



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Haverigg

**For reporting year
1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025**

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Introductory sections 1 – 3

1. Statutory role of the IMB

The Prison Act 1952 requires every prison to be monitored by an independent board appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the prison is situated.

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

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

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

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

2. Description of the establishment

HMP Haverigg, the only prison in Cumbria, is located on the site of a former RAF station dating back to the Second World War. The prison opened 58 years ago as a category C closed establishment. In December 2019, HMP Haverigg was re-categorised as a category D open prison and became a national resource used mainly, but not exclusively, for people convicted of sexual offences (PCoSOs).

The site is large, with six residential units of varying size within the 4.5-mile perimeter, and is exposed, especially to strong sea winds. Some distance from mainline rail services and major road networks, the location of HMP Haverigg is acknowledged as having an impact on the maintenance of family ties, on recruitment to specialist posts in the prison and also, given its rural location, on the recruitment of IMB members.

The operational capacity (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) of the prison is 559¹ and the roll at the time of writing, in January 2026, is 521.

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

3. Key points

3.1 Main findings

Safety

- There were two deaths in custody.
- Levels of self-harm, assaults, violence and use of force remained low and, as noted in our previous report, there was no evidence to suggest that prisoners are unsafe at Haverigg.
- There was an increase in finds of illicit items, especially mobile phones and accessories.
- Evidence from mandatory drug testing indicates that drug misuse was low.

Fair and humane treatment

- New accommodation and support facilities, incorporating 60 rapid deployment cells (RDCs), were introduced to enable a 12% increase in the prisoner population. RDCs are modular prison units, built off site, which provide additional accommodation for prisoners.
- Long-awaited work started on a fire safety improvement programme, which is needed to bring the prison up to an acceptable level of fire safety.
- There has been an increase in the number of applications (prisoners' written representations) to the IMB regarding prisoners' property in other prisons or during their transfer to Haverigg.

Health and wellbeing

- From its observations, the Board believes that healthcare services are of a good standard for dealing with an ageing cohort of prisoners, many of whom have complex physical, mental and social needs.
- There was an increasing number of transferred prisoners arriving late, after healthcare staff had finished work and/or arriving without their prescribed medication, which can have a significant short-term impact on their wellbeing.

Progression and resettlement

- The prison saw an increase in prisoners with more than seven years left to serve of their sentence, many of whom are not risk assessed as ready for release on temporary licence (ROTL). ROTL for resettlement activity is generally for those nearing release, which has led to a higher number of applications being refused.
- National education budget cuts throughout the prison service affected Haverigg, with some courses lost and staff cuts made. However, the Board is of the view that the prison has been pragmatic in its approach to shaping education delivery to minimise the effects of the cuts.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

- Discharge planning, particularly for prisoners with health and social care needs and those serving indeterminate or long sentences, is complex, especially when the majority of prisoners are from beyond Cumbria. Could the Minister outline what action is being taken to strengthen community Probation Service provision to ensure more effective discharge planning, improved continuity of care and overall better communication between prisons and community services?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

- The introduction of the Prisoner's Property Policy Framework (PPPF) appears to have had a limited impact on the loss of prisoners' property, particularly on transfer between establishments. Applications to the IMB doubled this year compared with last year, from 5 to 11. Although numbers are small, the loss of property caused considerable distress to these prisoners. Despite the best efforts of the prison in following up missing property, prisoners were rarely reunited with their belongings. When will the Prison Service review the PPPF and introduce a bar code system to track and trace property on transfer?
- When will the Prison Service review and make any necessary changes to service-level arrangements with prison transport contractors, healthcare providers and Governors? This should include ensuring that prisoners do not transfer without prescribed medication, and that late arrival times at a new prison are subject to mitigation and a thorough review.

TO THE GOVERNOR

- The Board acknowledges the ongoing focus on effective communication with prisoners. However, there remains a reluctance by some, especially those approaching parole or release, to raise concerns or support needed, as evidenced by conversations with prisoners and applications to the IMB. What further steps is the Governor planning to build prisoners' confidence in raising issues, especially for those nearing the end of their sentence?
- As the use of force is rarely required, what action is taken to ensure that staff do not become deskilled?

