



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

**For reporting year
1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

Published June 2025



Contents

Introductory sections 1 – 3	Page
1. Statutory role of the IMB	3
2. Description of establishment	4
3. Key points	6
 Evidence sections 4 – 7	
4. Safety	11
5. Fair and humane treatment	15
6. Health and wellbeing	20
7. Progression and resettlement	25
 The work of the IMB	
Board statistics	28
Applications to the IMB	29
 Annex A	
Service providers	30
 Annex B	
Further tables on the work of the IMB	31
 Annex C	
Tables on the work of HMP/YOI Hindley	32

All IMB annual reports are published on www.imb.org.uk

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 The secure site at HMP/YOI Hindley, near Wigan, Greater Manchester was originally opened as a young offender's institution in 1961 but now provides a resettlement and training prison to category C adult, male prisoners and young adults from aged 18.

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, where prisoners are segregated). 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 be held without serious risk to safety, security, good order and the proper running of the planned regime, known as the operational capacity, was 600¹. The prison ran at this level or just below throughout the year.

2.4 There was 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. This was due to commence in May 2024. The current accommodation pressures and projected increase in the prison population nationally have necessitated additional growth in spaces and a third block is under consideration for HMP/YOI Hindley, delaying the commencement of the project as further planning permission is sought and the implications evaluated.

2.5 The current core six residential wings A - F vary in size and purpose. The original four 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 mainly accommodated men with up to four 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 (IPP), alongside the original target group.

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

2.8 The prison has two 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

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.

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 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 prison has not experienced any significant health related infections during the period of this report.

3. Key points

Background

Over the reporting period, the prison has had a number of changes in some leadership roles, with some vacant senior posts being filled with short term secondments or internal temporary promotions. Although this brought 'new eyes' to the issues, it can be challenging due to the lack of consistency, and the tendency for frequent changes in policy without time to allow initial ideas to embed as each appointment attempts to, as appears to the Board, 'make their mark'. Senior management continue to maintain their profile around the prison and are known by the prisoners, referring to them by name in conversations with Board members. Communications continue to improve between staff, but not as much so with prisoners. 'Way out' TV which is the default channel on all in-cell televisions was embedded into the life of the prison as a communication tool. It included an education package called 'way to learn' but this was not used as comprehensively as originally planned. The prisoner council had a shaky start but is now bringing real benefits to the prison, with prisoners believing that it is a worthwhile, productive group enabling direct communication with senior staff.

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

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

Following the HMIP inspection at the end of 2023, the inspectors returned to assess progress and once again interviewed a representative of the IMB. Progress was acknowledged, although further work was needed. The issues around the availability and ease of access to drugs and the impact on the prison population were once again highlighted and have been a consistent concern of the Board throughout the year. The inspectorate highlighted the resultant rise in debts leading to violence and self-harm, the lack of meaningful activity places such as employment or education, which means men have little to occupy them or distract from the drugs, and the very poor quality of much of the residential accommodation, which is no longer fit for purpose - all of which have been highlighted in previous IMB annual reports and continue to be the main concerns for 2024.

3.1 Main findings

Safety

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

- An increased number of violent incidents, with a corresponding rise in the use of force (UoF), with the highest monthly recorded incidence in the last five years of UoF in July and December 2024. An overall annual increase in the use of force from 2023 of 16.3%.
- 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; positive results from random mandatory drugs tests are one of the highest of all adult male prisons in England and Wales. The Board remains concerned about the lack of security and searching at the main gate.

- Rates of self-harm continue to be a concern to the Board, with HMP/PS data indicating that self-harm incidences at Hindley are higher than most other similar prisons.
- The national problem of overcrowding in prisons is impacting on HMP/YOI Hindley, who are continuously operating at very 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 staff absence levels, so management is constantly firefighting.

Fair and humane treatment

- Overall, the Board considers that prisoners are treated with fairness and humanity.
- Hindley IMB has 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 understood to be in debt and wish to remain in isolation for their own safety. 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.
- There continue to be extended periods of lockdown, meaning that men can be locked up in a cell that is unfit for purpose, due to size and cell sharing, for up to 23 hours per day. This is unacceptable but is the result of high levels of staff absence. During lockdown only essential workers have been allowed to attend their workplace, so others have had a disruption to their work routine, lack of continuity in education provision and reduction in social engagement. All these factors are not preparing prisoners for the world of work, helping their mental stability or levels of frustration.

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 meaningful activities that support progress towards positive rehabilitation. The deficit has been maintained at an average of over 100 places throughout the year, despite a rise in occupancy levels to just under 600 men. There remains around 250 full time places and 250 part time places for 600 men, meaning around 100 men have no purposeful activity to occupy them daily, and a further 250 are only partially occupied. This leads to boredom, frustration, increased time in cells, impacts mental health, does not prepare the men for employment on release and can increase the chances of drug use.

- The above situation has been exacerbated because of the number of sessions that have to be cancelled due to lack of both prison and activity 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.
- The introduction of early release schemes to manage the national capacity issues in prisons at relatively short notice meant many men left prison unprepared for their release, without accommodation or employment.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

The Board acknowledges and welcomes the changes made to IPP (imprisonment for public protection) sentences by the government but are concerned that an opportunity was missed to review those remaining in prison who in many instances have been held for significant periods beyond the tariff for the offence, with little hope of release. This impacts on their time in prison, their mental health and places additional stress on their families and friends. They were specifically excluded from the sentencing review; are there any further plans to right the wrong done to a still large group of men?

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. The current planned capital programme is not due to complete until at least 2028, and in the meantime, much of the existing prison is not fit for purpose and not providing suitable accommodation for prisoners, with no plans for any refurbishment.

TO THE GOVERNOR

The Board continues to be very concerned about the level of the use of illicit substances throughout the prison and the apparent ease with which items enter. The Board acknowledge the work carried out by staff to attempt to minimise this, including the particularly difficult challenge of drone deliveries, but remain concerned about the lack of security checks at the main gate, where staff, contractors, visitors and their bags are seldom searched and there are limited x-ray facilities.

