



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

**For reporting year
1 October 2024 to 30 September 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 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

At a baseline level, a maximum of 529¹ sentenced men can be accommodated at HMP/YOI Deerbolt, which is set in a semi-rural location near Barnard Castle in County Durham. 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 prison) was reduced to 387 from June 2019, but numbers have now increased with prison numbers typically around the 470 mark.

Deerbolt was first established as a young offender institution (YOI) for 18-21-year-olds on sentences of up to four years, and has education, work training and activities to suit this prisoner group. However, last year, this was increased up to the age of 29, but now this age limit has been lifted, meaning that Deerbolt can accept male prisoners of any age. At the time of writing the report, in October 2025, Deerbolt has just 11% prisoners of between traditional ages of 18 and 21 years old.

The main providers of services in the prison are Novus (education), Amey (works/maintenance), Spectrum (healthcare), and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (mental health). Visitor care and support is provided by the voluntary agency, the North East Prison Aftercare Society (NEPACS), which also offers provision for family visits and group work with young fathers.

The purpose-built establishment was opened in 1973. It includes an administration centre, nine residential wings with exercise yards (J wing has recently been demolished), substantial industrial workshops and education classrooms, a gymnasium, reception and a chapel, a reducing reoffending unit and a visitors' centre. The buildings have been maintained over the years and have regularly been refurbished by the prison to meet both the latest regulations for fire safety and general standards.

The prison has recently benefited from a new tarmacked through-road. Such recent improvements include new windows and better showers. The external CCTV units have been improved, particularly the public footpaths surrounding the prison, the refurbished gymnasium and the new car park, which offers access for staff and visitors alike.

However, since the public housing developments have recently been completed, there are often shortages to car parking when we visit Deerbolt. Gaining access to the prison can be difficult, with a dearth of available keys due to staff and contractors usage.

There are also extensive areas of grass, and cultivated plots of flowers and vegetables, which are maintained by both prisoners and staff to a very high standard, in the Board's view.

Prisoners are received from a wide national catchment area and not just the northeast region.

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

Background to the report

Following the comprehensive review in the last reporting period, the IMB at Deerbolt is, again, confident that members visited all areas of the prison and engaged in meaningful dialogue throughout. Through this, the IMB feels it has left no stone unturned to cover as much ground as seemingly possible for a small group of several volunteers. Again, our team has visited the establishment frequently and has consistently shown understanding of the challenges facing Deerbolt. We feel we have monitored Deerbolt in an effective but balanced way to provide the maximal value to the role, in the interests of maximising the public's investment in the IMB.

Echoing the concerns highlighted in its previous report, the IMB at Deerbolt again acknowledges the significant and ongoing challenges facing the Prison Service, particularly as it continues to recover from persistent funding constraints and difficulties in staff recruitment and retention. The IMB remains concerned about the lack of meaningful rehabilitation at a time when drugs are widespread and the prison population is not only increasing but also shifting towards an older demographic with different and often more complex needs. We are also disappointed that the Minister considers the prison to have been given sufficient funding and operational autonomy - both locally and within the wider Prison Service - to effectively reduce reoffending and foster a genuinely rehabilitative culture at HMP Deerbolt (now an adult establishment, rather than a YOI).

Overall, the IMB continues to be impressed by the high calibre of many officers in the establishment. We would like to place on record that staff demonstrate a deep knowledge of the often complex needs of prisoners in their care. During both our monitoring visits and our observations of meetings, we have frequently been struck by their ability to navigate tasks that may appear straightforward yet, in practice, require careful judgement and a nuanced understanding of risk in order to maintain safety and stability. That said, members have at times been concerned by instances of the micro-management of some inexperienced staff, as well as occasional difficulties among certain officers in confidently leading prisoners in routine tasks. To strengthen practice and improve overall standards, more experienced senior officers are needed, both to provide guidance and to lead by example.

3.1 Main findings

Safety

As an IMB, we collectively agree that Deerbolt is generally a safe prison for us to carry out our monitoring duties. However, for the prison population, levels of violence remained high in the reporting period, consistent with what we have highlighted in previous reports. Much of this impact on prisoner safety is linked to the prevalence of drugs, debt-related violence and gang activity. Deerbolt's location brings a risk of contraband conveyance. With drones capable of travelling long distances using predetermined GPS coordinates, the associated safety risks cannot be ignored and, in the Board's view, current counter-drone measures are not fit for purpose. Despite these challenges, we recognise the efforts of Deerbolt's management to strengthen their understanding of prisoner associations and non-associations, and to co-ordinate intelligence effectively.

To better explain the realities of safety in HMP Deerbolt, we ask readers to consider what daily life in such an environment might feel like. How would you spend your time? Would the lack of constructive activity lead to frustration? Would the easy availability of drugs tempt you towards using as a way of coping? If your educational achievement is above Level 2 (GCSEs), you may find there are no suitable courses available. Would the limited regime and part-time activities leave you comparing Deerbolt unfavourably with your previous establishment?

Consider, too, the pressure that may lead to some prisoners self-harming, to resort to violence for protection, to settle debts or simply as an outlet for stress. Add to this the reality that some staff - through no fault of their own - may lack experience or confidence in managing groups, meaning their interactions are more effective one-to-one than in larger settings, where the risk of confrontation is higher. These factors combine to create an environment where tensions can escalate quickly.

If the reader can reflect on how their own experience might unfold under these conditions, the wider safety implications at Deerbolt become clearer. The IMB does not believe the prison itself is inherently unsafe; rather, it is the accumulation of external pressures that make it so.

While ACCT (assessment, care in custody and teamwork) figures and self-harm levels are consistent with other reporting periods, it would be difficult to suggest that all prisoners experience Deerbolt as a safe environment. This view is reinforced through our regular conversations with the senior management team, who often describe the challenges posed by drugs, violence and debt-related issues.