3.3 Response to the previous report:

Issue raised	Response given	Progress
The disadvantage facing ex-PCoSO prisoners in gaining employment when leaving custody.	<i>Please see the letter from Lord Timpson, dated 10 July 2025, at Annex A.</i>	Local job fair held and new employers identified.
The growing difficulties securing timely and suitable	<i>Please see the letter from Lord Timpson, dated 10 July 2025, at Annex A.</i>	Communications and coordination of multi-agency release

<p>accommodation for prisoners on release.</p>		<p>arrangements continues to present challenges in discharge planning.</p>
<p>Support services for an increasing number of very frail, elderly prisoners (80+ years) who have complex physical, mental health and social care needs.</p>	<p><i>Please see the letter from Lord Timpson, dated 10 July 2025, at Annex A.</i></p>	<p>HMP Haverigg's Older Prisoners' Strategy was introduced in March 2025.</p>
<p>The age of the prison and the structural integrity of its buildings and facilities.</p>	<p><i>Please see the letter from Lord Timpson, dated 10 July 2025, at Annex A.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDCs introduced in October 2025. • Fire safety improvement surveys started. • New offender management unit (OMU) building approved. • Repairs and upgrades scheduled for the kitchens. • Frequent breakdown of heating systems in billet residences.
<p>Prisoners' unwillingness, or reported reluctance, to reach out for support when needed.</p>	<p><i>Assurance from the Governor that this issue will be monitored and prisoners reassured.</i></p>	<p>There remains a reluctance from some prisoners to seek support.</p>

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

The number of prisoners remained above 90% of operational capacity, with 380 receptions and 295 discharges during the reporting year. Interviews held with new arrivals identify risks, including self-harm and significant dates when prisoners may be especially vulnerable. Observation by the Board of the work of the reception and induction orderlies (trusted prisoners who take on work to provide services that contribute to the running of the prison), together with the discussions at the weekly safety intervention meeting (SIM), confirmed that prisoners on transfer are well supported.

Accommodation in the first night centre (FNC) enables close observation during a time when, the Board is aware, that prisoners are at their most vulnerable during transfer between prisons. The FNC residence (R1) most closely resembles a closed prison and was selected to ease the transfer of prisoners from the closed estate.

The Deputy Governor meets all new arrivals, both to welcome them and to set expectations about their behaviour and progress at Haverigg. The needs of those with physical and mental health issues are usually identified during reception to the prison. Prisoners with neurodiversity diagnoses or traits are typically seen by the neurodiversity support manager soon after arrival.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

A total of 23 assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) plans (used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide) were opened, a decrease from 39 last year.

13 incidents of self-harm were recorded, three of which were deliberate self-harm, and 10 statements of harm. Reasons included medication issues, feelings of hopelessness, accommodation on release and adjustment to category D open conditions. Wherever possible, Board members spoke to prisoners on open ACCTs to monitor their treatment and ensure they were aware of the range of support available.

Mandatory suicide and self-harm training, including three-yearly refresher courses, were delivered regularly. Take-up is routinely monitored by the prison.

There were two deaths in custody, both of which were reported to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO). One was due to natural causes and occurred in hospital. The prisoner's clinical care prior to admission and any relevant non-clinical issues at Haverigg were reviewed, with no recommendations made by the PPO. The other death was, apparently, due to suicide on the day of release from prison. Other prisoners in the residences appeared to be well supported following the incident.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

There were no reports of violence by prisoners against staff or between prisoners. Occasional low-level conflict within residences was observed by the Board to be well managed by wing staff. A total of 14 referrals were made for challenge, support and

intervention plans (CSIPs), four of which progressed to CSIPs, which are used to help manage prisoners who display challenging or violent behaviour. Observations of safety intervention meetings, together with our conversations with prisoners, reassured us that there is a strong multidisciplinary focus on preventing violence and bullying. Significant dates of family events, captured on arrival at Haverigg, enabled prisoners to be given additional support as anniversaries approach.