Staff absence levels have been unacceptably high, which is impacting on the prisoners with extended periods of lockdown, restricted regime and disruption to work and educational activity. Although the Board acknowledges the efforts made to treat all wings equally, the level of lockdown, up to 23 hours per day, is neither fair nor humane, causing increased frustration, anger and further challenging behaviours.

3.3 Response to the last report

Issue Raised	Response given	Progress
To the Minister		
Re-categorisation and release: the plethora of national initiatives regarding re-categorisation and release have caused, and continue to cause, frustration and misunderstanding amongst the prison population.	The detail of initiatives was communicated in a timely manner but needed to be acted on quickly.	Further initiatives have continued throughout the year to manage the prison capacity challenges. These have placed undue pressure on staff and caused confusion and frustration to the men.
To the Prison Service		
The impact of the prison extension plans on the current, older estate.	No further funding is available	The situation has further worsened as budgets are tightened, inflation in construction costs rises, project is 'value engineered' removing many essential elements of the project. The recent announcement of a third wing will delay commencement further as planning permission is sought, with costs likely to rise further. Meanwhile, some existing residential accommodation is unfit for purpose.
To the Governor		
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 to an unacceptably high level.

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.
--	---	---

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

4.1.1 The prison continues to have a transient population with 888 prisoners arriving at the prison during the year, 613 released back to the community and 271 transferred to another establishment. This can present challenges in dealing with prisoners' property transfers, settling the men into their new environment, allocating activity places when available, loss of skilled workers from some areas and significant additional workload for staff based in the offender management unit (OMU). However, the number of applications (prisoners' written representations made to the Board) in respect to property has fallen again this year (a three-year downward trend, 24 in 2022 to 17 in 2023 to 13 in 2024) and for sentence management from 32 in 2022 to 20 in 2023 to eight in 2024.

4.1.2 All prisoners are received into the main reception area, where they see healthcare and chaplaincy, prior to moving to the early days unit (where new prisoners are housed to settle in before being allocated to a wing). 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 in reception prior to the move to the early days unit resulted in some items, mainly illicit substances and phones being prevented from entering the prison. The wide use of the body scanner identified items being secreted internally and prisoners were moved to the care and separation unit (CSU, where prisoners are segregated) until a clear scan was achieved.

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 were no deaths in custody during the year.

4.2.2 The number of incidents of self-harm has continued the upward trend with 558 identified during the year (481 in 2023, an increase of 16%), 80% of which were at a low level. The most popular method (63%) was through cutting. Informal, anecdotal evidence indicates frustration at the length of lockdown, a wish to go to hospital, or a desire to be located on CSU for their own safety, as the main reasons.

4.2.3 Four men were identified as individuals who frequently self-harmed, with over twenty incidences each in the year. They carried out 189 incidences of self-harm combined for 2024.

4.2.4 The safety intervention (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. These meetings include cross prison staff, with the IMB observing on occasion, and discussions on some of the most vulnerable in the prison are held.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

4.3.1 There was an overall annual increase in violent incidents of circa 22% (258 in 2023 to 315 in 2024). Assaults on staff have remained at similar levels to 2023,

averaging in the region of 6 per month. The prevalence of serious crime gang members and the rivalry of gangs from different areas of the north west have contributed to the increased violence. Separating these gangs is particularly difficult, due to the pressure on the available cell space on individual wings.

4.3.2 The violence scrutiny meetings reviewed the build up to an incident and the camera evidence available to determine any learning opportunities and whether staff action/inaction aggravated the situation, or examples of good practice. Key staff absences meant these were an irregular but still useful addition to the calendar.

4.3.3 There has been an increase in men self-isolating across the prison, from an average of 8 in 2023 to around 15 in 2024. The main reason cited is concern for their safety because of prison debt or concerns for safety as external challenges follow them into the establishment. 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 visited routinely by governors, chaplaincy, mental health staff and members of the Board. 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 of around 16% in the incidents where force was used this year, rising beyond the high levels recorded in 2023 (604 in 2023, 703 in 2024) and peaking in July and then in December, when 78 incidents were recorded – the highest monthly number for five years. Incidents were mainly associated with fighting and escorting (usually from a wing to the CSU). 62% were used on prisoners aged 18-25 years, who amount to around 40% of the total population.

4.4.2 There was no evidence that the number of times the use of force was used in incidents involving minority ethnic groups or men with a particular race or faith were significantly different to the prison population. Although slightly higher amongst black prisoners, this was believed to be because of the higher levels of black prisoners amongst the youngest cohort, who were involved in the most incidents.

4.4.3 The use of force review team met regularly throughout the year. The Board monitored a number of these meetings over the reporting period. The statistical analysis prepared for the meeting was comprehensive, with accurate minutes. Refinement of the data set continues, enabling corrective actions or further analysis to be targeted. 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 body worn camera (BWC) footage. 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 compliant with policy, appropriate and proportionate. Although actions have been put in place by the prison management to address this shortfall with individual officers, the quality of some remain below standard.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

4.5.1 The prison has experienced an increase in drug related problems. Mandatory drug testing (MDT) resulted in over 55% of prisoners who were tested returning a positive result in the year, peaking at 77% in one month, placing HMP/YOI Hindley as the highest nationally, with regular naming in the media. This highlighted the increased

incidences of self-harm, debt and violence in the prison. With new and increasingly potent drugs becoming available, some being blended within the prison and tested on vulnerable men, the Board is aware that this is not an isolated problem for Hindley and that such substances are regularly found right across the prison estate. There are occurrences of men found to be under the influence (UTI) virtually daily. A comprehensive care plan is in place to ensure prisoners found to be UTI receive the necessary medical intervention and ongoing monitoring, which appears effective and anecdotally has saved lives.