That said, Deerbolt staff should, again, be commended for their intelligence-gathering work. From our observations, we remain confident that they maintain a strong understanding of the population. However, it remains our view that if prisoners had access to more meaningful activity, overall safety levels would likely improve.

Fair and human treatment

As per our last five reporting periods, there is no doubt that the regime and staff, both individually and collectively, do their best to treat the prisoners fairly and humanely. Moreover, the Board continues to believe that prison staff hold quality one-to-one communication with the most vulnerable or those with challenging behaviour. However, the Board has long held concerns arising from conversations with the wider population that are not indeed highlighted to the prison due to their problem behaviour. As highlighted in our previous report, we once again found it difficult to ascertain the quality of dialogue and how messages are relayed to prisoners and staff alike. On numerous occasions, our follow-ups to complaints have shown that the issue stemmed simply from the original message not being clearly explained when it was raised within the prison. In line with this, it is not uncommon for prisoners' possessions to fail to follow them when they transfer between establishments, and we spend a considerable amount of time tracing and locating these items.

That said, the IMB has been encouraged by the management team's understanding of prisoners' need, their efforts to increase the quality and quantity of key worker sessions and their continued attempts to communicate effectively with those in their care. We have also seen great successes of A and I wings - the incentivised substance-free living unit - where staff engagement with prisoners has been frequent and focused on a more holistic approach to rehabilitation. Further, once again, the IMB would also like to praise the majority of Deerbolt staff, particularly those in the care and separation unit

(CSU), for their organisation, compassion and commitment to prisoners with more complex needs, particularly when they have to respond to protesting behaviours. While Deerbolt does not have suitable facilities to deal with many of those with complex needs, staff appear to understand challenges and have built relationships, shown patience and directly communicated with the IMB to keep the Board in the loop as to their circumstances. Reductions in discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFS) and food-related complaints have also been noted.

Health and wellbeing

In recent reports, healthcare staff (both physical and mental) have been deservedly commended for the high-level of service they provide. We would, again, like to acknowledge their efforts, despite staff recruitment challenges. However, the availability of illicit drugs continues to undermine prisoner wellbeing. Between January and September 2025, there were an alarming 635 incidences recorded of individuals being under the influence. An understaffed healthcare service, further stretched by drug-related incidents that took staff away from other vital areas and compounded by an older cohort of prisoners with complex needs, means that healthcare provision in the prison requires further enquiry and support from the Minister. For example, in the Board's view, optician waiting times remain unacceptable, with delays in securing appointments and inconsistent communication about them. Overall, the prison requires additional support in all areas of healthcare.

Moreover, in considering overall wellbeing needs, prisoners are still spending too long locked in their cells. With half-day education and employment now in place, there is an increased need for the prison to explore additional ways to provide meaningful stimulation. It would not be unreasonable to suggest that these factors collectively affect how effectively Deerbolt is able to meet prisoners' health and wellbeing needs. We are disappointed that, in our last reporting period, our recommendations by the Minister did not seem to have been seriously considered.

Progress and resettlement

During this period, there have been improvements to the level and availability of education provision, contributing towards progressive rehabilitation. However, a move to half-day activity, alongside a notable increase in the average age of prisoners (YOI at just 11% of population), has, in our view, negatively affected the outcomes for the establishment. Comparatively, Deerbolt is still impacted by short-notice cancellations to classes, and courses seem to be geared towards low-ability prisoners, with core skills to allow prisoners to read and write rather than actively engage higher learners or those keen to improve their skills for release. While, on the surface, the contractor, Novus, is meeting its obligations, on a few occasions, we have received complaints from prisoners with higher educational attainment and Deerbolt does not seem to be able to provide them with what they require. We believe this is a significant failure of the Prison Service, particularly when it is so imperative to reduce reoffending rates. Education courses should be accessible to all, to improve prisoners' prospects on release. Enabling those with higher levels of prior achievement to continue progressing not only supports their personal development but also helps create positive role models - something that is essential to improving society's wider perceptions of the prison system.

All this considered, tuition observed first-hand appears to be of a high standard and the prisoners are, in general, engaged. Deerbolt also benefits from a strong resettlement planning team, with many steps taken to provide careers on release. However, recent

government moves to release prisoners on shorter tariffs, combined with low staffing levels in the offender management unit (OMU), mean that additional support in this area would have been beneficial. It was not uncommon in the reporting period for prisoners to have had limited contact with their offender managers, largely due to the staff having such high case-loads.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

- Once again, the Deerbolt IMB urges HMPPS senior management to visit the establishment, meet with the healthcare team and urgently review the staffing model. Additional resources are clearly needed to ensure that healthcare provision can meet the needs of the population. We would welcome the Minister's support in facilitating such a visit. Last year's response, which noted that arranging such a visit might be 'logistically difficult', only reinforces the importance of senior leaders engaging directly with the establishment.
- In last year's response, the Minister said that 'the integration of adult category C prisoners is now firmly established and has assisted training opportunities whilst continuing to support young people at the start of their custodial journey'. Given that current facilities provide suitable education for just 11% of the population and largely offer qualifications at Level 2, or below, how does the Minister intend to address the educational and rehabilitative needs of the wider, older and often more educated population?
- Given the ongoing issue of drones delivering illicit drugs into the prison, will the Minister consider implementing enhanced technology to strengthen the prison's ability to counter drone-related drug trafficking?
- A minor point, but could the Minister kindly ensure that the name of the Chair is spelled correctly in future responses.

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

- The Minister's response to last year's report outlined the purpose and potential impact of employment advisory boards (EABs). However, without compromising our independence, the Board would welcome clarity on what constructive role an IMB can play in supporting the development of local community-based employment opportunities for prisoners.
- What is the current level of funding within the Prison Service, and does HMPS consider its resources sufficient to meet its objectives for prisoner rehabilitation?
- Does the Prison Service have any plans to help educate the public about the realities of prison life? At present, there rarely seems to be positive coverage relating to the Prison Service, and we view improved public understanding as an urgent priority.

