



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

**For reporting year
1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**

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Contents

Introductory sections 1 – 3	Page
1. Statutory role of the IMB	3
2. Description of the establishment	4
3. Key points	5
Evidence sections 4 – 7	
4. Safety	16
5. Fair and humane treatment	22
6. Health and wellbeing	28
7. Progression and resettlement	32
The work of the IMB	
Board statistics	38
Applications to the IMB	38
Annex A	
Service providers	39
Annex B	
Tables and graphs	40
Annex C	
Time out of cell survey	48

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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 establishment¹

HMP/YOI Isis is a public sector training prison for young adults between 18 and 21 years, and category C adults (considered low risk, unlikely to escape or re-offend, and capable of benefiting from rehabilitative initiatives) up to 27 years old. In 2023, it was designated as the London hub prison for convicted young adult men, and the proportion of prisoners aged between 18 and 21 increased during 2024, but was stable during 2025. In December 2025, the proportion of prisoners in this age range was 46%.

The prison is situated in Thamesmead, in southeast London. The certified normal accommodation (the number of prisoners a prison can hold without being crowded) is 478, and the operational capacity - that is, the maximum population it can safely and decently hold - is 628. In December 2025, the population was around 580.

Prisoners are accommodated in two house blocks, Thames and Meridian, each comprising a central hub and four spurs. Each spur can accommodate over 70 prisoners, on three levels. Each spur has a servery, and outside each is an exercise yard with fitness equipment. Each house block has a laundry, operated by laundry orderlies (trusted prisoners who take on work to provide services that contribute to the running of the prison).

In a block opposite the house blocks is the academy, which has 19 classrooms and a capacity in excess of 200, plus the skills zone, with six workshops; a library; a healthcare unit; and a multi-faith suite. Separately, there is a well-equipped gym, able to accommodate 40 prisoners; a cardiovascular studio; an indoor sports hall; and two outdoor AstroTurf pitches. The kitchen is managed by Mitie Group (a private company contracted to provide facilities management, including catering), with a workforce that includes 20+ prisoners.

In our last report, we reported on the early stages of the prison's Peaceful Prison project, which has the aim of reducing violence and improving the regime (the system of daily rules, routines, activities and levels of control that structure prisoners' lives and how a prison operates on a day-to-day basis) for the majority of prisoners. It also aims to challenge the assumption that prisoners can only feel safe if separated from their non-associates (prisoners with whom a prisoner may have conflict, sometimes due to gang allegiances), including by moving away from the previous approach of prioritising separation between non-associates and instead mixing together prisoners as much as possible.

Central to the project was the establishment of a 'Peace spur', where prisoners with a record of non-violence and good behaviour have additional benefits, such as increased freedom to move around the prison, more time out of their cells, far more access to outside space and, in 2025, also additional access to a dedicated kitchen. This was launched in November 2024. In early 2025, the prison also established a 'Growth spur', where prisoners who are most involved in violence have a much more restricted regime, which is intended to be coupled with more intensive support.

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 was a significant decrease in the number of incidents of self-harm in 2025, with 35% fewer than in 2024. The number of assessment, care in custody and teamwork documents (ACCTs; used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide) opened during 2025 was also lower than in 2024, with 124 opened compared with 140 in the previous year.
- There was a reduction in violence in 2025 compared with 2024, especially in the number of staff assaults, which dropped by 45%, from 207 in 2024 to 114. There were 405 incidents of prisoner assaults and fights in 2025, compared with 419 recorded in 2024, a fall of 3%.
- Pava incapacitant spray was used much less in 2025 than in 2024. The number of times Pava was used almost halved compared with the previous year, while the number of violent incidents in 2025 was 82% of those in 2024.
- Black prisoners continued to be disproportionately over-represented among those affected by Pava, accounting for 63% of incidents, despite making up an average of 40% of the prison population and being involved in 53% of all violent incidents.

Fair and humane treatment

- There has been a significant increase in key work over the year. In the Board's view, this has been mainly due to an improvement in staffing levels, but also because of a commitment to its value by the senior management team.
- In 2025, the prison appeared to establish a positive pattern of improvement: higher staffing levels led to less disruption to the regime and more key work, which strengthened staff and prisoner relationships; this, in turn, reduced assaults on staff, lowered injury and sick leave rates, improved staff retention and helped sustain higher staffing levels.
- Over the reporting year, a limited evening regime for prisoners was introduced to allow for induction and cleaning. However, the Board considers this is not enough to make a real difference to time out of cell for most prisoners or to ensure that the serveries are able to be kept clean.
- Prisoners were segregated in 2025 for shorter periods. This may result from the introduction of the Growth spur.
- Overall, there has been an increase in the proportion of minority ethnic prisoners on the enhanced (top) level of the prison's incentives scheme; however, black prisoners and those under the age of 21 remain under-represented at this level.

Health and wellbeing

- Although prisoners' time out of cell improved for many across the prison in 2025, limited time out of cell remained a concern. The Board was especially concerned about how little time some prisoners on the Growth spur were able

to take part in meaningful activity. Consequently, we undertook a survey on time out of cell, which is reported in section 6.5.

- There was much less use of separate regimes in 2025 than in 2024, under which prisoners were kept apart from the rest of the prison population, usually because of the risk of violence from other prisoners with whom they were in conflict, sometimes at their own request.
- The prison met its target of 30 mandatory drug tests (MDT) a month in every month and exceeded it in July when it conducted 38 tests. However, it was noted that, at the end of the reporting year, ongoing staffing constraints had limited the prison's ability to allocate staff for essential MDT paperwork, resulting in delays and inconsistent adjudication (a disciplinary hearing held when a prisoner is alleged to have broken prison rules) outcomes. Compared with other London prisons, the prison reported that it demonstrated one of the lowest overall positivity rates in the group.
- As the Board noted in last year's report - and in every annual report since 2018 - prisoner property continues to present a significant problem, particularly during transfers between prisons. The loss of property can be deeply distressing for prisoners, as it often includes irreplaceable personal items such as photos and letters, not just clothing. It remains the Board's view that the objectives of the Prisoners' Property Policy Framework to improve the management of prisoner property have not yet been fully met.

Progression and resettlement

- There has been an increase in the number of prisoners serving life sentences in the prison. The Board is concerned about the limited opportunities for progression for this group, as well as the lack of analysis of their particular needs.
- Whilst the backlog in the preparation of sentence plans by the offender management unit (OMU) over the year has been reduced, the Board remains concerned about the impact this has had on prisoners' opportunities for progression and rehabilitation.
- Core education provision was cut significantly from October (a 31% reduction in the six months from October 2025 and a 39% reduction in the following year), leading to the cessation or curtailment of a number of training courses. This is a cause of great concern to the Board, particularly in a prison serving 18-27-year-old young men, for whom this is a critical time in improving their life chances.
- In 2025, a frequent topic of both applications (prisoners' written representations to the IMB) and informal interactions during our monitoring visits was the inability to secure transfers on compassionate grounds to be closer to family and enable visiting.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

- The Board is seriously concerned about the cuts to the education budget, particularly in a prison serving 18-27-year-old young men, for whom access to education is critical to improving their long-term life chances. What is the rationale for reducing the education budget and what steps will the Minister take to mitigate the impact for this group?
- In 2025, the prison started to receive life-sentenced prisoners. The Board observed that there was little appropriate provision for education and training for prisoners starting a life sentence, and that this appears to be the case in prisons across the country. Young life-sentenced prisoners require programmes that help them make constructive use of their time in custody and enable them to lead useful lives when released. What specific plans are in place to develop and deliver programmes to support the progression of such prisoners, and how will their effectiveness be monitored?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

- The Board welcomes the many initiatives in HMP/YOI Isis to support young black men. Whilst there has been no evidence seen by the Board confirming that institutional and cultural factors contribute to the over-representation of young black men in violence statistics, the over-representation observed in 2024 continued in 2025. Why is force used disproportionately against black prisoners and why are the numbers of black prisoners affected by Pava disproportionately high?
- We have continued to report that there are still serious problems with the loss of prisoner property or delays in its receipt on transfer, as shown by the number of applications we received on the issue during 2025. We are not aware that the Prisoners' Property Policy Framework has done anything to address this. When can we expect to see a better system in place, including the digitisation of the process?
- Prisoners frequently raise the issue that they are unable to see their family because of the distance families have to travel, and are unable to get transfers to prisons closer to home. What will the Prison Service do to address this?

TO THE GOVERNOR

- Levels of violence on the Growth spur were consistently high throughout 2025 - the highest of any spur - and accounted for 20% of violent incidents. The number of weapons found on this spur was also the highest in the prison, with 40% of weapons recovered there. What further action will the Governor take to ensure that prisoners on this spur both feel and are safe?
- We note that HMIP's report on the unannounced inspection of HMP/YOI Isis by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (18 November-4 December 2025) found that: *'Leaders had identified that black men and 18-21-year-olds had the highest levels of force used against them. However, they had not sufficiently analysed the reasons for this.'* What is the Governor going to do to make sure this analysis is carried out and that the results are used to tackle any unfair differences that are found?

- As in 2024, the proportion of black prisoners affected by Pava incapacitant spray was higher than their proportion of the population and higher than the proportion involved in violence. Will the Governor arrange for this data to be routinely produced and scrutinised in the monthly safety, equalities and use of force meeting?

3.3 Response to the previous report

Issue raised with the Minister	Response given	Progress
<p>Young adult prisoners, those aged between 18 and 21 years old, are proportionally responsible for perpetrating more violence in prison and are more likely to be victims of it. Individual prisons appear to make decisions about how many such offenders they will take, apparently without involvement from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), which is one of the reasons for the increase of prisoners in this age group at HMP/YOI Isis and the consequent increase in violence. What is the MoJ strategy for the management of young adults in the prison estate?</p>	<p>I have read your report with care and share your concerns about the rising levels of violence at HMP/YOI Isis, particularly amongst young adult prisoners. HMP/YOI Isis is dual designated, which allows it to hold 18 to 21-year-olds in addition to the older adult population. It is essential that reception prison places are maintained to effectively serve local courts. It is important that this cohort can progress to the next stage prison, as designated by the national offender flows, and prisons of all categories designed to hold 18 to 21-year-olds should not routinely refuse to accept them. As HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) continues to navigate through population pressures, SDS40 and other initiatives have provided opportunities to progress prisoners through the system. This includes aiding the rehabilitation and access to the right services for 18 to 21-year-olds in the next stage prisons.</p> <p>Reducing violence in prisons is a key priority, and we are working hard to make prisons as safe as possible. Whilst it is not possible to eliminate all risks of harm, we continue our efforts on a range of measures to address the levels of violence in prison. HMP/YOI Isis recognises that</p>	<p>The Board has still not seen a national strategy for the management of young adult prisoners across the prison estate.</p> <p>The Board welcomes the various initiatives to reduce conflict in the prison. Men of Purpose and other initiatives are described later in this report.</p>

Issue raised with the Minister	Response given	Progress
	<p>18-21-year-olds are over-represented as perpetrators of violence, but initiatives to tackle this are showing encouraging signs. 90% of the men that have been through the Men of Purpose programme have been from this age bracket, and early indicators are showing the decline of violence and positive behaviour of those participants.</p>	
<p>Gang culture and knife crime are issues that ripple between the local community and prison. What plans are there for a strategy that aims to reduce violence among young offenders in the community before they are sentenced, after sentencing and after their sentence is over?</p>	<p>I also recognise your concerns about gang culture and knife crime within our communities as well as our prisons. The Government is taking a number of steps to go “upstream” of the crimes and behaviour that lead to young people committing knife crime and other serious offences. We will intervene earlier to stop young people being drawn into crime, creating a new Young Futures programme, with a network of hubs with youth workers, mental health support workers, and careers advisers on hand to support young people’s mental health and avoid them being drawn into crime. Local prevention partnerships will identify young people who could be drawn into violence and intervene. We have begun plans to test and pilot these in 2025/26. We are also legislating through the Crime and Policing Bill to create a new offence of criminal exploitation of children, to go after the gangs who are luring young people into violence and crime.</p> <p>The Mayor of London continues to commission and support a wide variety of programmes</p>	<p>The Board welcomes the trial of the Young Futures programme and looks forward to a Young Futures Hub being opened in the local area, which has seen a high level of knife crime, as the Minister may have seen reported in the BBC TV <i>Panorama</i> programme.</p> <p>No update.</p>