4.5.2 The use of drones continues to present a key route for illicit items to enter the establishment. The prison liaises with the police, local residents and intelligence agencies in an attempt to reduce this source of supply. Although frequent drones (around 150 during the year) are intercepted and their load seized, the improvements in technology and handling skills mean that they can deliver a load accurately, direct to a cell in under a minute.

4.5.3 'Throw over' events (where items are thrown into the prison over the fencing) continue and staff remain vigilant to intercepting the parcels where possible.

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 is increasingly concerned at this missed opportunity to reduce the physical and mental harm and subsequent problems such as debt, bullying and violence in the prison.

4.5.5 The production of illicit alcohol ('hooch') in the prison environment, continues to result in behavioural problems and medical risks. This uncontrolled liquid with unknown, untested ingredients remains one of the biggest risks to prisoners, where vulnerable prisoners are used to sample the latest 'brew' prior to its wider release.

4.5.6 Due to its concern about the high levels of illicit items, the prison sought external support for an unannounced, cross establishment 'tier three' search to be undertaken by trained and experienced officers from across the high security estate. These searches provide additional, independent staff to undertake a detailed examination of all cells. Although many phones with supporting technology, illicit substances and weapons were found, the level of violence used by a few external officers was unacceptable to the Board and Governors, who have pursued the matter through the official complaints process, with some matters referred to the police.

4.6 Conventional safety

4.6.1 There have been a number of cell fires this year (24), which is broadly consistent with the previous 3 years (2020-23). There were no cell fires in November or December 2024.

4.6.2 There has been an increase in the number of fire alarms across the prison and although the significant majority were identified as false, the concern is complacency amongst staff for a genuine alarm. Action was taken promptly to remove cooking equipment from the wings and isolate suspected faulty equipment in kitchens but their age means that this problem is only likely to increase.

4.7 Adjudications

4.7.1 The prison continues to have a high number of adjudications (disciplinary hearings when a prisoner is alleged to have broken prison rules), held six days a week. There are frequently in excess of 20 prisoners per day. This is an indication of the frequency prison rules are broken and require formal hearings. The IMB observed a number of these adjudications and noted the prison attempted to deliver justice despite many of the cases being protracted or dismissed due to lack of quality evidence from the staff involved. However, minor issues are often brought through this formal process. Governors and staff have on some occasions concluded the matter should have been dealt with on the wings. These hearings occupy a Governor and a number of staff, including escorting men to and from the hearings for approximately 3 hours each day.

5. Fair and humane Treatment

5.1 Accommodation and food

5.1.1 The structure of accommodation remains the same, with the original four wings A, B, C and D unfit for purpose, being cramped, with poor ventilation, inadequate heating and showers and poor lines of sight across the wings. E and F, although better, as they are brighter and with more open space, still consist of mainly shared cells. There is a pre-PIPE (psychologically informed planned environment) unit for prisoners with complex psychological needs, all housed in single cells.

5.1.2 The Board are concerned that the proposed extension, although welcome, will lead to a three tier system of accommodation ranging from the unfit, inhumane original wings, through the newer but still shared accommodation to the new wings with single, ensuite cells, built to the latest specification, and the negative impact this will have on both staff and prisoners.

5.1.3 The Board undertook an in-depth inspection of the residential wings on a rotational basis throughout the year, looking at the appearance of the wing, completeness and quality of paperwork and any issues by speaking to prisoners and staff. These have revealed some cleanliness and hygiene issues over time. The standards vary from day to day. The Board are pleased that wing cleaners are to be given some further training, based on the principle of 'What does good look like?' Competitions to reward the cleanest wing have been positive and successful.

5.1.4 The showers on all wings are below standard, due to age and numbers of prisoners using them; the Board questions if there is sufficient regular and consistent bio-cleaning.

5.1.5 The kitchen is substandard for the demand placed upon it. Equipment is old, regularly breaks down and can take months to repair. The planned new kitchen has been further delayed until at least 2029, and significant concerns are held for the current facility's ability to continue to function until replaced.

5.1.6 There remains a challenging budget for the kitchen manager to organise, due to continuing food price increases, often at short notice. Prisoners complain of small portion sizes and some undercooked food, including meat. The Board has seen this themselves and is concerned that this could lead to food poisoning issues, although none have been reported during the year. For the wings furthest from the kitchen, the heated trolleys are inadequate, and food is often tepid or cold on arrival. Servery standards are monitored by the Board, and the standards of cleanliness in machines such as macerators and kitchen equipment vary from wing to wing.

5.1.7 Overall, from the Board's conversations with prisoners, they seem to like to work in the kitchens, as it provides a warm environment with one of the higher rates of pay. However, repercussions from the national tier three search, drug finds in the kitchen, the transfer of more prisoners to category D accommodation, and the early release scheme, meant a shortage of security cleared men to fill vacancies and challenges to provide meals in a timely manner.

5.1.8 The kitchen manager, within the budget and other limitations, does try to provide well for prisoners with specialist diets, festivals and religious observances. Rather than send messages, the Board observed him go to personally visit a particularly complex and demanding prisoner regarding his food requirements and provide a special diet regardless of the increase in cost.

5.1.9 Prisoners have told us that they don't feel there are enough calories or protein in the food provided. They would like better facilities to cook for themselves; however, the cost of establishing the facilities is too high and recent experiences with the number of fire alarms activated on the wings and the cleanliness of the equipment means further risk assessments are required.

5.2 Segregation

5.2.1 The care and separation unit (CSU, for segregation of prisoners) continues to be well maintained, bright, welcoming and, despite dealing with some particularly vulnerable and difficult men, generally calm. It is well led by the custodial manager and staff who are understanding, patient and respond well to prisoner needs.

5.2.2 The problem of prison spaces nationally impacts on transferring prisoners both out and within the prison itself. Security concerns and lack of spaces mean relocating men back on the wing can be challenging. This has led to some longer stays on the unit, as suitable space is sought both within the prison and in the wider prison estate. Many CSU prisoners express that they prefer to stay there, where they feel safer and away from wing troubles and problems.