TO THE GOVERNOR

- HMP/YOI Deerbolt is an important employer in the local community. In a repeat question from last year's report, are there further plans to increase the prison's visibility and engagement in the community? We feel there is still more the prison could do to strengthen its presence and connections in the community?
- Are there plans to expand the range of extracurricular activities available to prisoners, such as, for example, initiatives involving animal-keeping or other

structured, purposeful programmes that support wellbeing, responsibility and rehabilitation?

- Does the Governor believe that demolishing and rebuilding J wing presents an opportunity to create a 'gold standard unit', one that could set a benchmark for best practice across the rest of the establishment?

3.3 Response to the previous report

From our observations, it appears that the management team at HMP Deerbolt have a good awareness of most of the challenges within the establishment. Moreover, we note that they continue to show an appropriate level of sensitivity as they manage the ongoing changes within the prisoner demographic. By doing so, they have demonstrated an ability to adapt to circumstances and maintain a regime that supports successful rehabilitation, while also providing structure to the working day.

During the reporting period, we have consistently observed the team's understanding of the prisoner population and their willingness to provide our members with clear and honest insight into the issues facing the establishment. However, it is also evident that they require greater support. Operating a prison in a remote location, initially populated by a younger cohort and subsequently by a more experienced prisoner demographic, presents significant and evolving challenges. When these shifts are combined with funding that has not kept pace with inflation, the pressures inevitably intensify. The consequences - rising issues relating to illicit substances, increased incidents of violence, perceptions of reduced prisoner compliance, and ongoing staffing difficulties - create an environment where it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain stability and productivity or to achieve meaningful reductions in reoffending.

Whether the media attention has been positive or negative, Deerbolt has been a prison that has attracted active public discussion during the reporting period, including coverage in local and regional media outlets. In our view, that visibility represents progress in itself; Deerbolt *should* be part of the wider public conversation.

In our previous report, we highlighted that, for Deerbolt to operate at an optimal level, further financial support and greater local autonomy were necessary to effectively support the management team. Staff development needs to be strengthened, outdated facilities require investment and a rehabilitative culture must continue to be prioritised. All of these are essential if we are to see meaningful reductions in reoffending. Increased funding is central to achieving these aims, as is enabling staff to exercise appropriate decision-making freedom.

We would still very much welcome a Ministerial visit to Deerbolt in the next reporting period. The response received from the Minister last year stated:

'Further to your request, I intend to add a visit to HMP/YOI Deerbolt to my list of prison visits. Whilst, given the logistics involved, I am unable to confirm a date immediately, please be assured that this is being actioned by my office.'

| Issue raised | Response given | Action taken/progress |
|---|--|---|
| <p>To the Minister</p> <p>The Deerbolt IMB urges HMPPS senior executives to visit Deerbolt, meet the healthcare team and urgently review the staffing model and support additional resources clearly needed in healthcare to meet the demands from the establishment. Can this meeting be facilitated?</p> <p>Deerbolt's location is in a rural area, remote from the main centres. Is this recognised and how will they factor this into holding onto existing staff and further recruitment? (This was not answered in the last report.)</p> <p>Prisons such as Deerbolt have, on the surface, shown improved staff-retention figures, and as a result officers are now more likely to have over two years' experience at the establishment. We are concerned by the lack of prison craft of</p> | <p>The Minister has said that they understand Deerbolt works with local healthcare boards, and NHS England has committed increasing funding. Then cited prison surveys for access to both physical healthcare (67%) and mental health support (70%).</p> <p>The Minister has also said that they have added our prison to the list of ones to visit but stated that it may be difficult due to the logistics of visiting Deerbolt.</p> <p>The Minister discussed targeted recruitment campaigns to address workforce shortages and states that Deerbolt is receiving targeted marketing support to increase visibility and drive awareness of career opportunities.</p> <p>The Minister states HMPPS has established an 'Enable Programme' to deliver a series of workforce and regime changes to oversee how prison staff are trained, developed, led and supported. Also, that the reconstruction of the core day has meant that more senior officers can support frontline staff and operational oversight.</p> | <p>The IMB is disappointed by this response, as it does not directly address the question and offers no clear commitment to a visit. The Board is made up of volunteers who give their time freely in support of the establishment. In that context, a visit from senior leaders would be a valued opportunity to recognise this commitment and to engage directly with the Board, and it is hoped that this can be prioritised.</p> <p>We will monitor this closely. We believe the Minister was not solely speaking about Deerbolt in this response, as they also stated 'in a small number of prisons with recruitment challenges', rather than talk to Deerbolt specifically.</p> <p>We are pleased this question was partially answered. However, we will monitor how effective this is, particularly when this has just negatively impacted prisoners more, as now purposeful activity is suffering. This, therefore, means that prisoners are more frustrated and makes it even more important that staff have the 'prison nous' needed to manage day-to-day challenges effectively.</p> |

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| <p>officers. Is there any way of Deerbolt gaining the necessary funding for senior officers to be placed on each wing of the establishment to improve such skill level?</p> <p>A simple question of many facets: does the Minister believe that Deerbolt moving from a YOI to a category C prison has been a success?</p> | <p>The reasoning to becoming a category C prison was discussed, due to population pressures in the region, and that Deerbolt was operating below capacity. The Minister believes that the outcomes have been positive: <i>'The integration of adult category C prisoners is now firmly established and has assisted training opportunities whilst continuing to support young people at the start of their custodial journey.'</i></p> | <p>We will continue to monitor how effective this is.</p> |
| <p>To the Prison Service While acknowledging the need to support establishments across the country, how will HMPPS ensure that staffing levels and site-specific demands are considered before assigning staff to other locations? Will the focus be on enabling each site to maintain a full operational regime rather than mandating a percentage of staff to be sent on detached duty,</p> | <p>The Prison Service explained that this is, indeed, managed nationally and that Deerbolt has not provided staff for detached duty since September 2023 and received reinforcements from December 2024.</p> | <p>We are satisfied with this response and will monitor this area over the coming period.</p> |