4.4 Use of force

Force was used on two occasions, both during escorts on transfer to closed establishments, following immediate suitability reviews (ISR). These are detailed, multi-disciplinary checks to confirm that someone remains safe and appropriate for open conditions. Quality assurance meetings took place after each incident to identify learning points. Although all staff are trained in the basic use of force and receive refresher training every year, there is a cohort of newer officers who have not had operational experience of using force.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

Occasional observation of the monthly security meeting has led the Board to conclude that emerging risks were quickly identified, analysed and managed. Our frequent reviews of the meeting minutes suggest that release on temporary licence (ROTL) was a frequently used route through which illicit items entered the prison.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

From our observations, efforts continued to improve facilities and the overall environment, often with prisoners leading or actively involved in much of the work. Work on a new accommodation facility was completed, made up of 60 single-occupancy RDCs, many of which are designed for less able prisoners. Board members now routinely visit the new facility and feedback from prisoners occupying the residences has been universally positive.

Work has started on the long-awaited fire safety improvement plan which, at the time of writing, in January 2026, is in its inspection and assessment survey phase, with an expected completion date of March 2026. The survey will lead to a report for Ministry of Justice, setting out what is needed to bring the prison up to an acceptable level of fire safety. Pending funding approval, substantive work is expected to continue for about three years. In the meantime, false fire alarms and system faults continue to be reported and responded to daily.

At the time of writing, a temporary kitchen is in place, having been installed in September. This allows for improvements and upgrades to the main kitchen facility and equipment. It is expected that work will be completed over the coming months. In the meantime, our observations have found no evidence of a deterioration in service or food quality.

The Board received no applications concerning food or the kitchens. Prisoners occasionally tell Board members of their concerns in this area, though negative comments tend to be balanced by more favourable observations. Board members regularly visit the dining rooms during meal service, as well as the regular breakfast club and prison shops to sample the food available. A monthly food forum aims for better communication and prisoner involvement in the catering department's priorities, menu systems and choices. Disappointingly, this seems to be sparsely attended, despite posters throughout the prison and efforts by the catering manager to raise awareness and seek feedback on proposed changes.

5.2 Holding cells

A total of 76 ISRs were chaired by senior managers, with 56 prisoners returned to closed conditions after being assessed as no longer suitable for Haverigg. The two holding cells (short-term, secure rooms used to temporarily hold prisoners who, for various reasons, cannot remain on a standard residential unit) were used on 38 occasions. Most prisoners in holding cells were there for a short time, and Board members made every effort to visit them and check on their wellbeing during this time.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships and the link officer scheme

There was a marked reduction in IMB applications associated with sentence management and staff/prisoner concerns, which the Board believes may be an indicator of an overall improved relationship between staff and prisoners. After a further review of the link officer scheme (where a designated officer is responsible for building trust, helping to identify issues and concerns and providing time to discuss matters such as rehabilitation, education, substance misuse and family links, etc.) towards the end of the reporting year, it was confirmed that this will continue as a

valued means of establishing and maintaining good relationships between prisoners and staff and providing an appropriate level of support for individual prisoners on a case-by-case basis.

Whilst there have been a few isolated concerns voiced by prisoners about the relationship with their prison offender manager (POM) or the wider OMU, in the Board's view there seems to have been an improvement in this vital relationship. The influence of POMs, in particular, on prisoners' wellbeing is huge, so this will remain an area of close attention for the Board going forward.

Whilst acknowledging these improvements, conversations between Board members and prisoners identified a reluctance by some, especially when approaching parole or release, to raise any concerns or seek necessary support.

5.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

The prison's approach to those in the protected characteristic groups continued to develop, with a new head of diversity and inclusion (D&I) in post. Efforts continued to fully embed equality, diversity and inclusion in the overall culture of the prison. The Board has seen no evidence that prisoners belonging to protected characteristic groups have disproportionate access to services and opportunities.

The Board was asked to act as an independent external reviewer of discrimination incident report forms (DIRFs) received from prisoners once allegation(s) had been investigated by an appropriate manager and internally reviewed by the senior management team. However, to date, no specific requests have been received from the head of D&I.

10 DIRFs were submitted in the reporting year, all of which were investigated and reported on within the required timescale.