Issue raised with the Minister	Response given	Progress
	<p>across London to reduce violence in the community, with a number specifically focused on those being released from custody or with active involvement in the criminal justice system. This includes the GPS tagging programme for knife crime offenders, which often tags prisoners as they are released from HMP/YOI Isis and has been shown to reduce reoffending post-release.</p>	
<p>As the data gathered for this report show, young adult prisoners are proportionally more likely to be involved in staff and prisoner assaults and more likely to own and use weapons. Managing their behaviour is resource intensive. How will the Minister allocate the necessary resources for this age group in HMP/YOI Isis?</p>	<p>I appreciate that managing these issues can be resource intensive. In March 2025, HMP/YOI Isis gained staff on detached duty, and this allowed for improved regime delivery, as well as increased key work delivery to around 400 sessions per month. Whilst this is still below the target, it is a significant improvement. It is recognised how beneficial improved staffing is in supporting the establishment managing a complex population. As of May 2025, I am pleased to report that the prison was almost fully staffed with the required number of prison officers. In addition, retention rates are improving and sickness levels have recently significantly improved.</p> <p>I acknowledge that, overall, your report shows a lack of progress around a number of concerns that you have previously raised and hope further inroads can be made over the next reporting year. I was, though, encouraged by some positives that you were able to point to in your report. These include the improvements</p>	<p>Staffing levels have been much better in 2025, and the amount of key work has been very significantly higher. Consequently, violence has fallen, especially the number of staff assaults, which are 45% less than in 2024.</p> <p>The Board trusts that the improved staffing levels will be maintained, following the HMIP inspection at the end of 2025.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the 180 Kitchen had to be closed following education budget cuts in October.</p>

Issue raised with the Minister	Response given	Progress
	<p>in education attainment and success rates, positive feedback on catering training provided by 180 Kitchen, and the impressive achievement of the Equalities Manager being presented with a Butler Trust Award by HRH Princess Anne for “her game-changing impact as equalities lead at HMP/YOI Isis”. I was also really impressed with the work of the Young Men of Purpose initiative during my visit on 3 April 2025 and would like to commend the prison on this.</p>	
Issue raised with the Prison Service	Response given	Progress
<p>Lack of staff is having a detrimental effect on many of the prison’s commitments, such as key work. What level of staffing is necessary to resource HMP/YOI Isis and what is being done to address any shortfall?</p>	<p>Resourcing: Please see comments, above, in the Minister’s response.</p>	<p>See the response to the Minister’s answer, above. This does not answer our question of what staffing level the prison service assess is necessary at HMP/YOI Isis. The Board hopes that the improved staffing levels will be maintained, but this still isn’t sufficient to provide a humane regime, notably due to the limited time prisoners have out of their cells.</p>
<p>Assessing the outcome of all the various programmes to rehabilitate prisoners and reduce reoffending is very difficult without through-the-gate information. Does the Prison Service have reoffending rates for specific prisons and, if not, what will the Prison Service do to obtain reoffending rates for different prisons?</p>	<p>Reoffending data: Subject to satisfactory quality assurance and development, the intention is for the Ministry of Justice to resume the publication of reoffending rates by prison establishment in 2026.</p>	<p>The Board welcomes this development and looks forward to seeing the reoffending data.</p>

Issue raised with the Minister	Response given	Progress
<p>What research has been done into the reasons why young black men are disproportionately involved in violence, including multiple prisoner fights, and how can this be disseminated to prisons like HMP/YOI Isis, for whom this is a major factor in the levels of violence?</p>	<p>Ethnicity factors in relation to violent incidents: Recent surveys and safe space discussions with young black men revealed that the majority had been exposed to violence during their childhoods. They were more likely to have grown up expecting physical violence as a punishment from their carers. Other opinions given were community issues that have happened outside and continue to affect life inside an establishment.</p> <p>HMP/YOI Isis delivers a trauma-informed response approach and many interventions to support young black men. Earlier this year, a Use of Force survey on black men was carried out at the prison to deep dive into experiences of young black men in HMP/YOI Isis, and an action plan was subsequently created to support this minority group. Interventions such as Belong, Men of Purpose, Changing the Game and Black Heroes Journey are all established in the prison to address the issues faced by black men in and outside prison and help change any patterns. Delivery of 'Aspire Higher', a Black Excellence programme to gain life skills such as leadership, teamwork, relationship building, personal development and problem-solving, has also had a positive impact. There has been a focus on ensuring that there is no disproportionality in the treatment of young black men, and forums such as 'Black</p>	<p>The Board welcomes the many initiatives in HMP/YOI Isis to support young black men. Whilst there has been no evidence seen by the Board confirming that institutional and cultural factors contribute to the over-representation of young black men in violence statistics, the over-representation observed in 2024 continued in 2025. The Board notes that the HMPPS response does not address the possibility of systemic issues contributing to this.</p>

Issue raised with the Minister	Response given	Progress
	prisoner experiences' have been held regularly to give prisoners a voice on their perspective and better understand the disproportionality.	
<p>Planning for early release schemes and other changes diverts significant (and already stretched) OMU resources away from delivering the normal workload. If similar schemes can be expected in the future, how will the MoJ ensure that staff in the prison and probation service are adequately supported, such that the prisoners not within the scope of these schemes do not experience a reduction in the support available, due to limited resources being diverted elsewhere?</p>	<p>Offender management unit (OMU) resourcing The impact of capacity-related measures and activity on OMUs has been recognised and the work that has been delivered by OMU staff across the estate has been central to their successful delivery. While there has been an unprecedented pressure, temporary resource uplifts have been made available to prisons to assist with this, including an uplift to recognise extra work on Home Detention Curfew and the provision of incentivised overtime for OMU staff. In addition, a central team has been providing support in completing OASys assessments to support prison OMUs.</p> <p>In response to SDS40, HMPPS has completed a national lessons learned review and this learning will inform the development of any capacity management measures we deploy in future, beginning with those we develop as part of the programme to implement the changes resulting from the Independent Sentencing Review.</p>	<p>The Board recognises that the offender management unit at HMP/YOI Isis managed the various early release schemes well. However, we frequently receive complaints from prisoners about poor communication with their prison offender managers, which limits their ability to obtain important information about sentence progression, release dates and eligibility for recategorisation or home detention curfew.</p>
Issue raised with the Governor	Response given	Progress
<p><i>From our investigation into emergency cell bells (ECB) in the prison, we would like to know:</i></p>	<p>As we have identified previously, there is no simple method for monitoring ECBs. However, we have now introduced into the Duty Governor checklist a test of ECB</p>	<p>We repeated our analysis of the prison's ECB log this year – see section 4.5. The average time for an ECB to be answered improved to 9.0 minutes</p>

Issue raised with the Minister	Response given	Progress
<p>With regard to ECBs, how is the prison monitoring whether the guidance in the Prison Officers' Guide 2023 is being followed?</p> <p>What alternative methods are there for bringing urgent but not emergency issues to the attention of officers?</p> <p>Who is responsible for attending when an ECB is rung over the lunch period or during morning briefings – times when our investigation shows that the time taken to answer is very long?</p>	<p>response times each day. Information from this daily check is then used to remind staff of the need to respond to ECBs promptly.</p> <p>Once a young man is locked behind a cell door, there are no other alternative methods. But we hope the reintroduction of key work, good relationships between staff and prisoners and access to the biometric system provide effective methods of raising non-emergency issues to attention.</p> <p>There is always at least one patrol officer in the hub over lunch and during the morning meeting, and it is their role to respond to ECBs.</p>	<p>this year compared with 19.6 minutes in 2024. The median time to answer improved from 9.1 minutes in 2024 to 3.7 minutes. The improvement in response times across most areas has helped ease the Board's concerns in this area.</p>
<p>We are concerned about the over-representation of black men in metrics for staff assaults, prisoner assaults, weapon ownership and being affected by Pava spray. Will the Governor instigate a deep-dive study into the reasons for this?</p>	<p>No. We regularly discuss over-representation and hold regular focus groups with black men. We have concentrated efforts on practical interventions focused on supporting young black men (Men of Purpose, Black Heros Journey, Untold, Changing the Game, Rooted Wisdom, etc.) and meeting their particular needs. We would measure over-representation in these metrics against representation of young black men in metrics such as those on Enhanced, those with trusted jobs, those progressing to category D. Overall, our metrics show that young black men progress as well as their white counterparts. The positive representation, the</p>	<p>The Board welcomes the many initiatives in HMP/YOI Isis to support young black men. Whilst there has been no evidence seen by the Board confirming that institutional and cultural factors contribute to the over-representation of young black men in violence statistics, the over-representation observed in 2024 continued in 2025. We note that the HMIP Inspectors said that <i>'Leaders had identified that black men and 18–21-year-olds had the highest levels of force</i></p>

Issue raised with the Minister	Response given	Progress
	<p>feedback from focus groups and prisoner surveys would not suggest there is a prison-based reason for the over-representations identified. Therefore, the scope of any deep dive into over-representation would be beyond the resources available for research that exist within HMP Isis and is a question for HMPPS rather than the Governor.</p>	<p><i>used against them. However, they had not sufficiently analysed the reasons for this.'</i></p>
<p>Every winter we receive complaints from prisoners in the segregation unit about cold temperatures in their cells. These prisoners are confined to their cells for 23 hours a day, so are especially affected by cell temperatures. When will the window repairs in the segregation unit be carried out? Should they be recognised as a priority, compared with other areas of the prison?</p>	<p>No. We do not believe segregation cells should be prioritised for repair. Our data shows that stays in the segregation unit are relatively short for the majority of young men and the population within the unit is usually in single figures, with alternative provisions, such as additional blankets, in place. We have repaired windows on three spurs over the course of 2024-25 and believe that, over the course of 2026, we will be able to repair all windows, including those in the segregation unit.</p>	<p>The Board has been informed that the remaining cell windows at HMP/YOI Isis will be fixed before the end of the 2025-26 financial year, including those in the segregation unit.</p>

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

Safety in the prison in 2025 was affected by a number of factors:

- It was the first year of the Peaceful Prison project, described above. The majority of the most conflict-prone prisoners were housed in the same spur, known as the Growth spur. Each of these prisoners had a Growth plan to support their reintegration into the mainstream prison population, including interventions described in section 7.3, below.
- Staffing levels were higher than in previous years, resulting in less redeployment of staff from the safer custody team and the offender management unit (OMU) to officer duties and less disruption of the regime and daily activities.
- Additional staff allowed much higher levels of key work, where prison officers provide one-to-one support to a small caseload of prisoners (typically five to six) to foster rehabilitation, improve safety and build constructive relationships. This is described further, in section 5.3, below.
- Prisoners were allocated to cells based on which cell became available, irrespective of their gang allegiances, unless there was evidence of conflict with named individuals.

The impact of these factors is described below.

4.1 Reception and Induction

Reception

HMP/YOI Isis is continuing to receive young men between the ages of 18 and 27 years three times a week from reception prisons and not directly from courts. On average, 44% of the intakes were under 21, including, at the end of the year, 43 prisoners serving life sentences who are not categorised until reaching the age of 21.

The number of transfers into HMP/YOI Isis during 2025 totalled 1,165, which compares with 1,038 in 2024, 909 in 2023, and 982 in 2022. Reception activity data for 2025 is shown in annex B (see table one).

During 2025, the Board surveyed arriving prisoners using a questionnaire about their initial experience of the prison, with 400 prisoners responding. Of those surveyed, 89% reported that they were treated professionally by staff. However, 32% indicated that the cleanliness of the holding rooms and toilet facilities did not meet an acceptable standard.

In the IMB survey, the conveyance vehicles were reported as mainly clean, with the majority of prisoners having no problems with their transfer. On arrival at reception, around 70% waited less than an hour; however, lunchtime arrivals and other busy times could result in longer waits of up to two hours or more.

The IMB found the main areas of reception were kept clean, but the cleanliness of the toilet facilities in the holding rooms could be improved with checks made between offloading new bus-loads of prisoners. During the latter part of the year, framed notices with useful information were displayed neatly in the holding rooms, giving a much more welcoming atmosphere.

There continued to be a problem with some prisoners arriving without all, or part of, their property.

Distribution of handed-in property (brought to the prison by friends or relatives of a prisoner) was taking up to six weeks to be given to prisoners; during the latter part of the year, this had fallen to around one to two weeks with improved staffing levels.

Induction

An IMB survey, which covered the majority of new arrivals throughout the year, produced the following analysis:

- 93% said they were made welcome by officers and prisoner representatives;
- 60% said their cell and toilet facilities was acceptably clean;
- only 12% were able to shower prior to lockup - access to showers continues to be restricted due to regime commitments.

During the reporting year, prisoners had not always received a comprehensive induction, as they were often transferred to another spur too quickly. The current custodial manager (CM) and the induction officer told us that they were looking to implement changes in induction procedures during 2026.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

There was a significant decrease in self-harm in 2025, with an average of 17 incidents per month, compared with 26 per month in 2024, a drop of 35%. The month-by-month comparison between 2024 and 2025 is shown in annex B (see graph two). As in previous years, the figures may be skewed by the actions of a single prisoner. For example, a single prisoner was responsible for 22 acts of self-harm, out of 42, in October, and two others for eight incidents each. The most frequent form of self-harm recorded was cutting (61% of incidents), followed by the use of a ligature (24%).