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| <p>potentially compromising the functioning of the sending establishment? (This was not answered in the last report) It is now nearly five years after the Covid pandemic began and prisons are often locking up prisoners at similar levels due to alternative challenges such as low staffing. Does the Prison Service consider changing legislation to set out a 'new minimum regime'? Does the Prison Service have plans to further develop employment opportunities for prisoners on prisoners? For example, members of the IMB do have the ability to allow prisons the opportunity for small-scale employers on release, or it is possible for a transparent platform to be developed to allow employers the opportunity to employ prisoners.</p> | <p>The Prison Service cites The National Regime Model, launched in January 2024, which mandates prisons to provide a minimum of two hours' time out of cell per day and one hour on the open air per day, per prisoner. Further, each regime plan will set out all the planned purposeful activity, which is a key conduit to facilitating more time out of cell.</p> <p>The Prison Service outlined that employment advisory boards (EABs) were recently launched to advise, support and challenge prisons on their training and employment offer for prisoners and prison leavers. Their goal is to see more people leave prisons and enter sustainable employment. There is also an EAB at HMP/YOI Deerbolt, chaired by Equans.</p> | <p>We are satisfied with this response and will monitor how effective this is.</p> <p>We were not wholly aware of this board. We would like to explore how IMBs can be facilitators in links.</p> |
| <p>To the Governor</p> <p>What oversight does the Governor</p> | <p>The Governor explained to us the contractual obligations of</p> | <p>This is an ongoing monitoring area, particularly with the expected</p> |

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| <p>have over the prioritisation of works within the establishment?</p> <p>HMP/YOI Deerbolt is an important employer in the local community. Are there further plans to improve the visibility of the prison in the community?</p> | <p>external groups and that the prison is very much reliant on others with regard to works within the establishment.</p> <p>The Governor reassured us that the prison is to now develop outward reach, particularly with regards to community links.</p> | <p>works to happen within the prison to build a new J wing.</p> <p>A continuation from the last reporting period, the Governor has engaged with local councillors to strengthen community links, and the IMB believes that increasing the prison's external visibility would offer meaningful benefits both in the short and longer term.</p> |
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Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and Induction

Reception of prisoners continues to appear thorough and competent. As noted in our previous report, there remains considerable frustration around personal possessions failing to arrive with prisoners, resulting in the inevitable financial loss and the additional time and expense required to resolve these issues. The position has been clearly outlined in the recent Key Findings Paper by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons: *'Unpacking Prisoner Property: A Hidden Source of Conflict and Complaint.'* In light of this, further comment would add little value.

Continuing through 2025, Deerbolt has had an approximate 50% increase in prisoner numbers as part of the transition from a YOI to a prison with a much wider age range. At the time of writing, in October 2025, the prison holds 470 category C men. In this population, 25 prisoners require a personal emergency evacuation plan (PEEP), due to medical needs, and around 70 individuals have been identified as representing an assault risk to staff.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

There continues to be a downward trend in the number of assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) plans (used to support those at risk of self-harm and suicide) opened. However, as in previous years, this remains an area of significant concern, albeit one that staff appear to monitor and manage closely. Self-harm rates were slightly up, at on average 45.08 per month, compared with 40.33 per month in the last reporting period. From our observations, Deerbolt staff continue to be improving in their abilities to assess and report on such incidents, which could explain the slight increase. While incidents do happen with individual prisoners, staff seem to be alert to these situations. The main safety concerns continue to relate to drugs - which, as across much of the prison estate, remain a persistent challenge - and to self-harm, which is monitored. The following data outlines recent trends in assaults and self-harm:

Self harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners (annualised)

Find rows:

| Group | Reporting Unit | Period | Self harm incidents (male) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Oct 2024 | 47.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Nov 2024 | 41.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Dec 2024 | 55.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jan 2025 | 50.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Feb 2025 | 64.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Mar 2025 | 42.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Apr 2025 | 62.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | May 2025 | 37.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jun 2025 | 35.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jul 2025 | 36.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Aug 2025 | 48.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Sep 2025 | 24.00 |

Prisoner on prisoner assaults rate (annualised)

Find rows:

| <u>Group</u> | <u>Reporting Unit</u> | <u>Period</u> | <u>Days in period</u> | <u>Prisoner on prisoner assaults</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Oct 2024 | 31 | 15.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Nov 2024 | 30 | 12.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Dec 2024 | 31 | 11.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jan 2025 | 31 | 16.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Feb 2025 | 28 | 12.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Mar 2025 | 31 | 15.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Apr 2025 | 30 | 22.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | May 2025 | 31 | 11.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jun 2025 | 30 | 11.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jul 2025 | 31 | 13.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Aug 2025 | 31 | 13.00 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Sep 2025 | 30 | 10.00 |

Assaults on staff rate (annualised)

Find rows:

| <u>Group</u> | <u>Reporting Unit</u> | <u>Period</u> | <u>Days in period</u> | <u>Assaults on staff</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jan 2025 | 31 | 9 | 0.29 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Feb 2025 | 28 | 11 | 0.39 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Mar 2025 | 31 | 5 | 0.16 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Apr 2025 | 30 | 8 | 0.27 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | May 2025 | 31 | 16 | 0.52 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jun 2025 | 30 | 9 | 0.30 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jul 2025 | 31 | 8 | 0.26 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Aug 2025 | 31 | 18 | 0.58 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Sep 2025 | 30 | 5 | 0.17 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Oct 2025 | 31 | 4 | 0.13 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Nov 2025 | 30 | 9 | 0.30 |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Dec 2025 | 31 | 14 | 0.45 |

Assaults on staff rate (annualised)