Protected characteristic	DIRFs
Race	2
Religion/belief	1
Gender reassignment	0
Sex	0
Sexual orientation	3
Disability	3
Age	1

A total of 80 prisoners in the establishment are aged 66 years or older. The IMB has raised concerns nationally about the continued imprisonment of elderly men, some of whom are frail and have complex physical and mental health needs.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

There were a number of changes to the chaplaincy team throughout the reporting year. A full-time Church of England managing chaplain is supported by representatives of different faiths, including Anglican and Roman Catholic chaplains, Hindu and Seikh priests and an Imam. Support arrangements are in place with HMP Preston, and further recruitment is underway to create resilience in this area. A mosque was opened in 2025, as well as a multi-faith area with shrines for various

religions. The chaplaincy building itself was refurbished to include newly painted, prisoner-led murals, a counselling room and communal meeting area. Faith and pastoral support arrangements are a highly valued feature within the prison environment, relied on by a large proportion of prisoners holding different faiths and beliefs.

5.6 Complaints

The prison received 273 complaints, a sustained reduction for the third successive year, despite an increase in the prisoner population. The majority of complaints concerned prisoners' property, with most relating to prisons other than Haverigg. The Board is reassured through regular reviews of prison data that property complaints are properly pursued by the complaints clerk at Haverigg.

5.7 Property

There were 85 prison complaints about property which, at 31%, represents a higher proportion of the overall number than in the previous year. Most were received from prisoners arriving at Haverigg on transfer from other prisons. IMB applications associated with property in other facilities or on transfer increased from 5 to 11 compared with last year, whereas those related to property at Haverigg fell to zero.

It can sometimes be difficult to establish whether or not a prisoner's property eventually turns up, especially if, for example, a prisoner decides not to pursue the matter. And, sometimes, property might be legitimately removed on a Governor's direction because an item is not permitted at Haverigg, or due to volumetric control limits being exceeded. But it remains the case that the impact on individual prisoners can be significant, especially if a missing item has sentimental value. Therefore, the Board urges all those involved to recognise the importance of this issue and to ensure full compliance with the Prisoners' Property Policy Framework.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

From the Board's observations, staff continued to deliver healthcare services to a generally high standard, dealing with a diverse and ageing cohort of prisoners, many of whom have complex physical, mental and social needs. Despite a small increase in IMB applications associated with healthcare, feedback from prisoners on the services they receive was positive. The Board's findings were echoed in an inspection carried out in March and April 2025 by HM Inspectorate of Prisons and Probation (HMIP), which also reported positively on the healthcare provision. The inspectors noted: *'Overall, we found that the quality and access to health services was good. In our survey, 84% thought the quality of health services was very or quite good.'*

Healthcare staffing levels were challenging earlier in the year but have improved since. A new head of healthcare joined at the end of April and staffing levels increased, due to the growth in the prison's operational capacity. The Board has not been generally concerned about wait times for GP and dentist appointments.

Dying Well in Custody and Complex Case Management Protocols were introduced, described as 'general guidance documents in the care and operational management of the dying resident... and the management of complex cases'. The healthcare team responded positively to a PPO report recommendation following a 2023 death in custody and implemented the necessary changes to a '*medicines in possession*' risk assessment.

New 'Traka' cabinets for directly dispensing prisoners' prescribed medication were installed but have not been brought into full operation. It is hoped this will be addressed within the coming year as a useful addition to a new pharmacy located on an accommodation block close to the main healthcare building.

One of the main challenges facing the healthcare team was the increasing number of late arrivals and/or prisoners arriving on transfer without their prescribed medication. In some cases, medication was removed in the transfer process and not forwarded, or it was not sent through from the originating prison. At the end of October, one prisoner was without their prescribed medication for several days. In early November, a prisoner on a high dose of prescribed medication arrived without it, so regular staff observations were required. In late November, the head of healthcare reported verbally to the prison's daily operations (management) meeting that *'there were some late transfers in [...] and one prisoner didn't arrive with his critical medication. We have had to source the medication from a local pharmacy, which we hope to collect today. This is happening more often, when the sending prison is not forwarding medication'*. In cases of late arrivals, when healthcare staff have already left for the day, or when prisoners arrive without their medication, there may be an adverse impact on older prisoners who rely heavily on regular medication and whose health and wellbeing can quickly deteriorate if they are not seen on arrival. The Board understands that the Governor has initiated case reviews and continues to follow up on these significant failures.

