRUARY	8	3	12	3	26	
MARCH	8	3	16	3	30	
APRIL	6	2	11	3	22	1
MAY	6	3	7	0	16	
JUNE	4	0	11	0	15	
JULY	6	4	9	1	20	
AUGUST	7	1	12	1	21	
SEPTEMBER	5	2	10	0	17	1
OCTOBER	4	1	11	2	18	
NOVEMBER	4	2	12	1	19	
DECEMBER	5	2	7	0	14	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>2</b>

## Annex C

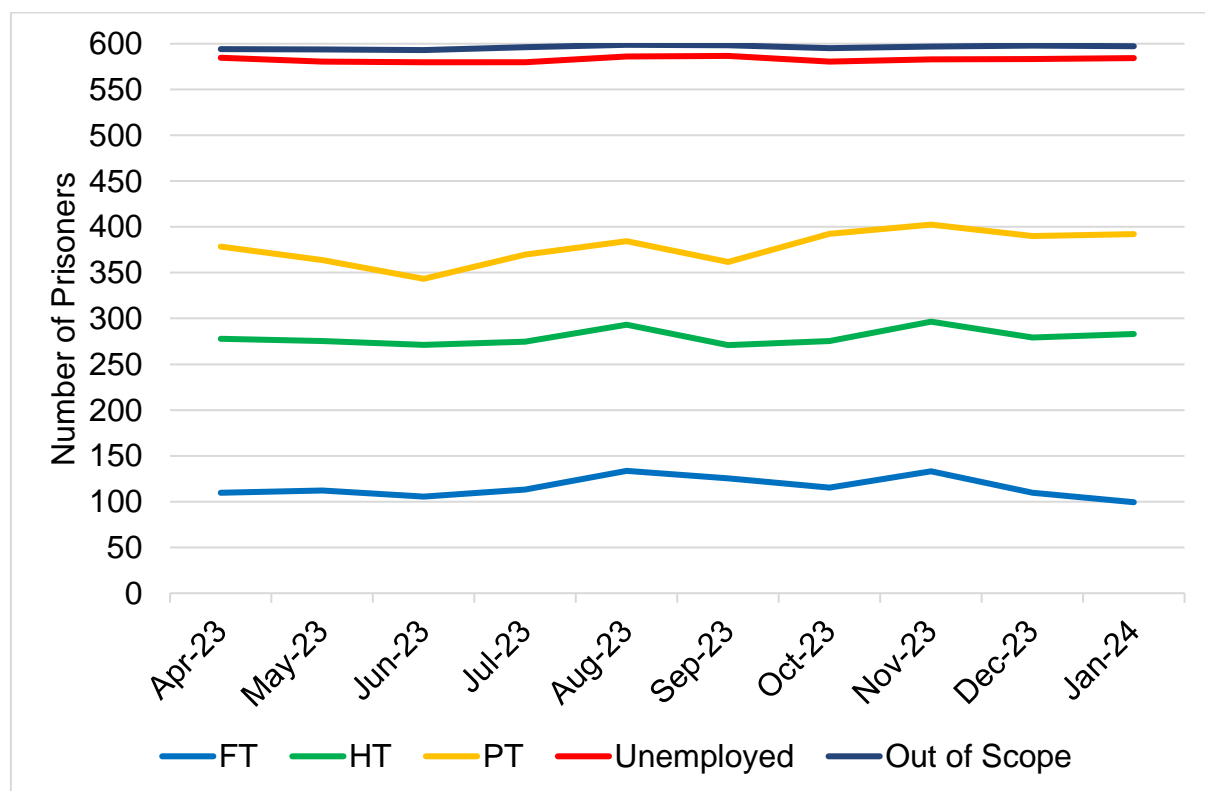
### Tables on the work of HMP/YOI Hindley

Fig 4.4. Use of Force statistics 2023



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
2018	19	19	14	27	29	22	31	43	18	32	33	39	326
2019	38	23	20	25	24	32	39	37	34	47	40	19	378
2020	22	35	32	34	38	37	27	23	29	24	33	38	372
2021	29	25	32	37	41	31	53	37	49	50	39	25	448
2022	30	20	34	36	44	37	32	35	31	66	53	50	468
2023	37	37	49	27	34	43	34	60	73	75	50	61	580

Fig 7.2: Prisoner allocations from April 2023 to Dec 2023







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