Find rows:

| <u>Group</u> | <u>Reporting Unit</u> | <u>Period</u> | <u>Days in period</u> | <u>Assaults on staff</u> | <u>F</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Oct 2024 | 31 | 9 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Nov 2024 | 30 | 13 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Dec 2024 | 31 | 11 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jan 2025 | 31 | 9 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Feb 2025 | 28 | 11 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Mar 2025 | 31 | 5 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Apr 2025 | 30 | 8 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | May 2025 | 31 | 16 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jun 2025 | 30 | 9 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Jul 2025 | 31 | 8 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Aug 2025 | 31 | 18 | |
| North East Prisons | Deerbolt | Sep 2025 | 30 | 5 | |

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

Much as in our report last year, prisoner violence is an ongoing challenge. While the average number of prisoner-on-prisoner assaults was 13.41 per month compared with 15.58 in the last reporting period, assaults on staff were, on average, 10.83 per month compared with 7.66 in the last reporting period. As the Governor has reported to the IMB at our monthly board meetings, most of the prisoner issues at Deerbolt continue to stem from drugs, violence and debt. Although the number of violent incidents and assaults on staff are broadly comparable with the last reporting period, we remain encouraged by the prison's management of individual prisoners, including its awareness of associates and non-associates and its co-ordination of intelligence.

However, constraints imposed centrally mean that Deerbolt continues to be unable to allocate sufficient numbers of experienced, senior residential prison officers across all wings. With a substantial proportion of new staff, many of whom have limited 'prison craft', there is a clear need for greater experience and leaderships on landings. Less experienced staff are more likely to micromanage on a one-to-one basis, which can increase the risk of both prisoner-on-staff and prisoner-on-prisoner assaults.

While the current position is stable, the presence of senior officers is, in our view, essential to maintaining a consistently safe and effective prison environment. We understand the frustration of prison leadership with the apparent difficulties in securing these posts.

The IMB continues to attend the regular safety intervention meetings (SIMs) in a monitoring capacity. They remain well attended, with good information sharing and clear actions agreed. Staff demonstrate an understanding of prisoners' behavioural traits and individual needs. As noted in our previous report, there continues to be a focused effort on maintaining a safe establishment and responding promptly to issue. However, underlying many of these challenges is a familiar mix of debt, drugs, violence and frustration at the inconsistencies of regime, as well as restrictions on movement and association.

4.4 Use of force

As per our last report, use of force continues to be limited at Deerbolt and is not a matter of concern for the Board. When incidents do occur or when use of force may become necessary due to prisoner behaviour, the Board continues to be promptly informed of the circumstances. As noted in previous reports, in cases where there are ongoing incidents, the IMB is notified and we are able to attend, to observe the management and resolution of the situation. We have also reviewed use of force video camera footage on multiple occasions in response to prisoner complaints. In each incident, we have been assured that the force applied was appropriate and proportionate.

4.5 Substance misuse

In comparison with our previous report, substance misuse is an ongoing problem. With the continued change in prisoner demographics and the arrival of individuals from other establishments, we are still seeing several instances of code-blue medical emergencies (where a prisoner is unconscious, unresponsive or not breathing) linked to drug use. Extended periods of lock-up and the limited availability of meaningful activity are undoubtedly contributing factors. In the Board's view, greater consistency in the regime would support improved stability and enhance safety for prisoners and staff at Deerbolt.

5. Fair and humane treatment

As noted from observations during our five previous reporting periods, staff, both individually and collectively, try to do their best to treat the prisoners fairly and humanely. Moreover, the Board also believes that prison staff hold quality one-to-one communication with the most vulnerable prisoners and those with challenging behaviour. However, from our conversations with prisoners, we are concerned about the interaction between the staff and the wider population and with individuals who often do not comply with the prison regime. There may also be an issue with how this message is coherently relayed to the prisoners via some staff. As a result of this, on multiple occasions, the now more experienced and 'savvy' prisoners have complained to the Board about how, on some days, staff have not completed basic tasks, such as facilitating medications to wings or giving prisoners adequate yard time. The IMB would like to, again, praise Deerbolt staff in the care and separation unit (CSU) for their organisation and compassion. They show commitment to prisoners with more complex needs, particularly when they often have to manage challenging behaviour. Whilst the prison still does not have suitable facilities to deal with many of those with complex needs, the staff have continued to try to understand the challenges by developing relationships and showing patience. The CSU staff have continued to communicate with the IMB and keep us informed of prisoners' circumstances.

5.1 Accommodation, clothing and food

Residential wings

Deerbolt has 10 residential wings and a care and separation unit (CSU), where men are kept apart from other prisoners. J wing has now been demolished. K wing refurbishment is ongoing. Plans are being discussed to build a new, additional wing where J wing was located. G wing is used for inductions and continues to function well. It is also used for young prisoners moving to an adult prison, pending the re-opening of K wing. All the open wings appear to be in good condition and reasonably clean. The furnishings are often damaged or old and in poor repair. This has not yet been adequately addressed by the in-house repair workshop. The gym is very well equipped and offers a wide range of activities. Unfulfilled sessions, particularly evening duties, have led to apathy amongst prisoners, who increasingly think there is no point in registering for gym activity because it frequently does not happen. Access has been limited due to staffing shortages. A and I wings run as incentivised substance free living (ISFL) units. They are popular and appear to be success, with a waiting list of prisoners for spaces in IFSL. 'Lifer' wing plans, which have been reported previously, have been shelved. The prison is not overcrowded. Repairs to the fabric of the buildings still take some time, although priority continues to be given to the CSU.

Laundry

From the Board's observations, the laundrette continues to run efficiently.

Food

The menu continues to run on a four-weekly cycle. Breakfasts are pre-packed cereal or porridge, delivered once a week with teabags and long-life milk cartons. The lunch and afternoon meal options include hot and cold choices, with biscuits, fruit and a dessert. Meals are served at the wing servery and mostly eaten in the cells. Menu choices are made on paper and sent to the catering team. The menu is clearly set out to show the type of dish, and symbols are used to assist men who have reading challenges.