5.2.3 A decision to disallow the use of vapes within the unit was implemented in May 2024. This did not cause as much disruption as was feared, nor has it been a deterrent to prisoners coming into the unit, which is often at capacity. Since the introduction of the ban there has not been a cell fire, meaning there has been no loss of accommodation nor any incidents of self-harm because of lack of vapes.

5.2.4 There were 276 men located to the CSU in the reporting year 2024 – this is an increase of 19.5% and reflects the increased instability in the prison. Of these 276, 216 were adults (78%) and 60 were young adults (22%).

5.2.5 Board members observed reviews of prisoners in the unit, which appeared to be carried out efficiently by different Governors. The response of prisoners is very varied, ranging from those compliant with suggestions made at the review, to those who can be resistant and defiant of those in authority. Prisoner views are listened to and considered, but the Governor makes the decision based on what is best for the man and the prison as a whole. The Board believe that the process is fair, concerns of all parties are listened to and, within the constraints of the accommodation availability, acted upon.

5.2.6 19 prisoners remained on the unit for over 42 days in 2024, which is much the same as 2023. The reasons varied, but all decisions were based on the needs of the prisoner or security, often in difficult circumstances. The correct approvals were received, and paperwork was completed. The staff are diligent in relocating prisoners back to normal location as soon as is practical.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

5.3.1 The Board has real concerns about the lack of keywork being undertaken with prisoners and the persistent problem of cancelled sessions. HMIP stated (para 3.41): 'Not enough key work is being delivered because of shortage of operational staff and many prisoners do not have a named member of staff who know or understand their needs and who could help address their issues.' This remains an ongoing issue exacerbated by the high levels of absence. Staff sickness absence peaked at an average of 22.6 days per member of staff in October 2024, with over 40% of Band 3 officers unavailable all year.

5.3.2 The high rate of staff leaving within their first year of service has significantly decreased from 2023, showing a downward trend throughout 2024, to 10% by the year end.

5.3.3 The Board agrees with comments made by HMIP regarding relationships between staff and prisoners (para 3.39) – in their follow up inspection they were able to say that there was an improvement in relationships which had led to more settled wings and that staff were more confident in challenging poor behaviour. Prisoners were found to be more positive about officers and managers, and that there was, 'good visible leadership from SO's (senior officers) and CM's (custodial managers)'.

5.3.4 HMIP para 3.14 suggests there should be more focus on rewarding positive behaviours, for example, for those prisoners who are not involved in any violence for a month. In 2024, all 'violence free' prisoners were offered additional items from the weekly canteen, and wings that remained violence free received 'Saturday night take away', a bacon roll or doner kebab. Sports day attendance was only available to those who had been violence free for six weeks prior to the event.

5.3.5 The Prison Council consists of prison representatives from each wing plus a young adult (18-21 years old). It is now better established and met regularly under the leadership of a Governor. It met immediately prior to the senior leadership team which representatives of the prisoners then attend to personally raise their concerns and issues on prison life. Meetings have mainly focused on food, property, canteen, the condition of showers, machines not working and the lack of smart clothes available to attend funerals. Some of these issues have been resolved via the Council and data is kept, showing systematically if issues are resolved, require further work, are closed and then archived. It is a good process, with realistic expectations of what can be achieved.

5.3.6 There have been some events in the year, which have worked towards improving relationships, often involving sport or physical activity, followed by a barbeque. 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 inward looking. National 'events' are recognised, such as Remembrance Day and Christmas jumper day.

5.4 Equality and diversity

5.4.1 The equality and diversity action group meets regularly and is attended by prisoner representatives. The group has identified that data can become skewed by the prisoners who self-declare a disability, which is not officially diagnosed. Some prisoners have multiple disabilities for example, a learning disability, hearing loss and dyslexia.

5.4.2 Since the appointment of the neurodiversity manager, more work has been done on not only identifying the needs of neurodiverse prisoners but highlighting these within data analysis. This analysis shows clearly a higher rate with identified neurodiverse needs within Hindley (55-65%), than the general prison population (50%) or the general population (15-20%). There is a link between learning difficulties and committing offences in the prison; 72% with learning difficulties were responsible for fights and assaults, 65% responsible for disrespect and abuse of staff.

5.4.3 There are some programmes available to assist neurodiverse prisoners, for example, an eight week course by ADHD Wise UK, which can be used to good effect, promoting positive outcomes – unfortunately these cost £160 per prisoner, which is prohibiting its use.

5.4.4 There were 35 DIRF (discrimination incident reporting forms) submitted during the year, which after investigation, two were proven. Both cases were allegations of racial verbal abuse by prisoners, one concerning a member of the medical team and the second concerning a fellow prisoner and both were admitted at interview. All DIRF submissions are independently reviewed.

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, particularly those with complex needs.

5.5.2 Their role is widespread across and beyond the prison community– including visiting prisoners self isolating CSU detainees, inductions, assessment, care in custody and teamwork document (ACCT, used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide) and CSU reviews, family and individual support and providing much needed practical help where it is required. They are well liked and respected.

5.5.3 The Chaplaincy office and grounds are welcoming and interesting, with a range of small animals, which allocated vulnerable prisoners care for. Prisoners themselves describe this as therapeutic and giving them a focus away from the wings.

5.5.4 Chaplaincy cater for those with or without faith – celebrating significant events, for example, Remembrance Day, where a very touching display in the prison grounds was very effective.

5.5.5 The senior Chaplain has highlighted low attendance at services, another of the impacts of staff absences and consequent wing closures. This is concerning for the welfare of prisoners who genuinely want to attend a worship service.

5.5.6 There have been a few incidents of poor behaviour, involving violence, whilst in the chapel. Subsequently, these have been dealt with via the adjudication and incentives scheme (a system of privileges, used to incentivise prisoners to abide by the rules).

5.5.7 Religious services have been one of the favoured routes for the transfer of illicit substances around the prison.

5.5.8 Chaplaincy are the first port of call for many prisoners when they encounter family crises, need support (whether practical or psychological), or just a friendly face and a chat.