The number of assessment, care in custody and teamwork documents (ACCTs) opened during 2025 was also lower than in 2024, with 124 opened compared with 140 in the previous year: the monthly comparison is shown on graph one in annex B. As in 2024, the quality of ACCTs observed on monitoring visits remains variable, with some entries up-to-date and others missing, particularly the detail around 'quality' conversations and interactions. IMB weekly monitoring reports to the prison have highlighted this.

The Samaritans-led Listener programme had an average of 11 call-outs per month during the reporting year - the same as in the previous year. There were, on average, eight Listeners (prisoners trained by the Samaritans to offer confidential emotional support to their peers) each month: there were six in post at the end of the year. Reasons for call-outs were not reported.

There were no deaths in custody during 2025.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

Data presented at the prison's monthly safety, equalities and use of force meeting showed a reduction in violence in 2025 compared with 2024, especially in the number of staff assaults, which dropped by 45% from 207 in 2024 to 114. There were 405 incidents of prisoner assaults and fights in 2025, compared with 419

recorded in 2024, a decrease of 3%. The variation of violence across the year is shown in graph three in annex B; violence levels were roughly flat over the course of the year. However, this encouraging drop in violence should be set against large increases in the number of violent incidents in previous years: a 41% increase from 2022 to 2023 and a 30% increase from 2023 to 2024. Violence levels are still higher than in 2022 (before the increase in the proportion of young adult prisoners started). In their recent inspection report, HMIP identified the high level of violence as top of their priority concerns. In December, HMP/YOI Isis had the third highest level of violence per thousand prisoners in its comparator group.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, levels of violence were higher on the Growth spur, with just over 20% of all staff assaults and prisoner-on-prisoner incidents occurring there. Similarly, just over 40% of all weapons recovered were found on the Growth spur. While this is to be expected, given that the spur accommodates some of the most violent prisoners, many from different gangs who may feel particularly unsafe when mixed, the Board remains concerned that violence levels are so high despite a highly restricted regime and a three-cohort system in which prisoners mix only in relatively small groups.

The number of weapons found across the prison in 2025 was almost exactly the same as in 2024, at an average of 58 a month, as shown in graph five in annex B. The proportion of weapons that were used decreased over the course of the year to about 20% at the end of the year, the opposite trend to 2024. On average, the proportion of weapons used was 28%, compared with 41% in 2024. The majority of weapons found - 65% - were some kind of makeshift knife (categorised by the prison as bladed articles, metal-related weapons, screw-related weapons, razor-related weapons and sharpened implements), followed by objects in socks (20%) and plugs on leads (5.5%). The 'sharpened implements' category includes broken and sharpened toilet seats.

A total of 82 weapons debriefs were conducted in January, February and March with prisoners who had been found in possession of weapons. The reasons they gave for having weapons included: 'for personal protection'; 'not feeling safe'; 'everyone has one so it's a disadvantage not to'; 'all fights involve weapons'; and not sure who they will see, due to the amount of 'door slips' (when a cell door is accidentally opened, exposing a prisoner to someone with whom they have conflict). Between 54% and 83% of prisoners debriefed reported feeling unsafe. Similarly, the HMIP prisoner survey, carried out in November as part of their inspection, reported that 60% prisoners had felt unsafe at some time in the prison. About 75% prisoners debriefed said that it was easy to obtain weapons in the prison.

Some debriefed prisoners blamed the Peaceful Prison project and, in particular, the allocation of prisoners to cells based on cell availability, irrespective of their gang allegiances, unless there was evidence of conflict with named individuals. However, although this policy may have led to prisoners feeling less safe, prisoner assaults and fights fell slightly in 2025.

Weapons debriefs were discontinued after March, as they were considered ineffective in reducing weapons possession. A system of weapons amnesties was subsequently introduced. On weapons amnesty days, staff volunteers in non-uniform dress, together with prisoner orderlies, went door-to-door in the house blocks at lunchtime to ask prisoners to relinquish weapons. On an amnesty day in September,

37 weapons were recovered, with a further 12 in November - significantly more than the 11 weapons surrendered in amnesties in 2024. In addition, weapons amnesty bins were placed in the shower rooms on all eight spurs across the establishment, allowing prisoners to drop off weapons without being observed.

The prison was in the first tranche of a government project to replace wet shave razors using razor blades with electric razors in December 2024. Razors were declared an illicit item as of 13 January, with possession punishable as for any other illicit item. We saw no evidence to indicate that this change affected levels of violence or weapons possession.

The number of prisoners on challenge, support and intervention plans (CSIPs), which are used to help and manage prisoners who pose an increased risk of violence, decreased over the course of the reporting year, as shown in graph six in annex B. This resulted from the Peaceful Prison project, as a range of interventions beyond CSIPs were used to support prisoners on the Growth spur, as outlined in section 7.3.

4.4 Use of force

The use of force decreased over the course of the reporting year, broadly in line with the decrease in violence, as shown in graph four in annex B.

Pava incapacitant spray was used much less in 2025 than in 2024. It was drawn without use on 14 occasions (2024: 45) and used 63 times (2024: 121). Use of Pava therefore almost halved compared with the previous year, while the number of violent incidents in 2025 was 82% of those in 2024. It had been suggested that, in 2024, Pava was sometimes used unnecessarily, particularly by inexperienced staff. The HMIP inspection report noted several incidents where it was not clear from body-worn video camera (BWVC) footage and staff statements why Pava was used. However there is no obvious reason for such a disproportionate drop in Pava use other than, perhaps, increased staff experience.

In the Board's view, there is no evidence of individual officers over-using Pava spray. During the year, 57 different officers deployed Pava, with a further 10 drawing it without use. The highest number of deployments by any single officer during the year was five, and this applied to only two officers.

In 2024, we were concerned that the use of Pava was becoming a first response to violent incidents rather than a last resort, as the number of prisoners involved in incidents where Pava was used declined over the course of the year. This year, we observed the opposite trend. The number of prisoners involved in incidents where Pava was used is shown in Graph Nine in Annex B; each point on the graph represents a single incident. The trend line indicates a slight movement over the year towards the use of Pava in incidents involving larger numbers of prisoners. The average number of prisoners involved in an incident where Pava was used was just over three, broadly the same as in 2024. Four of the six Pava incidents involving only one prisoner were reported as staff assaults.

We were also concerned in 2024 about the over-representation of black prisoners among those affected by Pava, even after taking into account the data showing that black prisoners were disproportionately involved in violence. This year's data shows a similar pattern. Prison data for the full year, shown in graph 10 in annex B, indicate

that 63% of prisoners affected by Pava were from the B1 (Caribbean), B2 (African) and B9 (any other black background) ethnic groups. By comparison, these groups represented, on average, 40% of the prison population and were involved in 53% of all violent incidents.

We continue to believe that further investigation is required into the over-representation of black prisoners in violence and in the use of force, especially the significant overrepresentation among those affected by Pava. This concern is reinforced by HMIP inspectors, who reported that: *'Leaders had identified that black men and 18-21-year-olds had the highest levels of force used against them. However, they had not sufficiently analysed the reasons for this.'*

The use of rigid-bar handcuffs decreased from 2024, being used 43 times a month on average, compared with 46 times a month, on average, in 2024. Batons were drawn 16 times and used ten times in 2025, compared with 14 and nine, respectively, in the previous year. Pain compliance was used 10 times.

Routine use of BWVCs increased slightly over the course of the year. On average, 48 BWVCs were issued each month, with around 89% of staff on duty taking them. Footage was available for an average of 84% of incidents, compared with 83% in the previous year. In addition, an average of 75% of non-compliance restraints had footage captured from before the start of the incident.

The prison reviews all use-of-force incidents at a weekly meeting chaired by the Deputy Governor, at which CCTV and BWVC footage is viewed, where available, for all incidents. When Board members observed these meetings, they found them to be thorough and professionally run. However, HMIP reported that the quality of violence-reduction investigations varied too widely, and that too many lacked sufficient detail to enable wider learning.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

Measures taken to prevent illicit items entering the prison were the same as we reported in 2024.

Data from the safety diagnostics tool show an increase in the number of drug finds in the prison during the reporting year compared with the previous year. In 2025, there were 314 drug finds and 27 alcohol-related finds, compared with 288 and 21 respectively in 2024. By contrast, the number of mobile phones recovered fell from 153 in 2024 to 129 in 2025.

Intelligence-led cell searches are used to recover illicit items. In 2025, there were 239 such searches, compared with 428 in 2024. A total of 2,041 illicit items were found during the reporting year, with a downward trend over the course of the year, as shown in annex B, graph seven). The most commonly recovered items were improvised weapons, drug-related items, and materials associated with the illicit economy, such as bank details, debt lists and USB devices (computer storage devices often containing programmes for viewing on televisions).

4.6 Emergency cell bells (ECB)

In 2024, the Board was very concerned about the length of time taken for emergency cell bells (ECBs) to be answered and undertook a project to investigate this issue. The findings are set out in last year's report and underpin the issue raised with the

Governor in section 3.3 above. In response, the prison added a daily test of ECB response times to the Duty Governor's checklist. Information from these checks was used to remind staff of the importance of responding promptly to ECBs. In addition, staffing levels improved in 2025, and there was a significant increase in key work compared with 2024, giving prisoners more opportunities to raise concerns with officers.

To assess the effectiveness of these changes, we re-ran our analysis of a sample of the prison's ECB log. We were told that the data provided covered the period from 1 December 2025; however, the dates in the file actually ran from 1 to 13 January 2026. The analysis showed that:

- The average time for an ECB to be answered was 9.0 minutes, compared with 19.6 minutes in August 2024. The median response time improved from 9.1 minutes in 2024 to 3.7 minutes.
- Variation in average ECB response times across the day showed fewer distinct peaks than last year and was centred at around 11.15am and 3.30pm. In contrast, last year there were clear peaks at approximately 9am and 1pm.
- Unsurprisingly, the highest number of ECB calls - nearly 90 per day - came from the Growth spur, where prisoners are locked in their cells for long periods, while the lowest number came from the Peace spur (18 per day). ECB data by spur are shown in table two in annex B.
- As in 2024, a relatively small number of cells accounted for a disproportionate number of ECB calls: 25% of all calls came from just 37 cells, of which 17 (46%) were on the Growth spur.
- Only one spur, B spur, had a median time to closure of more than five minutes, at just over eight minutes. The average time to closure on this spur was 16 minutes. The reasons for this are unclear,

Response times to ECB calls have improved across most prison accommodation, easing the Board's previous concerns about this issue.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

The IMB observed that the cleanliness of the spurs, especially the standard of hygiene in the serveries, remained unpredictable and was still of concern. During the middle part of the year, where regime permitted, orderlies were allowed a short time after evening lock-down to clean the serveries. However, it was not unusual on some days to see unwashed food trays, sinks full of stained water and the remains of food. This encourages vermin and is a health hazard of concern, which needs to be addressed. Hand soap and paper towels were at times not replenished.

The food trolleys, which were intended to be partially cleaned on the wing after use to remove food debris, were, in the early months of the year, returned to the kitchen completely uncleaned. As a result, kitchen staff had additional work to thoroughly clean them in the main kitchen each morning to ensure food safety.

From our observations, servery workers often do not wear correct PPE when coming to collect trollies in the kitchen and in the serveries.

Temperature workbooks were being completed and checked by the kitchen monthly.

From our observations, the kitchen manager continued to run the main kitchen well and IMB inspections found a high standard of cleanliness throughout the year, together with a deep-clean maintenance. Food was prepared for special occasions, such as religious festivals and specific diets. HMIP inspectors commented that prisoners were generally positive about the quality of the food at Isis, and they could choose from a varied menu. This is supported by Board members' observations on monitoring visits. When the food was tasted it was always found it to be excellent. Kitchen prison worker numbers were usually at a good level. There were problems with a cold room freezer, which took time for repair, causing concern with the capacity to store both halal and non-halal meat whilst maintaining food safety. Some floor tiling was still awaiting attention at the end of the year.

A weekly quiz for kitchen workers held by a Governor and kitchen manager included a mix of food tasting and food safety quizzes aimed at keeping workers' interest, improving food safety skills and acquiring new food knowledge.

Biometric machines (which allow prisoners to communicate with the prison, for example to book visits, select menu items for their meals or make requests to prison departments) on the spurs were subject to breakdown, due to the age of the machines and the lack of spare parts.

Vermin issues remained largely under control through regular weekly maintenance, although isolated incidents occurred throughout the year.