Themed meal choices are offered each month. An analysis of the menu shows a good range of poultry, meat and fish options, as well as healthy, vegetarian, vegan and halal choices.

Even though the daily food allowance continues to be low, the catering team still manages to provide a varied menu, as well as special diets, which include soft food for men with dental issues. The IMB has continued to observe a noticeable decline in food-related complaints during monitoring visits, reflecting a downward trend over recent years. Currently, there is an average of five applications per month from prisoners relating to food. All wings now have access to grills and toasters.

5.2 Segregation

The care and separation unit, or CSU, has 13 cells and two special accommodation cells (where items such as furniture, bedding and sanitation are removed in the interests of safety). The wing continues to be in good condition and damage seems to be repaired promptly. As previously reported, facilities are basic and include a library and an outdoor exercise area. As with last year's report, all the good order or discipline (GOoD) reviews (where it is determined if a prisoner who has been segregated due to disruptive behaviour should remain segregated) we have observed have been fair and supportive, with reasonable outcomes.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

Not much has changed in this areas since our previous report. The prison continues to have issues with staff recruitment, retention and sickness absence. Most of the staff cohort have less than two years' service, which means there are not enough experienced people to act as mentors or buddies or to guide the newer team members in 'jail craft'. Some prisoners serving long sentences seem to know more about the prison regime and rules than the officers on their wing. This is not unique to Deerbolt. Prisoners tell us that they struggle to contact their prison offender managers (POMs) and probation officers. The number of key worker sessions has increased and work is ongoing to improve the quality of recording information from the sessions. There have been improvements in regime, leading to less prisoner time in cell, which is a real positive. The IMB has some concerns relating to there being just two staff per wing, particularly during times of prisoner movements. Managers have been working hard to maintain staffing levels. Morale between some staff and prisoners was often at a low level during the reporting period.

5.4 Equality and diversity

We have continued to monitor reports of discrimination incidents. There were 39 discrimination incident reporting forms submitted during the period - a reduction from the previous reporting period, when an average of 4-5 were received each month. One area of concern is inconsistency in decision-making between staff members. Less experienced staff have agreed to requests that more experienced colleagues would decline, and this has been perceived by prisoners as unfair treatment.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

Deerbolt has a multi-faith chaplaincy team, which continues to has adapt to the changing needs of the population. Visiting chaplains supplement the team. Most prisoners can see a chaplain of their faith. Regular Christian and Muslim services continue to take place and the team provides pastoral care for any prisoner who wants to have a confidential chat with someone who isn't a prison officer. The chaplaincy

team has a visible presence in the CSU and on the wings each day. The annual collaboration with the Angel Tree charity continued at Christmas. Video links enabled men to observe the funerals of loved ones when they couldn't attend in person. The chaplaincy team continues to work with the Proclaim Trust. The work involves prisoners writing their story and presenting it to an audience of staff and other prisoners. The presentations were thought provoking and very moving.

5.6 Incentive schemes

The incentives scheme has been updated and was re-issued in April 2025. National policy restricting the use of certain games consoles has caused discontent amongst some prisoners.

5.7 Complaints

Most complaints concerned property issues (around 30 per month). This is a national issue and systemic reviews at Deerbolt have been discussed. The next highest complaint area was residential (310 for the year). The Board believes that, generally, the accommodation is of a satisfactory standard. The next highest category is financial (252 for the period). Many of these complaints are fuelled by a lack of prisoner understanding of how the system for finances actually works.

5.8 Property

See comments, above, in 5.7.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

Physical healthcare is provided by Spectrum. Dental healthcare is provided by Hyder Dental Group. Mental healthcare is provided by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Health Foundation Trust (TEWV). The Prison Opticians Group provides optical services. Waythrough provides drug and alcohol support. There is no in-patient provision.

In December 2024, HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) noted: *'Patients faced unacceptable barriers to receiving health care; there were too few healthcare staff; clinics were often cancelled; they were not escorted to appointments, including those at outside hospitals and received medicines late. A high number of emergencies caused by substance misuse compounded these problem.'* The Board agrees with these findings. Subsequently, we have observed significant efforts to address these issues, a finding that was also confirmed by HMIP in October 2025.

However, drugs remain easily available and there were 635 UTI (under the influence) incidents in the period, January to September, which takes healthcare staff away from their usual tasks and puts pressure on the ambulance service.

Clinical governance of healthcare was described as weak by HMIP. A local delivery board, chaired by the Deputy Governor, should meet monthly. Problems of availability of prison and healthcare staff led to dates being changed and limited our opportunity to observe the oversight of the services. However, the situation improved towards the end of the reporting year. The absence of the head of healthcare for most of the year stretched an already understaffed team, although it should be noted that a new head is expected to be appointed in 2026.

The number of written complaints is low, in contrast with the numerous issues raised with the IMB throughout the reporting year. The concerns are usually about delays and the lack of information regarding healthcare appointments. Deerbolt does not have kiosks (self-service computer terminals), which would allow prisoners to book and manage their own appointments. We will monitor communication with prisoners over the reporting year.

Generally, the Board has not been concerned about healthcare provision. However, we have some concerns about dental care and considerable concerns about the availability of an optician.

The waiting area in healthcare is too small to accommodate all the patients who arrive for clinics and the booking system isn't sophisticated enough to manage this problem, leading to missed appointments when prison staff are not able to escort all the men to their appointments. A treatment room is planned for the education block, but progress has been slow, in the Board's view.

6.2 Physical healthcare

Staffing levels have improved and continue to do so following recent recruitment, although there is still some reliance on agency and bank staff. Deerbolt continues to face challenges in recruiting and retaining staff, partly due to its rural location.

Prisoners have an initial screening on arrival at the prison, although, in the Board's view, the handover of information from previous prisons could be better.

GP appointments are available three days per week, backed up by appointments with a nurse practitioner. The September GP waiting list was three weeks but urgent appointments seemed to be available the same week.