6.2 Physical healthcare

The remote location of Haverigg presents unavoidable issues regarding access to secondary and emergency care. The nearest major hospital, Furness General Hospital, is around 22 miles away, so prisoners needing hospital attendance had lengthy, often escorted journeys, which impacted prison staffing and transport.

6.3 Mental health

An 'arrival anxiety group' was established to help support newly arrived prisoners who may initially struggle with the transition to open conditions. This is in addition to existing work by the mental health team - supported by the drug and alcohol recovery team (DART) and reception and mental health orderlies - to help prisoners nearing discharge, many of whom experience 'release anxiety' in the period leading up to their release into the community.

6.4 Social care

An Older Prisoners' Strategy was introduced in March 2025, aimed at developing good practice to meet the health, social care and general needs of the older population, develop appropriate services and shape future policy. The strategy was informed largely by feedback from both prisoners and staff.

6.5 Time out of cell, regime

Prisoners at Haverigg have almost unlimited time out of their room and can spend much of the day outdoors, including tending allotments, walking, exercising and socialising when not working. Prisoners have told Board members that they appreciate the rewilding nature area and the open space to walk through. From our observations, gym staff work to support prisoners with complex physical and mental health needs through physical exercise.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

From our observations, there is an active DART team in place at Haverigg, which is supported by prisoner orderlies and mentors and receives good feedback from prisoners accessing its services. Positive feedback was reported by the recovery orderly about the attendance at Haverigg of the Barrow AA group representative: *'Sessions allow prisoners to relate to others and their struggles, but not necessarily in a prison setting, which can help to prepare them for release.'*

6.7 Soft skills

There is a well-attended breakfast club, supported by senior managers and appreciated by prisoners, which is valued as a welcoming space for older prisoners and those who may otherwise be socially isolated due to their frailty.

Other initiatives included a weekly quiz in the visits hall, a chess club, a railway club, woodwork and art groups, allotments in the rewilding nature area and the maintenance of wildlife ponds.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

National education budget cuts affected Haverigg, like many other prisons, with some courses lost and staffing levels reduced. However, the Board commends the pragmatic approach taken by the prison in reshaping the delivery model to minimise the effect of the cuts and still retain a broad and balanced curriculum to support prisoners' development and rehabilitation. At the time of writing, in January 2026, staff recruitment and vetting for some prison employed instructor positions was ongoing. The loss of equine therapy courses was particularly felt, as they not only offered a recognised qualification but also provided many prisoners with therapeutic benefits through their involvement with the horses. Horses are still kept on the prison grounds and looked after by the farm team, and the Board would support reintroduction of the equine therapy course as soon as possible.

From our observations, the library continued to provide a comprehensive service to prisoners. A practice driving theory simulator was used by over 230 prisoners, with the main theory tests being taken by prisoners when on ROTL. A bi-monthly quiz appeared to be well supported by an average of 50 prisoners each time.

'Celebrating success' events, held every three months in the prison, involved, on the last occasion, 158 prisoners who had achieved a formal education qualification.

7.2 Vocational training, work

An employment fair was attended by over 200 prisoners and six businesses that had expressed an interest in working with the prison. Opportunities for external employment continued to increase and Board members' conversations with prisoners confirmed the benefits gained through work outside the prison in preparation for release.

A prisoner and community resettlement day attracted over 280 prisoners, with 22 supporting agencies providing information and guidance.

7.3 Offender management, progression

Over 95% of the population at Haverigg are PCoSO prisoners. A total of 49 prisoners are serving Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences (these have no fixed end date, with release decided by the Parole Board), and the Board understands that they have all been in custody for longer than the minimum tariff given at the time of sentencing. An 'IPP in focus' week was held, during which staff were able to access online training sessions to better understand the needs of this cohort of prisoners, especially in relation to progression, support and transition into the community.