5.6 Incentives schemes

5.6.1 Unfortunately, this is not consistent across the prison, for example, one prisoner on basic (the lowest level of privileges) said he wasn't encouraged to achieve enhanced status (the highest level) therefore allowing for more association time out of cell at night as, 'we're all out anyway'. The Board are aware of some prisoners having achieved enhanced status, then refusing to attend work or education, and still remaining on enhanced. The activities allocations board now highlights and actions a review of any such cases.

5.6.2 At the end of the year, 14% of prisoners were on basic regime, 50% on standard and 36% enhanced. The majority on basic are under 25 years, few at this age are on enhanced. It has been highlighted that the 30-39 age group are the lowest on basic, the highest on enhanced, yet send in the most complaints on the official complaints forms.

The Board's analysis of this is that many young adults react poorly, often involving physical violence, whilst more mature prisoners submit complaints.

5.6.3 The Board commends the implementation of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, which is running successfully for some prisoners in the younger age group.

5.6.4 The equality and diversity group has established that there is no link between disabilities and the number of adjudications. However, there appears to be a link to be an overrepresentation of adjudications against prisoners from ethnic minority backgrounds. The group has directed that this needs further consideration, especially prior to the adjudication meeting. The Board would agree with this.

5.7 Complaints

5.7.1 Data by age group shows that the age group with the highest number of complaints are from men aged 30-39 at 46.4%, followed by ages 21-24 at 12.5 %. Young adults say they have no faith in the process, although the Board thinks this relates more to a maturation issue or the lack of skills to complete the forms.

5.7.2 Prison data shows that complaints have remained at similar levels to 2023 (2023 1585, 2024 1592) with 20% (2023 12%) of the complaints concerning accommodation reflecting the concerns made by the Board and HMIP about the condition of the current infrastructure and wider residential issues and 10% (2023 14%) of the complaints about property. These two were consistently the major reasons for complaints.

5.7.3 Applications to the Board are normally raised when there has been lack of a favourable outcome to a complaint, and residential complaints were low, at three, during the year. This would appear to indicate that these complaints are handled well, and an acceptable response received.

5.7.4 Complaints boxes are emptied each working day by an administrator, which provides confidentiality and the removal of potential conflict of interest with wing officers.

5.8 Property

5.8.1 This is a failure of the prison system generally, as prisoner transfer often leads to loss of property. There is a poor response from other establishments when they are queried and it is the source of much frustration amongst the men when irreplaceable, sentimental personal belongings are lost.

5.8.2 New proposals for an updated property handling system nationally were agreed but not yet implemented and so the problem continues.

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 difficulties this brings to consistent, extended service delivery, the Board overall observed a good standard of care during 2024.

6.1.2 The head of healthcare has been in post since November 2024 and although it is too early to assess the impact of any changes planned, she has a positive attitude to the role.

6.1.3 A member of the overall healthcare team (primary and/or mental health) have attended reviews, ACCT reviews, prisoners self isolating and made daily visits to CSU. The IMB notes that there was a significant rise in the number of prisoners on ACCTs (assessment, care in custody and teamwork documents, used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide) in July 2024, which was considered by healthcare to be due to increased time in cells. This placed additional demands on the time of the mental health team.

6.1.4 The Board continues to observe good relationships between healthcare and the other professionals across the prison and externally. 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 by the healthcare team within 24 hours of arrival and, if required, a referral to the mental health team. Prisoners are seen again for a full health assessment within seven days.

6.1.6 Staff shortages on occasions previously resulted in the non-availability of some prescribed drugs at weekends, which was highlighted by the IMB. There has been improvement in this issue due to the allocation of a nurse at the weekends to meet prisoners' health needs and ensure they can be met seven days per week.

6.1.7 Spectrum Healthcare, via patient satisfaction surveys, regularly monitor and record data associated with patient satisfaction. The IMB notes that in 2024, there were 112 patient experience forms, of which 92.6% were positive. Information is fed back to the commissioner and Spectrum. Additionally, a healthcare forum for prisoners captures their experiences of the healthcare and mental health services. This takes place monthly, and prisoners are selected at random. The IMB's own observations and an analysis of applications would concur with these satisfaction levels.

6.1.8 The change of provider for psychosocial service substance misuse to Change Grow, Live (CGL), continues to be a positive, with both individual and group interventions being provided. There is an active caseload of around 200 men at any one time.

6.1.9 The prison continues to employ a drug strategy manager, although at year end this was a temporary internal promotion, who drives the strategy to counter the rise in the availability and use of illicit substances within the establishment. The IMB notes that the use of drugs continues to be at an unacceptable level, with HMP/YOI Hindley remaining amongst the highest nationally. Naloxone (a drug that can reverse the effects of opioids in overdose or withdrawal) training was implemented in 2024, with around 100 staff at all levels now trained. It has been used on prisoners found to be

under the influence of an illicit substance and believed to have saved the lives of some men.

The HMIP report states: 'Illicit drug use remains a very serious problem with 59% of prisoners testing positive for illicit substances in the six months before the review. In one month, April 2024, as many as 77% of random tests were positive. The reported rate of positive random tests had continued to increase; for the previous six months it was 59% compared with 55% over the same period before the inspection.'

6.1.10 HMIP undertook a full inspection of the prison during November 2023 and were reviewed again in August 2024. Overall, health services were deemed to be of a good standard. The IMB notes that the uptake for the measles vaccination at HMP Hindley was the highest in the Northwest, with staff working evenings and weekends to ensure needs were met.

6.1.11 The Board notes that due to the work of the neurodiversity support manager, there has been a positive move towards raised awareness in understanding neurodiversity. A whole prison approach has been undertaken in terms of staff training and training workshops (three sessions) for prisoners who have expressed interest in supporting their peers. Implementing the use of tinted paper with a dyslexia friendly font enables some prisoners improved access to information. Although clinical diagnosis would be lower, 55%-65% of prisoners have self-declared in terms of their neurodiverse needs. A learning disabilities nurse has been identified in the mental health team for support.