Work continued on the renovation of cell windows, including repairs to broken opening and closing mechanisms. The maintenance team told us that the project was around 75% complete at the end of the year.

During the fourth quarter, flooding occurred on the ground floor of several spurs due to faulty open vents in the roof space. The vents were subsequently disconnected to prevent further flooding; however, this is not an ideal long-term solution, and the vents require upgrading. This would involve significant cost and has therefore been referred to regional facilities management, as it falls within their budget.

5.2 Segregation

The segregation unit has 16 cells, plus two special accommodation cells, where items such as furniture, bedding and sanitation have been removed for safety reasons. Throughout 2025, the Board observed good relationships between officers and prisoners in the unit, but the fabric of the building remained a concern. The broken windows noted in last year's annual report remain unrepaired, and conditions in the unit are very cold during the winter months. This is a particular concern given that occupants are confined to their cells.

There were also difficulties in hanging curtains in the segregation cells, for which the prison's response was to issue eye masks. Cells were often taken out of use while awaiting repairs to air vents or cell bells, the latter remaining unresolved until a new system was installed. Although the unit's landings were redecorated in 2025, the IMB agrees with HMIP's findings that the cells themselves require refurbishment, with stained toilets and broken sinks.

The total number of prisoners held in the segregation unit in 2025 was 402 (2024: 410), of whom 177 were young adults aged between 18 and 21, a welcome reduction from the 201 in 2024.

Of the 402 prisoners held in segregation during the year, 153 were subject to good order or discipline (GOoD) rules, of whom 59 were under the age of 21 (in 2024, the equivalent figures were 135 and 71 respectively). As in 2024, it was difficult for the IMB to attend many GOoD reviews, which determine whether a prisoner should remain in the segregation unit. Efforts to address this following the transfer of responsibility for the segregation unit to a new Governor did not prove successful, despite attempts to introduce a regular day for reviews or to identify an alternative solution. This remains an ongoing issue.

In 2025, four prisoners were held in the segregation unit for more than 42 days (requiring prison group director authorisation). This is a notable reduction on the 10 prisoners held for more than 42 days in 2024. Whenever checked by the IMB, the required authorisations were in place.

There has been a focus on reducing the length of time prisoners spend in segregation, and the cessation of the Pathways to Progress (P2P) programme - which held a small number of individuals for longer periods under multi-agency interventions - has contributed to this reduction.

The number of prisoners on ACCTs held in the segregation unit was 25, of whom five were young adults. In 2024, these numbers were significantly higher, so this is a positive return to the 2023 levels. The decision to hold prisoners with ACCTs in the segregation unit is always made by a Governor, recorded as a 'defensible decision', and is subject to review. We routinely found ACCT documentation in the unit to be correctly completed and up-to-date.

During the reporting year, the special accommodation cell in the unit was used eight times, and one dirty protest (where a prisoner has chosen to defecate or urinate in a cell without using the facilities provided) was recorded. The segregation management and review group (SMARG) meetings, which consider the segregation unit statistics and trends, did meet in 2025. The Board notes that the analysis of the data presented has improved with each meeting.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

Following an inspection in November, HMIP Inspectors commented that the quality of relationships at Isis was a strength of the prison and the Board agreed with this. Over the course of the year, with the support of the prison group director, the Governor had increased staffing levels and improved the capability of officers. This had led to better retention rates and lower sickness levels.

During the year, the prison introduced reverse mentoring, a mutual- learning experience where prisoners mentor officers, reversing the traditional hierarchy. Board members noted that this appeared to have created better relationships between prisoners and officers. This view was reinforced by HMIP inspectors, who commented that reverse mentoring had been successful in breaking down barriers and improving communication and understanding between prisoners and officers.

Over the reporting year, the Board noted that there were a number of sporting and other events, such as, for example, volleyball and rugby tournaments, where prisoners and officers took part on an equal footing.

The prison made notable progress in the delivery of key work sessions in 2025, introducing changes from March 2025, which allocated dedicated time to staff to deliver sessions to assigned prisoners on their spur. In total, 4,766 key worker sessions were delivered (an increase of 4,133 when compared with the 626 sessions in 2024). There were also significant improvements in the time between reception and key worker allocation (19 days - a fall of six days) and between reception and the first key work session (54 days - a fall of 36 days).

Delivery of key work sessions, with good support of sentence progressions, was also positively highlighted by HMIP in its findings from the inspection, and the Board's observations of the records of keywork sessions support this conclusion. Overall, the average number of key work sessions per month was 397, slightly below the target of 450 set by the prison. This does, however, remain significantly below the HMPPS target of delivering two sessions per prisoner per month (requiring approximately 1,150 sessions per month). The improved delivery of key work remains dependent on the allocation of staffing resources to the prison and their availability. As such, the IMB notes that key work delivery fluctuated, with falls reported during popular holiday periods and/or periods of increased staff sickness.

In the prisoner survey carried out by HMIP, 47% of respondents said they found their key worker very or quite helpful (22% very helpful and 25% quite helpful). However, 14% reported that their key worker was not very helpful, 17% said they were not helpful at all, and 22% stated that they did not have a named key worker.

5.4 Equality and diversity

A total of 28 discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFs) were submitted in 2025, of which three were upheld. Of these submissions, 50% were made by prisoners aged 22-25, 29% by those aged 20-21, and 21% by prisoners aged 26 and over.

The Board was pleased to note that, since its previous annual report, three custodial managers have been trained in responding to DIRFs. This reduces the risk of delays arising from the departure of key staff and strengthens the establishment's resilience in responding to DIRFs promptly.

In general, the representation of different ethnicities across the prison's incentives scheme levels (basic/bottom, standard/middle and enhanced/top) is broadly proportional to the overall population. However, young black men are over-represented on the basic level. The most notable factor in disproportionate representation is age. (For more, see section 5.6, below.)

Following the data, equality staff have told us that they believe they are gaining the trust of the men they support, having, over the year, identified different minority groups and invited them to take part in discussion forums.

The prison had, for instance, noted an increase in complaints from Asian men, and held an exploratory workshop to determine why. Since this, the number of complaints from this minority has returned to the proportion expected, based on their representation in the population. A black prisoner forum had been held to find out what is going well and how they can best be supported.

The equality representative for each wing attended the prisoner council and there were two representatives from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.

HMIP inspection feedback noted that leaders had credible plans to strengthen the role of peer support in neurodiversity and equalities work. In relation to fair treatment and inclusion, inspectors reported that data were used effectively to identify and explore potential disproportionate outcomes, and that it was positive that this information was shared with prisoners. They also noted that complaints about discrimination were investigated and responded to appropriately, and that support for foreign national prisoners and care leavers was considerably better than they typically observed.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

At the end of 2025, the prison population comprised 44% Muslim, 12% Roman Catholic, 30% Anglican and other Christian denominations, 11% with no religion, and 3% from all other faiths (including Jewish, Sikh, Hindu, Jehovah's Witness, and Rastafarian), a profile very similar to that in 2024.

The reporting year was less challenging and more stable for multi-faith chaplaincy, due mainly to increased prison officer numbers. The additional officer capacity contributed positively to prisoners being able to attend regular weekly faith services and reduced the number of last-minute service cancellations.

The prison continued to allow prisoners to attend Friday prayers by house block every other week. This represented a significant improvement on 2022-2023, when prayers were restricted to one week in six following a serious violent incident. During 2025, there was also some planned mixing of house blocks, with the aim of offering Muslim prisoners the option to attend Friday prayers on a weekly basis in the future.

The Free Church pastor, who provided pastoral support to all Christian prisoners with the exception of Roman Catholics, continued to distribute in-cell packs to the Christian population and to any other prisoners who expressed an interest. In addition, the Free Church pastor distributed a weekly Ras Teferi in-cell pack to the Rastafarian prison population (eight prisoners as of December 2025).

In 2025, there was an increase in the number of occasions on which members of the multi-faith team were required to deliver distressing news to prisoners, including notifications of family bereavements or serious medical conditions affecting close friends or relatives. These were very difficult conversations and often resulted in the provision of ongoing additional support for those affected.

Unfortunately, the popular and well-attended Sycamore Tree programme was discontinued in 2025, following a decision that it was no longer suitable for use in prisons. No replacement programme has yet been identified.

On a positive note, a Christmas carol concert was held in December and was very well attended. A Christian service was also held on Christmas Day for all Christian prisoners, which was attended by Bishop Michael Doe. Both events received positive feedback.

The IMB also welcomed the appointment of a new Church of England chaplain, who will join and strengthen the multi-faith team in early January 2026. This has been a long-awaited appointment.

5.6 Incentives schemes

The incentives scheme (made up of enhanced, standard and basic), called the incentives and personal improvement (rehabilitative culture) (IPI) scheme, introduced in 2024, continued through 2025, although the enhanced 2 level was discontinued during the year. The Peaceful Prison project, described earlier, also incentivised good behaviour through the additional benefits for prisoners on the Peace spur.

The prison continued to take account of the neurodevelopmental stage of young prisoners, recognising that the adolescent brain is more responsive to reward than punishment. Officers were encouraged to issue positive behaviour slips for good behaviour, alongside negative behaviour slips for poor behaviour, with a target ratio of 50:50. Prison data show that, in 2025, an average of 50% of incentives scheme awards were positive, compared with 36% in 2024, with the proportion exceeding 50% in six months of the year.

In 2025, an average of 77 prisoners (13%) were on the basic level and 236 (40%) on the enhanced level. This compares with 15% and 32% respectively in 2024, possibly reflecting the reduction in violence, as well as an effect of the operation of the Peaceful Prison project. Prisoners arriving at the establishment were offered the opportunity to 'choose peace' and, if they did so, were automatically placed on the enhanced level, regardless of their previous incentives scheme level at their last prison. As a result, the number of prisoners on the enhanced level increased by 40% over the course of the year, reaching 47% of the population by December.

In general, the proportion of prisoners from minority ethnicities on each incentives scheme level matches the proportion in the prison population; however, black prisoners were over-represented on the basic status for nine of the 11 months where data were available. The proportions on basic from different religions were broadly the same as in the prison population. The most striking difference between the number of prisoners at each level, compared with the population, was with respect to prisoner age: an average of 64% of those on basic and 34% of those on enhanced status were aged 18-21, compared with about 46% in the population being in the 18-

21 age category. This reflected the increased propensity to violence and challenging behaviour of the younger demographic.

5.7 Complaints

The number of prisoner complaints was lower in 2025 than in 2024, with an average of 98 per month, compared with 104 per month in the previous year. However, adjudication appeals and confidential access complaints were not included in the total or managed in the same way as other complaints. There was an average of two of these each month.

Despite the change in the prison's criteria for rejecting complaints reported in 2024, 23 complaints were rejected on the grounds that they had been submitted on the wrong form. The prison's complaints return log records that two of these rejections arose because other prisons do not accept a Stage 2 appeal submitted on a Comp1 form and require a Comp1A instead. A further two complaints were rejected because they were submitted more than three months after the incident complained of.

As in previous years, complaints relating to property were by far the most common, accounting for around 25% of all complaints, down from 28% in 2024. Around 13% of complaints were forwarded to other prisons for a response, most commonly HMP Wandsworth and HMP Pentonville. The next most frequent categories were canteen (11%), transfers (8%) and staff (7%), reflecting a similar pattern to 2024. Complaint forms were consistently available alongside the complaints' boxes on each spur. On average, 72.7% of complaints were responded to within the required timescales, an improvement on last year's 62.4%.

5.8 Property

As the Board noted in last year's report - and in every annual report since 2018 - prisoner property continues to present a significant problem, particularly during transfers between prisons. The loss of property can be deeply distressing for prisoners, as it often includes irreplaceable personal items such as photos and letters, not just clothing. The aim of the Prisoners' Property Policy Framework to improve the management of prisoner property has still not been met.

Complaints about property remained, by far, the most common, accounting for 25% of all complaints. In addition, 31% (56) of IMB applications related to property issues, with 75% of these concerning property lost during transfer or while prisoners were held at another establishment. This represents a significant increase from 2024, when 12% of IMB applications concerned property during transfer or in another prison.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust provided the physical and mental healthcare, with substance-misuse treatment services contracted to the charity, Change, Grow, Live (CGL). Health partnerships met bi-monthly at a local delivery board to review the healthcare services provided and the management of operational challenges. In three months, there were no complaints to the Trust; for other months, there were two or three. All complainants were seen and their complaint discussed. Although there were no common themes, the most frequent complaints concerned waiting times for healthcare appointments. In 2025, there were 11 healthcare-related applications to the IMB. HMIP found healthcare to be 'particularly impressive', with effective working between healthcare and prison staff to meet the needs of prisoners.