There was an increase in the number of prisoners with more than seven years left to serve, which led to more ROTL applications being refused. The Governor has stated that ROTL must be for 'purposeful' activity and not necessarily for long periods, except for reasons of employment and family ties. POMs structured prisoners' expectations and although ROTL is not the main priority for those with long sentences still to serve, the Board continued to hear concerns from prisoners about the ROTL assessment process.

More than 80% of prisoners were assessed as posing high or very high risk and were kept under close review by POMs and COMS (community offender managers).

Risk management and release-planning meetings, which the Board occasionally observed, assessed any change in behaviour or circumstances that may trigger a temporary or permanent change in risk level. This could include, for example, a prisoner's initial transfer from closed to open conditions or the period leading up to their release date.

A total of 295 prisoners left custody, as follows:

Type of sentence	Number released
Life	7
Life recall	3
IPP	5
IPP recall	4
Extended sentence	53
Extended sentence - recall	5
Other recalls	19
Determinate sentence	199

7.4 Family contact

Despite the remote location and infrastructure of the prison, it was evident to the Board that prison staff made every effort to support prisoners and help them maintain family contact. Open days were, once again, observed to be well supported and successful. In March, a visit attended by 21 family members provided positive feedback. The Board acknowledges how important these events are for prisoners and their families.

7.5 Resettlement planning

Prisoners have ready access to a range of support agencies within resettlement services, including those covering accommodation, employment, pensions and welfare, and banking, and are encouraged to make use of these in preparation for their release from custody. A resettlement management planning meeting, involving all relevant departments, met regularly to closely review the status of prisoners due for release in coming weeks and to take action to reduce the risk of prisoners being without accommodation or, unless retired, employment.

The Board became aware of occasional difficulties in arranging suitable accommodation for prisoners on release, which often involved approved premises (supervised residential hostels in the community) and/or area restrictions because of the nature of their offences. Available performance statistics indicate that 99.3% of prisoners were released into suitable accommodation, either a home or approved premises. Two releases during the reporting year were recorded as homeless.

Data for those in employment or retired at six weeks and six months after release were 79.5% and 87.5%, respectively, during the reporting year.

8. The work of the IMB

Membership of the IMB open estates forum, chaired by a member of the Board, has enabled shared learning and best practice between the 15 category D open prisons in England and Wales. The forum continued to raise the profile, across the IMB nationally, of monitoring in the open estate.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	11
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	4
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	3
Total number of visits to the establishment	119

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	1	1
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	1	6
C	Equality	2	1
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	5	1
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	1	2
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	1	2
F	Food and kitchens	3	0
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	3	5
H1	Property within the establishment	3	0
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	5	11
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	0	0
I	Sentence management, including HDC (home detention curfew), ROTL (release on temporary licence), parole, release dates, recategorisation	15	4
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	4	1
K	Transfers	0	0
L	Miscellaneous	2	2
	Total number of applications	46	36

Annex A

Letter from Lord Timpson dated 10 July 2025 in response to matters raised in the 2023-24 Annual Report



Mr Phillip Bishop HMP Haverigg North Lane Millom

Lord Timpson

Minister of State for Justice

MoJ ref: SUB125640 10 July 2025

LA18 4NA

Dear Phillip,

Thank you for providing your Board's annual report on HMP Haverigg. I am grateful to you and your colleagues for your dedication and hard work in capturing your helpful observations, particularly as you operated with just four members for the entire reporting period. I hope this situation improves during the course of the current reporting year.

I was very saddened to hear there were two deaths during the reporting year. Every death in our care is a tragedy and I offer my heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of both of the deceased and would like to reassure the Board that any recommendations made by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman are taken very seriously.

I fully understand the Board's concerns of how difficult it can be for Persons Convicted of a Sexual Offence (PCoSO) to gain employment whilst in the open estate or following release. A report by the Prison Reform Trust and charity Unlock titled 'Thinking Differently' noted that "*despite their low re-offending rates, it is widely believed that people with sexual convictions are inherently dangerous and incapable of change*". This viewpoint can result in prospective employers being more resistant to employing people convicted of sexual offences. In response to this, HM Prisons and Probation Service's (HMPPS) New Futures Network devised a proposed strategy for improving the employability of PCOSOs. Subsequently, high-level meetings have taken place, involving the National Employment Advisory Board (EAB) chair Rosie Brown and Interim Permanent Secretary Amy Rees, to determine the best direction to support PCOSOs into suitable and sustainable employment. The initial action agreed was to appoint a specific EAB chair to concentrate on this cohort who is working alongside other employers.