The dental waiting list in January was 10 weeks, but by September it was 18 weeks. This was partly due to Legionella being found, which led to clinic cancellations, but there have been significant levels of non-attendance, which wasted clinical time. The prison is investigating the reasons.

Prisoners who need to see an optician wait for a long time for an appointment. The waiting list was 30 weeks for much of the year, but has risen alarmingly. The Board understands that additional clinics have been turned down because of the cost. The prison has a stock of reading glasses, which may be enough for some, but anyone with more complex needs should be able to see an optician much sooner, in the Board's view. Several clinics have been cancelled by the optician and there have been problems getting prisoners to appointments when the clinic *is* taking place. There is a reserve list so prisoners can be offered an appointment if a vacancy arises, but this doesn't seem to be having a noticeable impact on the waiting list. Prisoners with diabetes are taken to a local hospital for retinal scans.

Controlled medications, including methadone, were dispensed on the wings. This has changed to dispensing from a hatch in the healthcare waiting area. There are ongoing teething problems, resulting in medication still being dispensed when clinics are due to start. From our monitoring, prison managers and healthcare staff are working together to make sure the dispensing list is finished more quickly.

6.3 Mental healthcare

Referrals and contact with the mental health team have increased during the reporting year. Recruitment and staffing issues are ongoing, which has increased the caseload for each member of staff. The team has been able to maintain the number of contacts with prisoners, which is due to their hard work, in the Board's view. We have observed the skill of the team during these reviews and consider its input invaluable.

Prescribing cover has been raised as a concern and is on the risk register, which means it is being formally monitored and managed by the senior leadership team. Issues around renewal of prescriptions and release medication continue. Some cover for non-medical prescribing has been provided remotely from HMP Haverigg. No progress has been made with autism accreditation, due to other staffing vacancies. The speech and language therapy post has been advertised four times during the reporting year, without success.

Despite these difficulties, the mental health team seems to have been able to provide assurance about mental healthcare plans.

6.4 Social care

Durham County Council is responsible for social care assessments. The council doesn't attend the board meeting, nor does it provide a written report. Healthcare staff maintain regular contact with the council and the prison is intending to have aids available to assist any prisoner who needs equipment on arrival. A small number of prisoners have complex healthcare needs but none are on palliative or end-of-life care. No prisoners were receiving social care packages at the end of the reporting year; one prisoner had refused an assessment.

6.5 Time out of cell, regime

Time out of cell has increased during the reporting year. From our observations, managers and staff are working hard to keep a more open regime going, or, where restrictions are necessary, to ensure they are carefully rotated across the wings. The wings can seem chaotic when men are leaving for work or education whilst others are having SOWA (structured on-wing association) with only two officers on duty. The opportunities for men to speak to officers about healthcare concerns or practical issues are limited, in the Board's view.

Gym activity and general exercise are an important part of prisoner wellbeing. The gym has been operating with a shortage of staff for the whole report period. The gym team achieved 63% of their target hours. Around 14,000 planned gym hours were not delivered against the agreed programme. Not only this, but the rota meant that one of the evening sessions per week has not been delivered. The evening sessions are used mostly by prisoners who work and those on the enhanced (top) level of the incentives scheme who have consistently missed out.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

Deerbolt has a drug and alcohol strategy manager and two ISFL (incentivised substance-free living) wings. A comprehensive strategy document was issued in April 2025, which sets out a framework for enabling recovery, reducing demand and restricting supply.

The wings hold around 119 men. There is a waiting list and we understand that the prison intends to roll out the ISFL regime to other wings in 2026.

Community meetings take place and prisoners have access to cooking facilities, which are not available on other wings. The atmosphere is much more relaxed and open than other wings and we have observed good interactions between prisoners and staff.

The good practice is being shared with other prisons in the northeast and some academic institutions.

ISFL staff work closely with the team from the Waythrough charity to provide support for prisoners and their families on the outside and to ensure that prisoners who are released have arrangements in place for their medication to continue.

6.7 Soft skills

A variety of activities have been offered during the reporting year: Tai Chi; pottery, first aid run by the PE instructors; football; wreath making; Black History Month food tasting; chess club; and art club. The charity, Age UK, runs a drop-in session in the education block, which is well attended. The Park Run has been suspended, but we are told it should be reintroduced in 2026.

7. Progression and resettlement

The main concern for the IMB during the reporting year is the reduction of employment and education in the majority of areas to half-day sessions. Whilst this is in no way a criticism of Deerbolt's regime and education providers, or the management team, the IMB believes this is a backward step in terms of purposeful activity in a category C training prison. The restriction of movement times within the prison has always impacted how much actual time is spent in workshops/ classrooms, and it is felt by both prisoners and staff that only being able to access part-time activity affects morale.

Some areas of the regime still have full-time work, including the gardens, the kitchen, the Orbio cleaning team, and waste management.

7.1 Education, library

Staff shortages and absences result in regime restrictions, with areas of the regime unable to proceed as planned with shorter sessions. This is frustrating for prisoners. The prison's transformation from a young offender institution (YOI) to a category C training prison (where young offenders are now, typically, around 11% of the population), has still not yet been reflected in this area. As highlighted in last year's report, the Board continues to be concerned about the lack of educational opportunities for the increasingly older prisoner and that the programmes are aimed at the lower end of the ability level. This is as it should be for some of the population, but there are men within Deerbolt who wish to progress to a higher level of education, such as with the Open University, and they have found this difficult. As no prisoner can have two 'jobs' (education is classed as paid activity), during his time in Deerbolt, the stark choice can be between 'earning' and 'learning'. More than one prisoner has expressed a wish to study in their own time and it is the Board's view that this should be facilitated, if possible. As per last year, no more money has been assigned for the change in age profile and prison category.

From our observations of the education department, tuition appears to be of a high standard. The statistics suggest that prisoners are succeeding in their core subjects and that standards are being maintained. Prisoners are generally well engaged, and the overall atmosphere is positive.