There were 52.4 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff providing services, including a mental health team of 12.9 WTE, primary care team of 17.5 WTE and four pharmacy staff. This excludes psychiatrists, consultants and GPs. Dental services were directly contracted by NHS England, and the Trust sub-contracts for optician, ultrasounds, sexual health, podiatry and physiotherapy. The vacancy rate since April averaged around 2%. Throughout the year, a new speech and language therapist post (0.4 WTE) has remained vacant.

The early days in custody (EDiC) team is a multidisciplinary team that conducts first-night assessments and secondary health screenings. Between 98% and 100% of first night and secondary assessments were completed. All new arrivals were also offered hearing checks as part of the secondary screening, and failures were referred to a GP or advanced nurse practitioner.

The release and transfer team ensures that a released prisoner is re-connected with a GP, aware of and able to keep hospital appointments and is in touch with support agencies such as Nacro (a charity that helps reduce reoffending and supports people involved in the criminal justice system). The team operated alongside prison staff, who are working with prisoners in the 12 weeks before their release.

In 2025, 24-hour healthcare support was withdrawn, with routine healthcare staffing now provided between 8am and 7pm. Outside of these hours, an on-call system operates. In the segregation unit, a nurse saw each prisoner every day, and a GP saw all prisoners every 72 hours. A member of the mental health team carried out weekly welfare checks.

There was an average of 885 dispenses of medication each month. Prisoners received medication at the treatment room on each house block, unless they were assessed as suitable to have prescribed medication in their cells. In 2025, in-possession risk assessments (to evaluate whether prisoners could be trusted to be in possession of their own medication) were completed for 97% of the prison population. A spot check to assess whether prisoners in possession of medication were complying with the relevant conditions found that three of the patients checked were non-compliant.

Throughout the reporting year, prisoner experience surveys have been conducted by the Trust. An average of 82 responses were received each month, and of these 80 were reported to be positive. Negative responses related to needing to receive timely feedback of test results.

Patient forums were held monthly, with attendance increasing from five patients in September to 28 in December.

6.2 Physical healthcare

Primary care was delivered through a range of GP, nursing and specialist clinics, including dental, podiatry, sexual health, physiotherapy, optometry, long-term conditions management and blood-borne virus services.

The number of prisoners who did not attend their appointments ('did not attend', or DNA) was high throughout the year. DNA rates for physiotherapy ranged from 40% to 50%, although the numbers involved were relatively small. DNAs for dental clinics averaged around 25%.

To support attendance, GP, advanced nurse practitioner and nursing clinics were relocated to the house blocks. This was not possible for dental, optician and some sexual health appointments due to the need for specialised equipment or higher levels of confidentiality. In-cell phones were used to remind prisoners of their appointments and to confirm their intention to attend.

'Red band' prisoners (those with a greater level of trust and autonomy in their prison roles) were used to check on prisoners due to attend clinics. Four red band posts had been approved; however, filling these posts proved challenging, with high turnover due to releases and transfers.

Prisoners cited various reasons for non-attendance, including attending the gym, education or association. However, insufficient staffing levels, prisoners not being unlocked, and other operational issues also meant that, on some occasions, prisoners were unable to attend appointments for reasons beyond their control.

In the Board's view, waiting times for all healthcare provision were, in general, acceptable, except for physiotherapy, where waits were protracted, due to staffing and a reduced number of clinics.

6.3 Mental health

The mental health team consisted of psychological interventions, mental health in-reach, psychiatry, counselling (provided by Atrium) and occupational therapy. Patients with known mental health needs were identified on arrival. It was assessed that 45% of prisoners had a mental health problem. The Board considered waiting times for mental health in-reach and psychiatry to be appropriate. However, there were long waiting times for ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) clinics. These were due to the national shortage of medication and the need to manage limited resources, which led to prioritisation based on severity and risk. The psychological therapies team also experienced increased referrals rates and, at times, reduced staffing levels, together with a shortage of clinical space, all of which contributed to prolonged waiting times.

The prison has no facilities for prisoners who need in-patient care and the segregation unit, although unsuitable, is the only option for such prisoners who cannot stay in their normal location (such as their usual wing or house block).

A weekly multidisciplinary team referral meeting and trauma-informed consultation took place across the wider prison, focusing on complex cases, segregated prisoners and those on ACCTs or CSIPs. A member of the mental health team attended ACCT reviews.

The release and transfer team developed release plans for mental health patients and contacted community mental health services for those with continuing care needs.

A neurodiversity support manager (NSM) provided targeted support to prisoners, provided training for staff and supported the release of prisoners with neurodiversity needs. Their work focuses on meeting prisoners' expressed needs rather than on medical diagnosis; however, to maintain patient confidentiality, prisoner or patient information is only shared between health professionals and the NSM when prisoners consent, and most don't, or if there is a risk to the prisoner or others. The NSM attends the weekly mental health multidisciplinary team meeting and the prison's Safety Intervention Meeting (SIM) where some medical information is shared.

6.4 Social care

Partnership working between Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust and the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) continued in 2025. RBG commissioned provision of social care in the prison from Eleanor Services. This organisation is responsible for delivering all social care defined in the support plans provided by the RBG. Due to the young age of the population, the demand for social care was very low throughout the year; so, for example, there were just two prisoners receiving social care in November.

6.5 Time out of cell, regime

In 2025, the Board continued to be concerned about prisoners' limited time out of their cells. The IMB conducted a survey of prisoners' experiences in this area; however, the range of individual circumstances and the relatively small sample size limit the extent to which general conclusions can be drawn from the survey alone. Further details are set out in Annex C.

A consistent finding from the IMB survey was prisoners' dissatisfaction with the amount of time spent out of cell, particularly in comparison with their expectations of a category C prison. Several prisoners highlighted the impact of limited time out of cell on their mental health. This concern was especially evident among prisoners on the Growth spur, where the regime allowed for less time out of cell and was more restrictive.

Specific areas of concern noted by the IMB throughout the year were the limited time out of cell at weekends (and often on Fridays, too) and the lack of evening association.

- Prisoners spent more time in their cells from Friday to Sunday, largely due to the absence of education and skills activities on those days and limited staff availability. Responses to the HMIP survey were notably poorer than those of

the comparator group, with 70% of prisoners reporting spending less than two hours a day out of their cell on Saturdays and Sundays.

- Prisoners were generally locked up for the evening between 4pm and 5pm, with no evening association. Most therefore remained in their cells until unlock the following day. In 2025, there was some limited progress in allowing evening activities after food service, such as cleaning duties or induction sessions; however, this remained heavily dependent on staff availability and was not consistently available.

There was much less use of separate regimes in 2025 than in 2024. Under these regimes, prisoners were kept separate from the wider prison population, usually because of the risk of violence from other prisoners with whom they were in conflict, sometimes at their own request. For example, in June 2025 there was an average of two prisoners on separate regimes each day, compared with an average of 18 in June 2024. These prisoners were only allowed out of their cells when others were locked up and could therefore spend as little as 30 minutes a day out of cell.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

The prison met its target of 30 mandatory drug tests (MDT) a month in every month and exceeded it in July conducting 38 tests. However, it was noted that, at the end of the year, ongoing staffing constraints had limited the prison's ability to allocate staff for essential MDT paperwork, resulting in delays and inconsistent adjudication outcomes.

Prison performance data showed that the number of positive samples in the period from April to the end of the year peaked in June at 32.26% but then dropped to a low of 9.68% in September, ending the year at 16.13%. See graph 11 in annex B.

Compared with other London prisons, the prison reported one of the lowest overall positivity rates in the group, with a small proportion of non-SCRA (synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist) drug use but a moderate SCRA positivity rate.

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust sub-contracted drug rehabilitation interventions to Change, Grow, Live (CGL), a voluntary sector organisation. A CGL survey indicated that cannabis was the preferred drug across all age groups, followed by alcohol, or cocaine among those aged 20 to 25.

Referrals to the service came from a range of sources, with the majority originating from probation, induction or self-referral. In the six months to October, of the 547 receptions, 278 were referred to CGL, and 54% of these agreed to engage with the service. The intervention caseload for the period averaged 181 prisoners per month.

Group sessions were planned to support prisoners with specific addictions, including alcohol, cannabis and substance awareness. In 2025, there was an improvement in the number of group interventions delivered compared with those planned. For example, in October, 30 of the 32 planned sessions took place; however, of the 125 prisoners listed, 48 attended.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education

Following a performance review conducted by Novus between April 2025 and August 2025, the prison reported that educational attainment had improved in 2025. This was partly because the regime allowed prisoners to attend more education and training sessions, but also due to higher staffing and improved teaching quality.

During April to September 2025, 280 prisoners successfully completed English and 219 successfully completed Maths. The 2025 success rates by subject improved on 2024: English was 98.2% (2024: 88%) and Maths 98.1% (2024: 78%) and vocational courses 100% (2024: 86%). It is worth noting that the data are not fully comparable year-on-year: under the previous contract, withdrawals (transfers/release) counted as 'fail'. Under the new contract, this penalty was removed, which has positively contributed to the current success rates. Surveys were distributed and learner feedback and satisfaction were rated consistently between 90% and 92%, demonstrating positive ratings for teachers and teacher quality.

The contract for the provision of education to London prisons changed in October 2025 from Novus to PeoplePlus. A new 18-month delivery plan is in effect (October 2025 to March 2027).

The IMB was very concerned about the significant cut in core education provision from October (a 31% reduction in the six months from October 2025 and a 39% reduction in the following year), particularly given that the prison serves men aged 18 to 27, for whom this is a critical period for improving life chances.

The reductions have led to a number of curriculum changes at HMP/YOI ISIS, including:

- The catering course, including the operation of the 180 Kitchen, was withdrawn. The prison stated that this was due to high costs, staffing shortages and low learner interest in the trade.
- The food safety course was moved from a core education hybrid delivery to a prison delivery format using Coracle laptops. It is unclear how participation and progress are monitored.
- The barbering course was reduced from two tutors to one.
- Maths outreach provision was removed.
- The radio course was reduced to three days per week from October and is scheduled to be withdrawn entirely by April 2026.
- Resettlement and CV preparation courses were removed due to perceived overlap with the employment hub and external partners.
- English outreach provision was adapted into a hybrid ESOL/outreach role to respond to the increasing number of non-English-speaking prisoners.

Distance learning has been retained and at the end of the year there were 21 learners (Open University and Prisoners' Education Trust), with support hours funded for two days a week.

Library

In December 2025, the prison population at HMP/YOI Isis was around 580, of whom 338 were library members (58%). The number of learners from April 2025 to

December 2025 ranged from 234 to 285 and remained fairly consistent over the course of the year (see graph 12 in annex B). Over the same period, the number of library visits ranged from 935 to 1160.

Library staff told us that, during 2025, they took the following steps:

- Ensured consistent stock levels to support readers of all abilities, including low-level reading materials. These were used by an English teacher during library sessions with learners who had lower reading ability.
- Introduced a new schedule following the appointment of a senior library assistant, to increase staff visibility and provide better support to learners across all outreach areas.
- Worked collaboratively with the education department so that every class had a daily library session, and with mentors to support the delivery of activities.
- Produced a library information pack, with copies placed in reception and the library (particularly for Monday induction days), to ensure learners were aware of the facilities available.

The prison also introduced 'raising readers', an initiative where learners can take a book to read to their child either over the phone or during a visit. In November, for example, seven learners took books for their children. They also held a book club every fortnight on a Friday, with books such as *Fever Pitch* proving to be popular. Events such as a creative writing workshop, led by Paul Zanon (March 2025), an all-day song writing session by Broken Pen (March 2025), a Windrush podcast (April 2025) and a chess event (July 2025) also helped to enhance creativity and literacy levels.

7.2 Vocational training, work

PeoplePlus delivered barbering and painting and decorating programmes, leading to City & Guilds qualifications. There were 20 spaces available on each programme (10 for each house block). The prison also provided accredited and unaccredited vocational training in grounds maintenance, waste and recycling management, and industrial cleaning. There were 34 places available on these courses (10 for grounds maintenance, 10 for waste and recycling and 14 for industrial cleaning), allocated evenly between each house block. All vocational programmes were delivered on a half-time basis.

Before enrolling on these programmes, prisoners were required to have achieved the necessary levels in English and maths and to be assessed as being at the appropriate work level.

- Grounds maintenance: This was seen as a path to re-engaging prisoners with other activities. Skills attainment was based on a selection of Level 1 horticultural skills units. In 2025, 26 prisoners were enrolled.
- Waste and recycling: Two industry-recognised qualifications were offered (Chartered Institution of Waste Management/CIWM Level 1 Waste and Recycling, and CIWM Level 1 Reuse and Refurbishment). A total of 40 prisoners were allocated to these programmes. Prisoners gained practical experience by managing the waste generated from the house blocks.
- Industrial cleaning: Prisoners seeking employment as orderlies were required to complete the CIWM Level 1 Cleaning Principles qualification, while biohazard cleaners were required to have passed the Kays Medical biohazard

decontamination qualification. A non-accredited buffer course was also offered and, since September, British Institute of Cleaning Services programmes have been offered.