6.2 Physical healthcare

6.2.1 The rate of attendance for GP and dental services continued to fluctuate in 2024, with 30% GP and 20% dentist appointments missed. The main cause of the nonattendance was staff shortages and the wing being on lockdown. Later in the year, health appointments were prioritised and nonattendance reduced with the use of a 'red band' trusted prisoner to deliver appointment slips and improve communication between healthcare and prisoners.

6.2.2 One GP delivers six sessions a weekly, one for substance misuse. Health staff visit the CSU daily, with GPs visiting three times per week. There was around a two week wait for a GP appointment. A dentist offers five sessions a week, alongside two weekly dental hygiene sessions. The IMB notes an increased waiting time in 2024, where the approximate wait is five weeks for a non-urgent dental appointment.

6.2.3 The prison does not have any beds for the ongoing care of prisoners, especially on their return from hospital when the only option is a return to their cell.

6.2.4 There has been an overall increase in the number of ambulances called to the prison to care for prisoners found to be UTI (under the influence) of illicit substances. Many of these have required hospitalisation or at least a visit to the accident and emergency department, indicating the risk to the prisoner, the seriousness of the incidence and potential for a more serious outcome. It also increases pressure on an already overstretched NHS.

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. In 2024 there was increased provision to strengthen the service for prisoners to include: eight qualified mental health nurses, a counsellor, support worker, health and well-being worker, a learning disability nurse, forensic psychiatrist (1/2 days per week) and a high intensity therapist providing EMDR (eye movement desensitisation and reprocessing, a trauma therapy). IMB note that there has been positive uptake for the monthly conflict resolution workshops amongst young adult prisoners, although the waiting time to join is lengthy. The selection process is in partnership with the OMU, where prisoners must first complete a violence reduction workbook before acceptance onto the workshop. A Wellman clinic (for men's health) is extremely popular and offers valuable advice to prisoners.

6.3.2 The regime changes at HMP/YOI Hindley, as a result of increased staff shortages, have impacted on mental health services and this continues to be monitored by the Board. The IMB notes that in July 2024, there was a significant increase in men subject to an ACCT, which was believed to be because of the increase in lockdown time.

6.3.3 The increase in the numbers of men subject to an ACCT, and consequential increase in the number of reviews, puts further pressure on the mental health team who are expected to and do attend every review. Although ACCT reviews are well attended, the IMB is aware that it continues to take healthcare staff away from operational tasks to cover meetings, which can disrupt health service provision. The Board has questioned if this is always the best use of invaluable, professional time.

6.3.4 Constant supervision/watches on men increased during 2024 and some men who are on constant watch, particularly in the CSU, present with multiple, complex mental health issues. For those men in the CSU, staff work closely with the mental health team and provide a good service for their care. The IMB notes that towards the end of 2024, there were three prisoners transferred to a secure unit, more than in recent years. The process can take several months and although the prisoners receive extensive support from the mental health team, the Board remains concerned that the CSU is not suitable accommodation for the long term care of these complex cases.

6.3.5 The average wait for an appointment with prison mental health staff in 2024 reduced, with prisoners seen within five working days. Urgent assessments or appointments for those in crisis are seen and completed on the day.

6.3.6 The pre-PIPE unit runs separately from the main mental health services, under a national contract, although the prisoners are still under the care of the mental health service in the prison. The unit can house 10 men, with a maximum of three under 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. The IMB observed good engagement in activities, with staff and prisoners working well together. The men are encouraged to use the enclosed outdoor area with fitness equipment, plants and seating to promote their physical health and emotional well-being. In December 2024, there was a real sense of community between staff and prisoners, as they embraced the Christmas spirit and decorated the communal area to a high standard. This gave men a purpose and routine to their day, alleviating some of the stress associated with that time of the year.

6.3.7 In 2024, 10 prisoners were employed as 'Listeners,' (prisoners trained by the Samaritans to provide confidential emotional support to fellow prisoners) with six on duty at any one time to support the mental health of other prisoners. All Listeners

undertook a three-day course provided by two trainers from the Samaritans, who also provided ongoing supervision and support. Unfortunately, the IMB notes that due to prisoner transfers and the fluid nature of the prison population, Listeners have fallen as low as two at any one time. The Board fully understand the challenges involved but, hope that this can be addressed to increase numbers, as it is a valuable support for other prisoners who may be struggling.

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) continues to be an integral part of health and wellbeing for prisoners. The gym is very popular, and classes are well attended, with particularly strong attendance in those aged 25-50. Younger prisoners (18–21-year-olds) are not engaged and this is reflected in other activities. There is no difference based on the ethnicity of the prisoner. The IMB observes that the PE team/staff are well respected by the prison population, and that they have the emotional and physical well-being of the prisoners at the forefront of their daily practice. There continues to be modifications to the gym timetable in 2024 to meet needs. There is a session from 6-7pm for full time workers and additional football and racquet sessions at the weekend. The gym sessions are linked to the incentive scheme privileges, and those on basic level received reduced gym sessions.

6.5.2 The reduced maximum number of 25 in the gym for any given session provides a better prisoner experience, with sufficient equipment and less tense atmosphere.

6.5.3 The prison PE team have a park run every Saturday, with up to 20 runners across all wings having the opportunity to participate. There is an application process for enhanced prisoners, but others who asked needed to go through an approval process. The IMB notes that participants are issued with a bar code for the 5k run within the estate and chosen family members can monitor their progress.

6.5.4 Greater Manchester fire and rescue, together with PE and safer custody team introduced FireFit (a competition based on firefighting tasks) in September 2024, where two cohorts of 12 completed an eight-week course. The IMB is pleased to note that one prisoner on release had gone straight onto complete a fire safety course with the Prince's Trust.