The library has two members of staff, continues to be well equipped and is a comfortable, welcoming space for prisoners. Wing visits are still conducted when prisoners are unable to attend in person. The Storybook Dads and Raising Readers programmes continue. Both allow engagement between fathers and children, and the library manager is actively encouraging further participation.

7.2 Vocational training, work

These are subject to the same regime restriction pattern as the education department. Staffing levels have generally been maintained; however, during some of our monitoring visits, we have noted that activities have been closed without explanation. Due to the lack of notification, prisoners are unaware and then returned to their wing. It has been suggested by several older prisoners that a system such as 'kiosk' would alleviate some of the frustration about regime changes. The Board acknowledges that this would involve considerable expenditure.

Deerbolt has an established industries building which, at first glance, appears well equipped. However, maintenance issues have continued. Problems during the past

year have been within the joinery workshop and an ineffective ventilation system, resulting in an atmosphere heavy with wood particles. This has been reported several times as a health and safety issue by staff and on a couple of occasions by our Board at monthly meetings to the senior management team.

Another problem of note was earlier in the reporting year, when the gardens 'workshop' was waiting an unreasonably long time for seed orders, resulting in the prisoners sitting around with nothing to do. After Board intervention, the orders duly arrived. The concern here for the Board was that the planting season would be too advanced and opportunities for purposeful activity missed. Also of concern to instructors was the condition and cleanliness of garden/waste management boots. As these belong with the department and not the individual, it was a constant complaint of hygiene. This has now been alleviated somewhat by a boot-cleaning machine.

The bike workshop closed earlier in 2025 and the space is now used by a refurbishment unit. This new initiative has been hampered by a lack of tools and delays in engraving them, which has prevented progress on re-upholstery and repairs to both prisoner and establishment items.

A horticulture City & Guilds qualification course has made a positive start, with nine of the longest-serving prisoners in the gardens taking part as the pilot group. This is continuing, although, as far as the IMB is aware, it has not yet been expanded. We requested statistics for vocational training and activities, but these have not been provided to date.

A frequent complaint from prisoners - although never formally raised through an application (a prisoner's written representation to the IMB) - concerns the comparison of pay rates between Deerbolt and other establishments, which appear to be lower here. This was also raised in last year's report and continues to be a concern, becoming more prominent with the increase in older prisoners. At the time of writing, in October 2025, this remains the case.

Most activities appear well run and popular with prisoners.

7.3 Offender management

Progression in general and progression of sentence plans has been affected by staffing levels within the offender management unit (OMU) in the summer of 2025 and the current tranche of re-calculation of sentences with a view to earlier release. The IMB continues to enjoy an open dialogue with the OMU. The Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) has been replaced by Building Choices, with allocation correctly prioritised as per sentencing dates. The IMB has received quite a number of verbal comments from within the prison population regarding the fairness of allocation and confusion about whether or not Building Choices should be completed within Deerbolt before a move to a category D (open) prison. The OMU staff are managing extremely heavy caseloads and should be commended for their efforts. We requested statistics to support this, but these have not yet been provided.

7.4 Family contact

The relative remoteness of Deerbolt will always be an issue for visitors, especially those from further afield, who may rely on public transport. Deerbolt now holds a number of 'lifer' prisoners from the south/London area and the IMB has been made aware, via prisoner comments, of how the distance affects family ties and, ultimately, the wellbeing of the prisoner. Unfortunately, it is beyond the remit of the IMB to arrange

or influence a transfer to a prison closer to a prisoner's home area. The current high population in prisons nationally means that a transfer is usually down to capacity rather than humanity. Social video calls alleviate this problem but do not replace personal contact, particularly for those with children.

In the Board's view, the North East Prison Aftercare Society (NEPACS) team continues to provide an excellent service to visitors, particularly those with young children. An external visitors' centre provides a comfortable, welcoming first impression. The visiting area inside the prison is itself well maintained and enhanced by a crèche and a canteen and has undergone some refurbishment during the summer of 2025.

7.5 Resettlement planning

Deerbolt continues to benefit from access to a prison employment lead on a one-day-per-week loan from HMP Durham. Through this arrangement, the team continues to work towards offering every prisoner the opportunity for full-time employment on release. The Board will continue to monitor the long-term effectiveness of this approach. The 'jobs unlocked' initiative was closed down and, while a replacement has been expected, it has not yet been established. Ingeus and People Plus staff continue to be proactive in identifying prisoner career options and setting goals. The IMB did not receive any applications regarding a lack of support in this area.

8. The work of the IMB

Board statistics

| | |
|--|-----|
| Recommended complement of Board members | 14 |
| Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period | 7 |
| Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period | 6 |
| Total number of visits to the establishment | 246 |
| Total number of shifts on the 0800 telephone line* | N/A |
| Total number of segregation reviews attended | - |

*If relevant.

Applications to the IMB

| Code | Subject | Previous reporting year | Current reporting year |
|------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| A | Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions | 2 | 2 |
| B | Discipline, including adjudications, incentives schemes, sanctions | 0 | 8 |
| C | Equality | 0 | 1 |
| D | Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, library, regime, time out of cell | 7 | 15 |
| E1 | Letters, visits, telephones, public protection restrictions | 4 | - |
| E2 | Finance, including pay, private monies, spends | 2 | 1 |
| F | Food and kitchens | 4 | 2 |
| G | Health, including physical, mental, social care | 3 | 11 |
| H1 | Property within this establishment | 7 | 9 |
| H2 | Property during transfer or in another establishment or location | 2 | 4 |
| H3 | Canteen, facility list, catalogue(s) | 1 | - |
| I | Sentence management, including HDC (home detention curfew), ROTL (release on temporary licence), parole, release dates, recategorisation | 7 | 4 |
| J | Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying | 6 | 11 |
| K | Transfers | 5 | 6 |
| L | Miscellaneous, including complaints system | 1 | 11 |
| | Total number of applications | 51 | 85 |



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