An average of 787 prisoners per month were listed to attend these programmes, with actual attendance averaging 67% of those scheduled. Reasons for non-attendance were recorded and included appointments or illness; however, the most common reasons appeared to be beyond prisoners' control, such as session cancellations or prisoners not being required to attend. On average each month, 15% of non-attendances were due to sessions being cancelled and 7% because prisoners were not required.

During the 12 weeks prior to release, prisoners were offered courses designed to support employment outcomes, including CV writing, job applications and interview preparation. Prisoners were also provided with access to employers and organisations that recruit directly from the prison population. These included Gallowglass event crewing, No Going Back (a social enterprise with links to facilities management roles) and Veolia waste management.

7.3 Offender management, progression

The IMB continued to receive a significant number of applications relating to sentence management and progression during 2025. The Board received 32 applications in this area, representing 18% of the total number of applications. This is a reduction compared with 2024 (which saw spikes in applications around the time of early release schemes) and is more consistent with the level in 2023. Frequent topics addressed in applications were recategorisation, eligibility for home detention curfew (HDC) and release dates.

By the end of 2025, the offender management unit (OMU) had reduced the backlog of OASys plans (which assess the risks and needs of prisoners). The processing of applications for recategorisation had also improved, but moves to category D prisons were adversely affected by overall national capacity.

Many prisoners expressed frustration in IMB applications about limited access to their prison offender manager (POM). OMU surgeries remained restricted throughout 2025, and plans to reinstate a regular schedule were not implemented. The anticipated introduction of new early release schemes in 2026 continued to place pressure on OMU capacity, reducing opportunities for routine prisoner reviews. Limited access to POMs often restricts prisoners' ability to gain clarity on matters of importance to them, including eligibility for release, recategorisation, or progression through their sentence plan.

A higher number of life-sentence prisoners were housed in HMP/YOI Isis compared with previous years. The IMB has expressed concerns over the lack of provision for these prisoners, who do not have access to education and training programmes or jobs. HMP/YOI Isis has recognised the need to develop appropriate support for this group and is reviewing practices in other prisons.

The Peaceful Prison project initiated a number of behaviour-change programmes to support the progression of the most conflict-prone prisoners housed on the Growth spur. These included:

- Men of Purpose (MoP), of which there are two main facets:
 - Internal mentors: two older, life-sentenced prisoners housed at HMP/YOI Isis act as mentors for the young men there (not only on Growth spur). They also ran four-week Men of Purpose programmes for up to 12 prisoners at a time.
 - External mentors: some prisoners on the Growth spur have external mentors, contactable by phone, with weekly or bi-weekly in-person visits.
- Hero's Journey and Black Hero's Journey: structured life coaching programmes, run by Spark Inside, which enable young men in prison to move away from crime. They involve group workshops, followed by one-to-one coaching sessions.
- Changing the Game: a specialised group therapy programme designed for black and minority ethnic men involved in gangs and serious violence, focusing on addressing underlying trauma and unmet psychological needs rather than just behaviours. This programme stopped early in 2025.
- Rooted Resilience: a group-based, 12-week programme, facilitated by Rooted Wisdom, which supports young men to explore trauma, identity, behaviour and self-worth.
- Stoic: an eight-week course focusing on various areas of life coaching.
- Choices and Changes: a resource pack used in key work sessions with young adults identified as having low psychological maturity.
- Mediation and conflict coaching: efforts to reduce the number of non-associates that prisoners have, facilitated by Belong, including training and supporting conflict coaches, one-to-one mediations and running prisoners' forums. Belong also ran training in restorative practice and delivered it to graduates of the Men of Purpose programme
- CSIP: a case manager, supported by a multidisciplinary team, worked with the prisoner to develop and implement a support and intervention plan aimed at reducing violent behaviour.

Growth spur prisoners were encouraged to take part in purposeful activities such as education and training, with over 50% choosing to do so. Reasons for non-participation included concerns about personal safety and fears of conflict arising from contact with non-associates.

On average, prisoners were on the Growth spur for three to four months before progressing to normal accommodation. The prison had no definitive figures for the numbers of prisoners who progressed through the spur, partly because some prisoners were released or transferred during their time there. However, they estimate that about 100 prisoners successfully progressed through the spur and fewer than 10 returned because of bad behaviour. A number of case studies were produced showing individual prisoners' path through the scheme, including the following example:

The individual arrived on the Growth spur following incidents of violence. During this period, several adjudications were issued for disruptive behaviour, with one upheld. The prisoner was allocated to the STOIC structured behaviour programme and attended all sessions. Following positive engagement with an internal Men of Purpose mentor, they were assigned an external Men of Purpose mentor

After a period of settled behaviour and positive staff feedback, the individual was offered the opportunity to move off the Growth spur to another residential unit. They engaged well during the transition period before space became available and the move was approved. Since relocating, the individual has remained free from violence and weapons, has engaged in purposeful activity and interventions and has no active non-associations. They are expected to be eligible for progression to the Peace spur in the near future. Ongoing mentoring support continues, and the individual has also taken part in the 3 Pillars rugby event.

Support from Men of Purpose external mentors seems to have been very useful in helping young men develop, with 11 out of 12 mentored prisoners progressing. The scheme is limited by the availability of mentors, partly due to difficulties getting clearance to work in the prison.

7.4 Family contact

In 2025, IMB members observed a good overall level of support towards maintaining and building family contacts. Several voluntary sector organisations ran programmes to facilitate contact and helped to build positive relationships, and some programmes offered continued support after release. One initiative (facilitated by the Prison Advice and Care Trust/PACT) was Storybook Dads, where prisoners record stories (40 in 2025) that families receive and can listen to at home.

There were 260 social visit sessions in 2025, with 7,443 visitors attending. In addition to social visits, there were also four family days (facilitated by PACT) for each wing held during school holidays, with 10-17 families attending each session. IMB members observed a positive and relaxed atmosphere, supported by organised activities, games, quizzes, a photo booth, and a shared lunch.

A total of 1,694 social video calls took place in 2025, although there were sporadic issues with availability and access (either technical faults or reports of poor time management).

In 2025, a frequent topic of both applications and informal interactions during monitoring visits was the inability to secure transfers on compassionate grounds to be closer to family and enable visiting. Pressures in the wider prison estate were understood by the IMB to have contributed to this, alongside other logistical and policy reasons.

7.5 Resettlement planning

Alongside programmes and services led by prison staff, HMP/YOI Isis engaged a range of external organisations to help prisoners prepare for release. They ran programmes and one-to-one support during the sentence and in the final months before release, covering employment readiness, behaviour and lifestyles, as well as managing finances.

While the IMB observed positive examples of engagement with prisoners, it also recognised the prisoner experience reflected in the HMIP survey. The proportion of prisoners who felt they were receiving help with aspects of life after release was generally lower than the comparator group (with the exception of accommodation)

and was notably lower for support with opening a bank account and obtaining photo identification.

In relation to employment post-release, appointments were arranged with Job Centres (mostly by representatives from the Department for Work and Pensions/DWP).

The HMP/YOI employment hub delivered a monthly programme for prisoners within three months of release, during which employers presented information on job and career opportunities and employability skills, with some offering one-to-one discussions. The hub also coordinated support with CV writing and interview preparation, including training prisoners to provide peer support on the wings. These programmes resulted in 78 job offers and 58 confirmed starts.

Accommodation was a particular focus of resettlement planning in the weeks before release. HMP/YOI Isis performed well again in this area during 2025, with over 95% of prisoners released with housing on the first night (in excess of the 90% target).

HMP/YOI Isis offered specific support to care leavers, who account for almost 25% of the prison population. This includes Thrive, a course specifically designed to support care leavers, and the appointment of care leaver orderlies. Two dedicated events for care leavers were held in 2025 to present the support available pre- and post-release, which were well attended. The support for care leavers was an area positively highlighted by HMIP in its findings and the Board's observations on monitoring visits support this.

In 2025, a briefing day on resettlement programmes involving partner organisations was delivered for prison officers, supporting effective key work. Information for prisoners was made available at induction and on the wings, and several organisations also appointed prisoner representatives.

HMIP noted positively the number of partners engaged in resettlement support for prison leavers. However, as in previous years, the IMB notes the lack of systematic data collation, which would enable the prison or the IMB to track longer-term outcomes post-release.

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	11
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	12
Total number of visits to the establishment	338

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	8	9
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	16	16
C	Equality	1	1
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	1	5
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	7	9
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	7	4
F	Food and kitchens	1	
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	11	11
H1	Property within the establishment	20	14
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	25	42
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	1	2
I	Sentence management, including HDC (home detention curfew), ROTL (release on temporary licence), parole, release dates, recategorisation	57	32
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	17	11
K	Transfers	23	13
L	Miscellaneous	10	9
	No action	0	1
	Total number of applications	205	179

Annex A

Service providers

- Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust provides healthcare, while Oxleas Interventions provides support to those with substance misuse issues.
- Novus was the education provider until October, when PeoplePlus became the provider.
- Library services are provided by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.
- Mitie provides comprehensive facilities management, including catering.
- DWP provides support to arrange meetings with Job Centres and obtain bank accounts.
- Charitable, voluntary or business organisations working within the prison included:
 - The Shannon Trust
 - Switchback
 - Belong
 - Men of Purpose
 - Atrium
 - St Mungo's
 - Samaritans
 - Untold
 - Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)
 - Storybook Dads
 - Gallowglass
 - Eleanor Services
 - Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
 - 3 Pillars
 - Rooted Wisdom
 - Strengthening Fathers
 - The Money Charity
 - Suited and Booted
 - Chess
 - Catch 22
 - Nacro
 - Spark Inside
 - No Going Back

Annex B

Tables and graphs

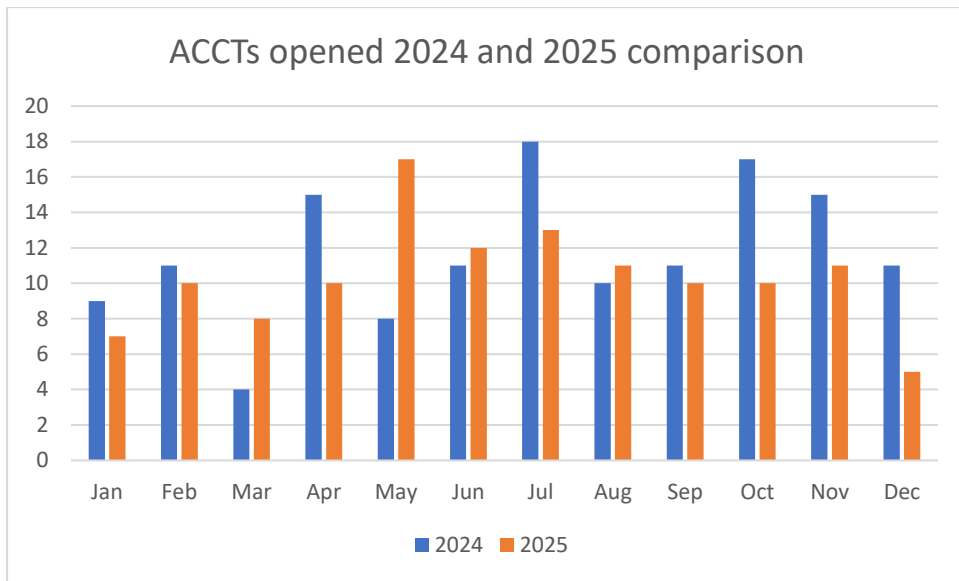
Table one: reception activity monthly data of prisoners for 2025

Date	Released	Transfer In	Transfer Out	Escort Hospital	Escort Funeral	Transfer Court	Bed watches
January	52	100	41	29	0	13	0
February	53	86	16	32	2	13	0
March	55	122	24	27	0	11	0
April	66	78	18	23	1	10	0
May	69	98	10	24	0	9	0
June	88	103	13	25	0	14	2
July	62	104	17	42	0	11	0
August	58	79	17	30	0	10	0
September	67	97	13	26	0	10	0
October	81	106	39	25	0	11	1
November	71	105	16	17	1	13	0
December	67	87	22	15	0	5	0
Total 2025	789	1165	246	315	4	130	3