6.5.5 The Duke of Edinburgh course successfully supported six prisoners to gain bronze qualifications in 2024, which required a one-hour attendance for 12 weeks. Three prisoners have progressed towards silver award.

6.5.6 PE on prescription, or socially prescribed PE, continued to be in place on Friday mornings. This allowed those with mental health or neurodiverse needs to access the gym in smaller groups of three or four, either through self-referral or via mental health services. Prisoners were encouraged to participate in sports day in June 2024, unless involved in violence or drugs. The IMB observed the promotion of inclusivity with LGBTQ+ banners, flags and t-shirts. Chaplaincy provided resources for different religions. There was a strong presence from healthcare, with a wide range of resources and staff available to speak to the men. The IMB observed a great atmosphere, with staff and prisoners working together in terms of activities and organisation, which

contributed to an overall sense of well-being. Prisoners spoke positively about the event and embraced the opportunity to be outside and to socialise.

6.5.7 The Manchester City twinning project (a partnership between HMPPS and local professional football clubs) continued throughout 2024, which specifically target groups of men under 26 years from Greater Manchester with 3-6 months of their sentence remaining and provide football-based programmes to improve their wellbeing and obtain a qualification. This has developed since the first pilot in 2022 and demonstrated its success and sustainability with cohorts five & six, involving 10-12 prisoners, completing the programme over a 12-week period. The challenge remains to identify and enrol suitable candidates who meet the geographical criteria and are in receipt of security clearance.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

6.6.1 The recovery programme is run through Change Grow Live (a social care charity) with a cohort of around 14 men. At the yearend no programme was running, as staffing was at 50% and work was concentrated on the regular caseload of identified prisoners. It was relaunched at the start of January, with 14 enrolled on the programme.

6.6.2 The high level of drugs within the prison makes any programme or work difficult to successfully complete.

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, and the overall appearance of the prison estate is enhanced by their work.

6.7.2 The centre housing chaplaincy services offers men the opportunity to care for a range of animals (rabbits, chickens, 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 prison council representatives: one for each wing. This provides valuable experience of working in a group, making timely and relevant comments and then for a few presenting the group's views to senior management.

6.7.5 The wings have been refreshed with a range of murals painted by the prisoners, complemented by artwork in other areas of the prison. In a prison where the fabric of the building is old and tired, the bright colours do much to lift spirits.

6.7.6 There is wide use of 'red bands,' trusted prisoners who work across the prison assisting teams and providing support.

7. Progression and resettlement

The main issue continues to be the shortage of activity spaces, which leads to only around half the men in the prison being able to pursue meaningful activities at any one time. The prison has had over 590 prisoners throughout the year and with around 250 full time places and 250 part time places available on a daily basis, a significant number of men remain without purposeful activity, locked in their cells. As a result, some prisoners experience mental health challenges that can lead to an increase in self-harm and the use of illegal drugs. This behavior often results in mounting debt, which further isolates prisoners and can trigger violence.

7.1 Education, library

7.1.1 Access to education courses is good as a 'roll on / roll off' process has operated so men can access the level one literacy and numeracy courses soon after they arrive at the prison.

7.1.2 Frustration arises when courses cannot be held because of staff absence, with a lack of cover for holidays and sickness, etc, due to contract reductions. The staff absence levels meant men were unable to attend classes during the wing lockdown periods, lost motivation, and continuity of delivery and performance suffered. For five months of the year, no permanent English tutor was in post and there was a significant dip, with fewer starts recorded. Since October, the tutor has been employed and results have returned to around 84%, significantly above the contracted target level. Attendance of those allocated to education classes dipped as low as 35% in December 2024, which was mainly due to regime restrictions. This attendance level does not provide the experience or continuity of teaching to achieve a positive outcome.

7.1.3 The emphasis is on the provision of level one and two skills, so that men are eligible to be considered for workshops and future employment opportunities that require these skills.

7.1.4 The library is well stocked and used by the men. Access to the library is systematic, with each residential wing having an allocated slot each week. The frequent wing lockdowns have disrupted access as there have not been the staff to enable men to go to the library.

7.1.5 The CSU also has a wide range of books for men to read whilst on the unit.

7.2 Vocational training, work

7.2.1 Workshop spaces are valued highly by men and include recycling, laundry, gardens, carpentry and joinery, upcycling, brick laying, furniture restoration, 'Remade with Hope' (an offshoot of Marks & Spencer clothing), and the restaurant, which provides a staff canteen.

7.2.2 Similar to education classes, attendance has been affected by both workshop closures due to staff absence and wing lockdowns, due to prison officer absence and a curtailed regime.

7.2.3 The IMB has observed excellent work and care by tutors to support men working towards qualifications, with men enjoying their work.

7.2.4 The work of the prison employment lead has been most effective in supporting men to secure employment on release (39% six months following release). For this, he has been nominated for a national award.

7.2.5 A three-day self-employment event attended by eight prisoners was very positively received internally, delivered by the national co-ordinators New Futures Network (a service that helps businesses fill job vacancies and prison leavers find employment). It culminated in Dragon's Den-style pitches, with a range of prizes for the winners, all helping to establish a self-employment opportunity on release.

7.2.6 As a result, the prison has consistently been in the top three out of 23 of resettlement establishments for men in employment six months after release.

7.2.7 The prison continues to pursue and engage with external companies and bodies to attempt to secure additional workspaces to meet the long-term shortfall. However, initial startup capital and the ongoing running costs mean that several, frustratingly, have fallen by the wayside through lack of finance.

7.3 Offender management, progression

7.3.1 There has been an increased turnover of prisoners, with 888 arriving into the prison during the year and 95% remaining at Hindley for less than two years, either being released or transferred to another establishment, mainly category D prisons as the national push for spaces necessitated. This increases instability, lack of experience in Hindley regime and work requirements with additional administration to try and meet the needs of all men. The age breakdown at the yearend shows 44% are under 30 and 16% aged 18-20.