Locally, the Governor continues to make a concerted effort to help the PCOSO cohort. A Business and Community Engagement Manager is now in post to work with local business to create paid work placements during Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL). I would also like to recognise the impressive work of the Employment Advisory Board at HMP Haverigg and its Chair, Dave, in helping to

secure ROTL work and paid work after prisoners' release. Whilst employment opportunities remain a challenge, there is engagement with around five employers, two of which have since offered work to prison leavers. As opportunities are limited, the prison is also focusing on learning and skills provision to ensure prisoners are ready for employment with multiple skills on release.

Effective resettlement of prison leavers is a core part of our efforts to reduce reoffending. In January, we introduced regional Employment Councils, which bring together business leaders, prisons, probation and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to support offenders in the community. HMP Haverigg is represented on both the North West and Cumbria and Lancashire Employment Councils. To support individuals leaving prison in accessing suitable temporary housing, HMPPS operates a three-tier Community Accommodation Service (CAS) which is vital in reducing reoffending and protecting the public. The CAS Tier 2 service provides short-term housing for individuals on bail or Home Detention Curfew, including new properties in Carlisle and Workington - Cumbria's first. CAS Tier 3 offers up to 12 weeks of accommodation for those at risk of homelessness upon release and under probation supervision. There are also 50 prison-based Strategic Housing Specialists (SHS), including one at HMP Haverigg, working with local stakeholders to address housing difficulties. Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS) are currently undertaking a review to ensure that they more effectively deliver services to people leaving custody and align with wider provision to best meet people's resettlement and rehabilitative needs. HMPPS is also collaborating with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and other government departments to develop a new cross-government strategy aimed at helping to end homelessness.

The number of older prisoners has risen significantly over the past 20 years, and I recognise the challenges this increase can bring to prisons. HMPPS is currently considering how best to ensure the needs of older prisoners are reflected in wider strategic work. In the interim, there is a range of work ongoing to improve support for older prisoners focusing on working with partners to improve health and care support; considering how the estate can best meet their needs, and sharing best practice on purposeful activity. Separately, the Early Release on Compassionate Grounds policy framework allows offenders with serious mental or physical health conditions to apply for early release if their medical condition makes imprisonment difficult to navigate and causes excessive suffering. This can apply to individuals who are severely incapacitated or paralysed, have had major strokes, suffer from serious respiratory or heart diseases, and/or those living with various forms of mental health issues such as dementia.

I was encouraged to read that there has been some progress on the concerns you raised last year, most notably a 50% reduction in IMB applications around the loss of property. I was concerned though that some issues around prisoner and staff relationships remain with a number of prisoners being apparently unwilling or reticent to raise legitimate concerns. I hope that this can be rectified locally, and I appreciate the work that the Board has done to reassure prisoners around this.

Despite the challenges of the prison's remote location, I was pleased to note the prison's efforts to maintain family ties including the publishing of a Family and Significant Others Strategy to support offenders' mental health and wellbeing.

HMPPS comments in response to your concerns around infrastructure investment are set out in the attached annex. The Lord Chancellor and sincerely I appreciate the invaluable role played by members of Independent Monitoring Boards throughout the estate and we are extremely grateful for your continued hard work on behalf of HMP Haverigg.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Timpson Minister for Prisons, Probation, and Reducing Reoffending

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James".

**HMP HAVERIGG: INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1 DECEMBER 2023 to 30 NOVEMBER 2024**

HMPPS comments on matters raised in the report

Prison Infrastructure and Investment

HMPPS is considering the development of the site through the addition of new accommodation units, with the aim of increasing overall capacity. A feasibility study to assess this potential expansion is being conducted by the Ministry of Justice. A new Offender Management Unit (OMU) building has been discussed but this is pending financial approval before any further progress. A local prisoner maintenance team is in place that works to maintain and improve living conditions, utilising any available funds to ensure accommodation standards remain decent and appropriate.



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