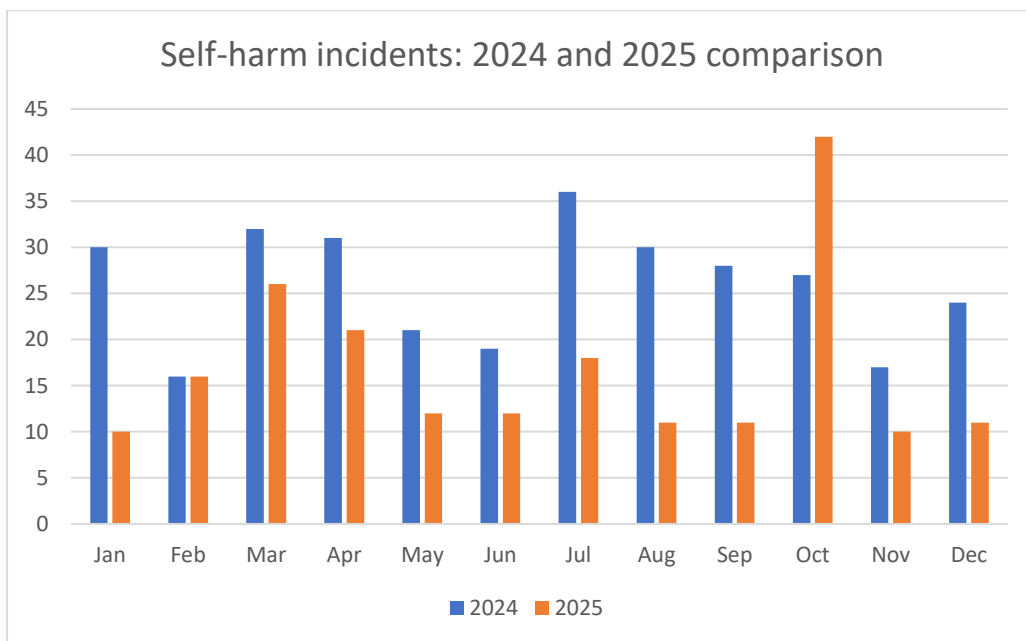
Table two: analysis of ECB response times

Spur	Average Time to Closure (mins)	Longest Cell Bell Duration (mins)	MEDIAN of Time To Closure (mins)	Number of Cell Bell Calls	Cell Bells Per Day	Cell Bells Per Hour
A	10.13	131.75	4.55	735	56.5	2.4
B	16.04	137.35	8.24	778	59.8	2.5
C	7.03	75.12	2.71	688	52.9	2.2
D	5.41	52.12	1.60	237	18.2	0.8
E	6.75	80.00	3.12	585	45.0	1.9
F	8.37	108.38	3.26	754	58.0	2.4
G	8.89	100.17	3.96	548	42.2	1.8
H	7.29	93.22	2.67	1164	89.5	3.7
R	5.57	32.85	2.58	24	1.8	0.1

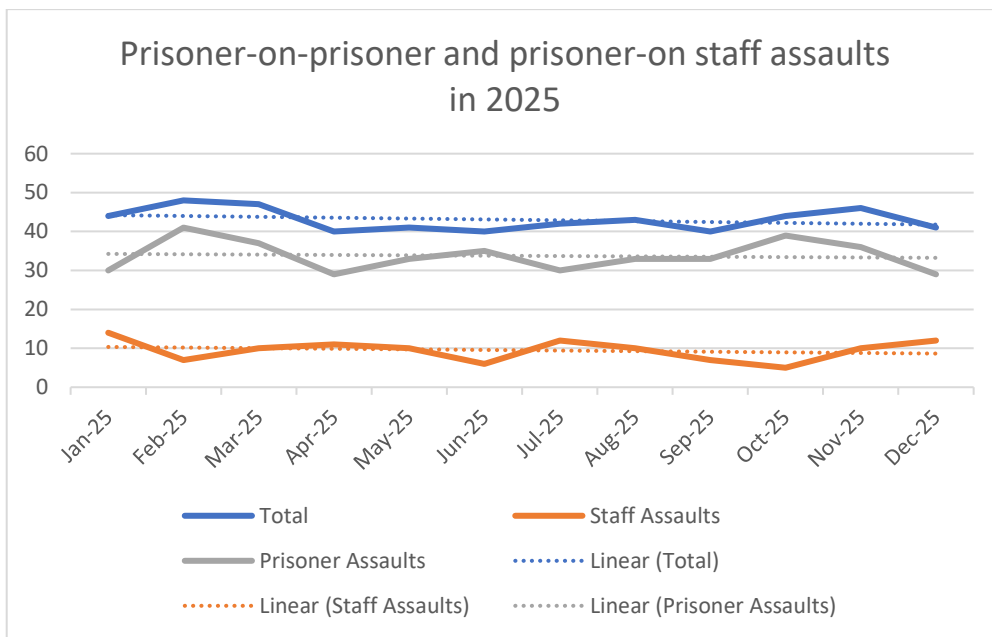
Graph one



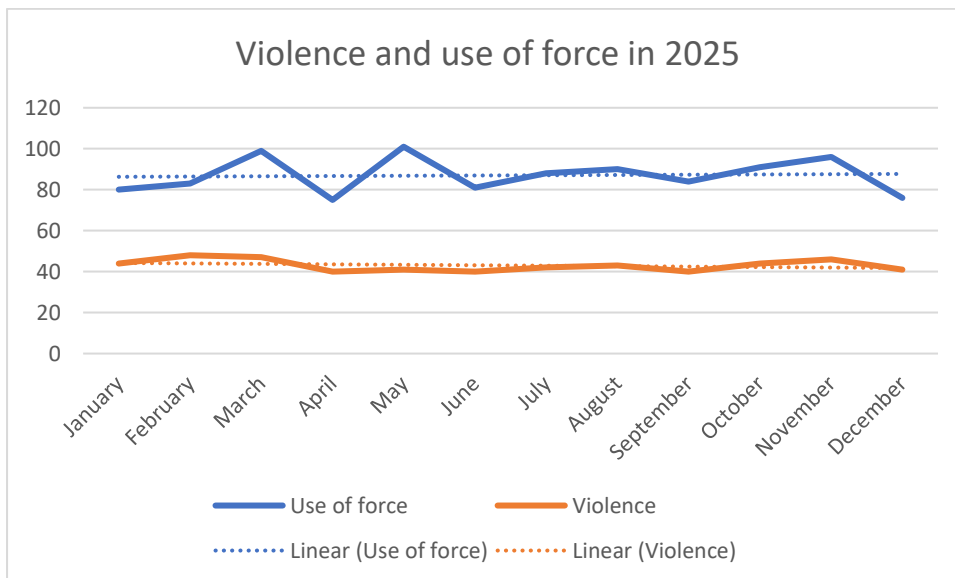
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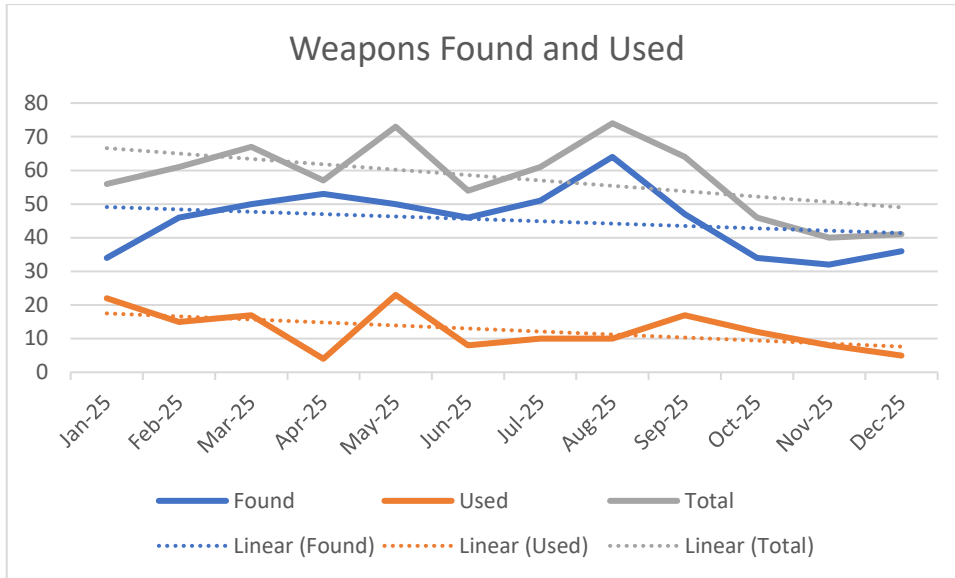
Graph three