7.3.2 The increasingly high turnover rate of prisoners through HMP/YOI Hindley has meant that the work of the offender management unit (OMU) has been extremely pressurised, increased by the early release schemes in September (tranche one) and October 2024 (tranche two).

7.3.3 Approximately 125 men were assessed as to their eligibility for release under tranche one, which led to 27 prisoners actually being released. 117 men were considered for release under tranche two, resulting in 22 prisoners being released.

7.3.4 The OMU priorities are to see men soon after they arrive at HMP/YOI Hindley, as well as preparations for men being released. With the high turnover of men through the prison, it is not surprising that the IMB receives applications about the service the OMU is able to provide.

7.3.5 However, the OMU provide weekly drop-in sessions for men on each wing, with designated prisoner offender managers (POMs).

7.3.6 Robust arrangements are in place to provide adequate public protection arrangements, with monthly multidisciplinary meetings.

7.4 Family contact

7.4.1 The Chaplaincy and the charitable organisation Partners of Prisoners support family contact; the importance of family ties are well recognised throughout the prison.

7.4.2 Partners of Prisoners, (POPs) are a team of up to five members who provide support to prisoners in maintaining contact with their families. The team establishes good links with prisoners from their arrival in the prison.

7.4.3 There have been twenty-one 'family visit' events during the year, variously organised and managed by the Chaplaincy team; the PE Team; education, learning and skills; Change Grow Live (CGL, the psychosocial substance misuse team), the

decency team, individuals serving life sentences and long-term prisoner team, as well as by POPs. These usually last about ninety minutes and are child focused, with activities to encourage men to interact with their children. These visits usually accommodate up to 15 families per session.

7.4.4 The 'neurodiversity' family visits which are focused on men with children with neuro diverse conditions as well as for prisoners with these conditions, became well established and are held approximately twice a month. They can cater for up to ten families per session but often fewer than this number attend, although this did increase to seven families for the final visit in the year in December.

7.4.5 All the family-oriented visits have been an area for major improvement for the prison during the year, with funding to purchase appropriate toys and materials for families to use during the sessions supported by much improved communication and cooperation between all the various departments involved.

7.4.6 Several prisoners have been enabled to attend close family funerals, and suitable clothing provided through Chaplaincy if necessary.

7.5 Resettlement planning

7.5.1 Resettlement boards are held most Monday afternoons and are staffed by a full multi-disciplinary team, including a representative of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), information advice & guidance (IAG), the prison employment lead, the offender management unit, and POPs.

7.5.2 Frequent residential wing lockdowns have led to, at times, considerable non-attendance to the discharge boards by prisoners invited to attend around 12 weeks before their release date. These boards seek to advise prisoners on housing, employment opportunities, benefit eligibility and life post release. This has led to an increase of resettlement workers visiting men in their residential areas only adding to the pressure of the early release schemes and frustrations of the absence of prison-based accommodation providers

7.5.3 It is therefore to the credit of all those involved that only 33 out of the men released from the prison (less than 5%) have not had any accommodation on release. However, this is still too many and may contribute to an increased likelihood of a return to prison.

7.5.4 The prison has above target success with prisoners moving into employment, with 20% in employment at six weeks and 39% at six months after custodial release.

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 8 IMB members, (including: one monitoring from a distance, one on extended leave of absence and two dual boarders at HMP Risley).

8.3 Two members have been on extended leave of absence during the reporting period: the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. The Chair returned in June 2024 the Vice Chair resigned her post in August 2024.

8.4 The number of applications received by the Board remained at overall similar levels to 2023 (2023: 86, 2024: 85, see table below for details). This mirrors in the steady numbers of prison complaints received: 1,585 in 2023 and 1,592 in 2024. Property was the area most complained about (14% of prison complaints and 15% of IMB applications). However, the most significant area for IMB applications was staff relations and food. These application figures were distorted by one prolific prisoner who submitted 32 applications (38%) across virtually all categories. See table below.

8.5 There has been an increase in IMB monitoring at prison segregation reviews (up from 127 in 2023 to 133 in 2024).

8.6 There has been a reduction in visits to the establishment by Board members during 2024 (down from 240 visits in 2023 to 219 in 2024 as the reduced number of active Board members has an impact).

8.7 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 and experience for prisoners.

8.8 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	8 (includes 6 active members, 2 of whom are on multiple Boards and 1 member on leave of absence).
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	9 (includes 8 active members 2 of whom are undergoing induction, 2 of whom sit on 2 boards and 1 member on leave of absence)
Total number of visits to the establishment	222
Attendance at Board meetings	79%

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year	One prolific prisoner (included in total data)
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	5	3	2
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	4	5	2
C	Equality	4	9	6
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	6	5	
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	1	4	4
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	2	2	
F	Food and kitchens	4	10	8
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	7	6	5
H1	Property within the establishment	7	3	
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	10	10	
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	0	0	
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	20	8	2
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	12	16	3
K	Transfers	3	3	
L	Miscellaneous	1	1	
	Total number of applications	86	85	32

Annex A

Service providers

- Maintenance: Amey
- Resettlement services: Seetec and Ingeus
- Healthcare: Spectrum
- Psychosocial services: 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

Segregation reviews: comparison table

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total number monitored by IMB	180	75	93	119	127	133

IMB member visits: annual breakdown 2024

Annex C

Tables of prison data

Length of stay in Hindley:

As at year end 2024	No. of prisoners	% of prisoners
Less than 1 month	68	11.5%
1 – 3 months	109	18.4%
3 - 6 months	125	21.0%
6 – 12 months	169	28.5%
1 – 2 years	93	15.6%
2 - 4 years	25	4.0%
4 years or more	5	1.0%
TOTAL	594	

Age breakdown

As at year end 2024	No. of prisoners	% of prisoners
18 – 20 years	94	15.8%
21 – 29 years	166	27.9%
30 – 39 years	200	33.7%
40 – 49 years	106	17.9%
50 – 59 years	23	3.9%
60 – 69 years	5	0.8%
TOTAL	594	



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at imb@justice.gov.uk