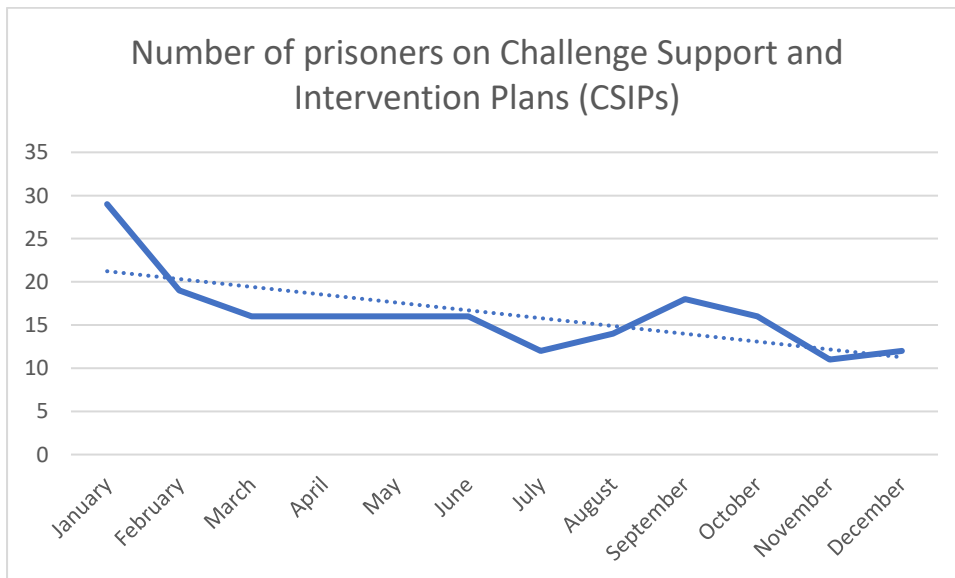
Graph four



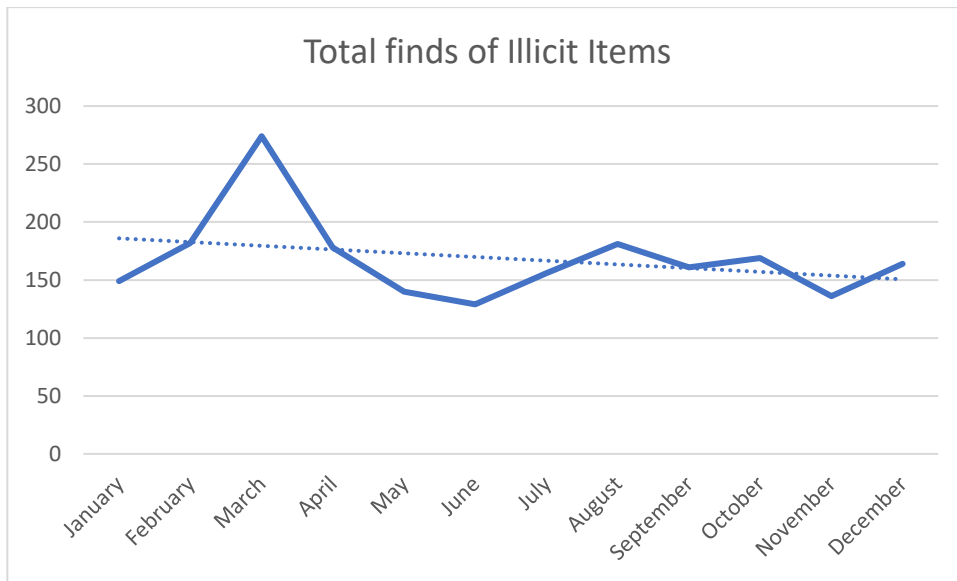
Graph five



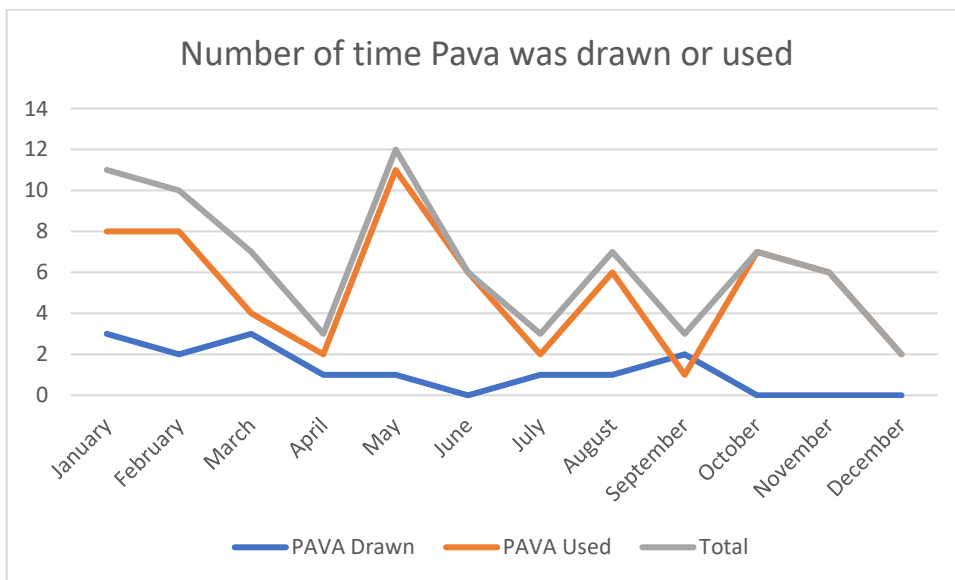
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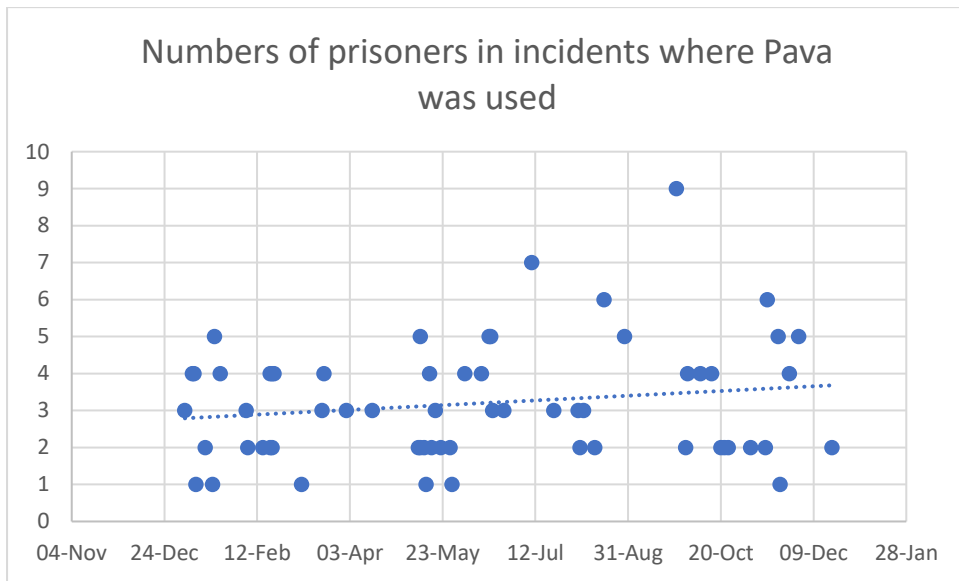
Graph seven



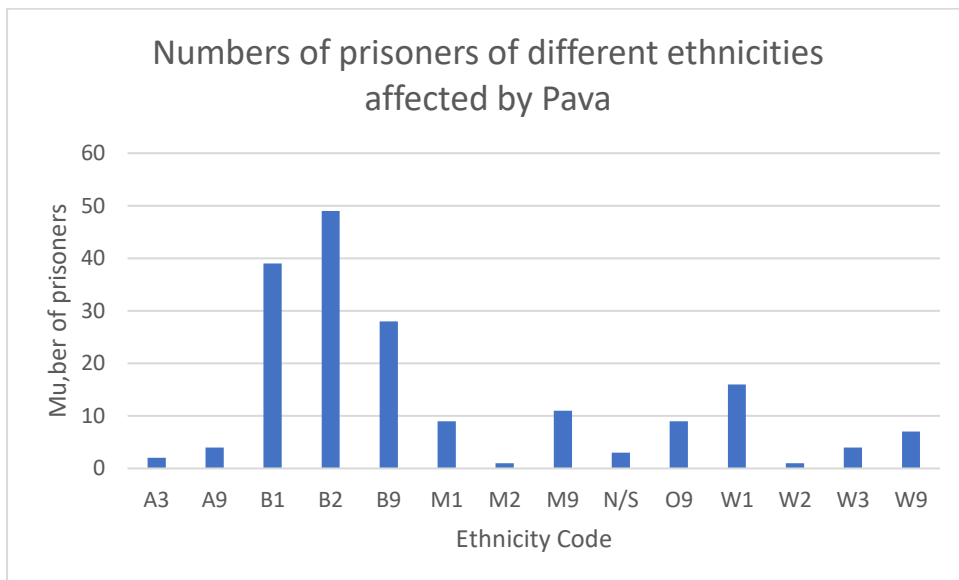
Graph eight



Graph nine



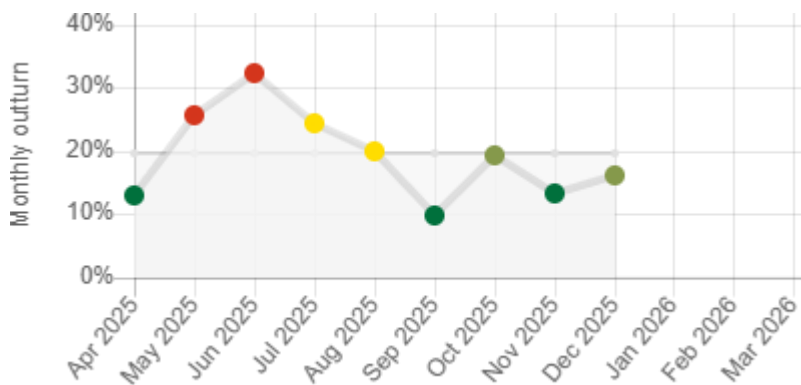
Graph ten



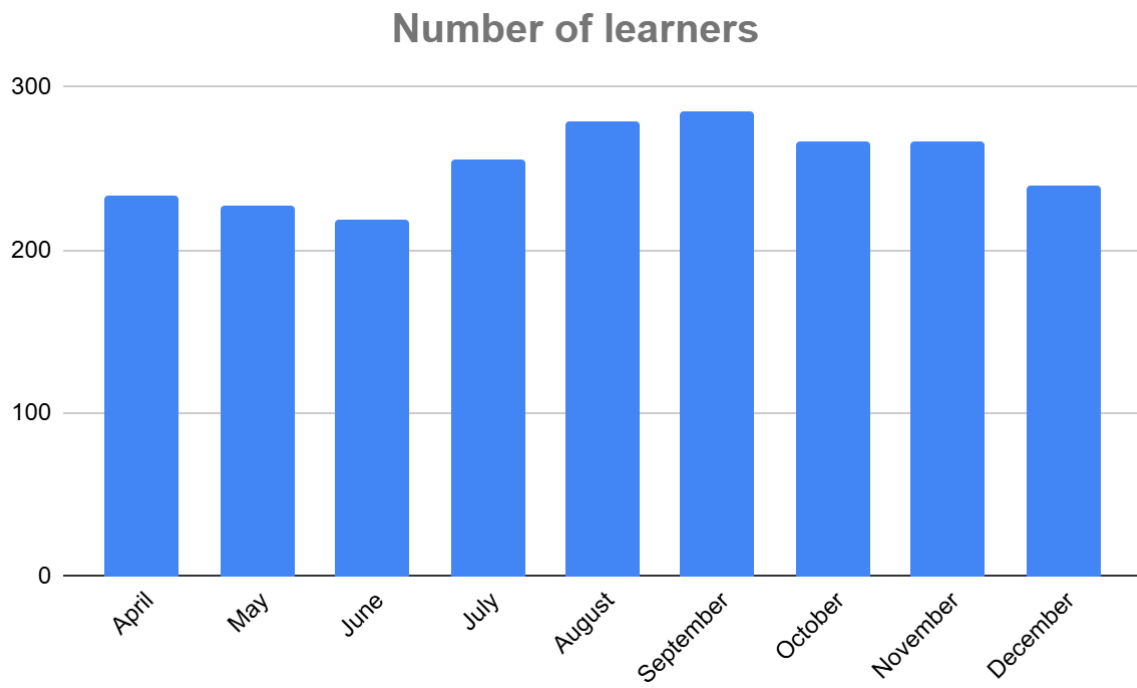
Code	Ethnicity
Asian or Asian British	
A1	Indian
A2	Pakistani
A3	Bangladeshi
A9	Any other Asian background
Black or Black British	
B1	Caribbean
B2	African
B9	Any other Black background
Mixed	
M1	White and Black Caribbean
M2	White and Black African
M3	White and Asian
M9	Any other mixed background
Chinese or any other ethnic group	
O1	Chinese
O9	Any other ethnic group
White	
W1	British
W2	Irish
W9	Any other White background

Graph 11

Random MDT positive test rate



Graph 12



Annex C

Survey about prisoners' experience of their time out of their cells

Background and methodology

In late 2025, the IMB conducted a survey of prisoners' experiences, of time spent out of their cell. For most spurs, the survey was conducted as a verbal questionnaire by IMB members during their monitoring visits. However, for prisoners on the Growth spur, whose regime generally allows less time out of cell, the response rate (particularly for non-working prisoners) was lower (likely due to prisoners being unwilling to spend their limited time out of cell answering the IMB's questions). So a written questionnaire was distributed to all prisoners on the Growth spur in December 2025.

Responses

From the verbal questionnaire, the IMB received 25 responses, evenly split across the two house blocks (12 from Thames and 13 from Meridian) and between one to five responses per spur. Workers were, however, disproportionately represented in the responses (likely due to having more time out of cell and, therefore, more availability to speak to IMB members).

The written questionnaire issued to the Growth spur generated five responses.

Limitations

The IMB recognises that the responses reflect a small proportion of the total population. It is also likely that respondents are likely to be those who have more time out of their cell and are more willing to speak to the IMB during such time. The IMB recognises that the answers rely on prisoners' recollections of, for example, unlocking and locking-up times, which may not always be wholly accurate. The findings set out below should be read with an awareness of the potential for bias or uneven representation.

Findings

The survey found that - based on unlocking and locking up times - prisoners spend the majority of their time in their cell, most commonly from around 5pm until 8.30-9am the following morning. In some cases, the locking up may occur earlier and/or unlocking later to extend that period.

Unsurprisingly, those prisoners with jobs had the most time out of their cell, in most cases around seven to nine hours per day. This was positively acknowledged by most working prisoners as a significant benefit. However, some noted that the regime did not allow sufficient time after work for showers and other domestic tasks. Furthermore, although there was some progress in 2025 in unlocking certain orderlies in the evening for cleaning tasks, this remained limited overall and was consistently dependent on adequate staffing levels.

For prisoners in education, on average they reported a total of around five hours a day out of their cell (which we understand to be Monday to Thursday, i.e. the days that education is running), although this could be lower for those on the Growth spur (between two and three hours).

For prisoners not in work or education, the time out of cell was more limited and usually around two to four hours per day. For prisoners on the Growth spur, the time out of cell was even lower, with several responses reporting only an hour on most days. One respondent said that this could be even less (around 40 minutes), especially at weekends. Respondents from the Growth spur commented that the time was insufficient to complete basic activities such as showering, use of the biometrics machines and socialising. Some of those also raised concerns regarding the effect on their mental health.

Prisoner comments:

- On time out of cell generally:

'Weekdays are ok as get to go to education. Weekends are horrible.'

'Ridiculous'; 'not good enough.'

- On the mental health impact of limited time out of cell:

'It's messing with my mental health' and 'The regime is inadequate to keep my mental health stable and healthy, therefore making it deteriorate.' (Two different written responses from Growth spur)

Another Growth spur prisoner noted in a verbal survey that it messes with prisoners' mental health and his view is that the regime contributes to violence because of the effect on mental health

- On the impact of employment:

Some expressed positive views: *'Got a job so ok'* or that they were *'glad'* to be a worker for time out of cell.

Others expressed more negative views, such as concerns with time to get a shower or use biometrics after finishing work, or the view that work was given insufficient credit by officers.

HMIP survey

The HMIP prisoner survey, which received more responses than the IMB survey, found that the scores were significantly more negative than the comparator group on many questions regarding time out of cell. One particular area of relatively poor performance at HMP/YOI Isis related to time out of cell at weekends (for example, 70% reported spending less than two hours out of cell per day, compared with 31% in the comparator group). However, the frequency of time out of cell for both association and outdoor exercise across the week scored higher than the comparator group.

Time out of cell was noted by HMIP as inadequate, particularly for the young age group at HMP/YOI Isis, and that too many prisoners were locked up during the working day. This view is shared by the IMB.



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