



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Kirklevington Grange

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

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Introductory sections 1 – 3

1. Statutory role of the IMB

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

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

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

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

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

2. Description of the establishment

HMP/YOI Kirklevington Grange is a category D open prison, located close to the village of Kirklevington, in North Yorkshire, catering for adult men and young adult men. The operational capacity of the prison (the maximum number of prisoners that can be held without serious risk to safety, security, good order and the proper running of the planned regime), was 207¹ throughout the year. The reception unit (F) is still being utilised as a double-cell block, while the remainder are single occupancy.

Prisoners were moved to single cells in a reasonable timescale, in the Board's view. Prisoners are accommodated within the main building and two units within the grounds. One of these (L unit: 60 prisoners) was purpose built, while the other (M unit: 24 prisoners) consists of modular accommodation units. These were initially brought on site during the Covid pandemic and became part of the prison's operational capacity in 2021, with an operational lifespan of five years. Substantial work was committed to this unit to ensure its suitability for long-term use.

Kirklevington Grange is an ageing establishment and ongoing investment has been made to ensure safety and maintain living standards for both staff and prisoners. The grounds are open, which provides prisoners with a pleasant environment for their leisure and work. The whole of the estate is surrounded by a high fence, which is reassuring for the prison staff and the local community. The grounds are used extensively by the prisoners for various fitness activities organised by the gym personnel.

There is a sports hall and gym, facilities that are much appreciated by the prisoners, together with a fitness centre located in the main building.

There is a building set aside for education, resettlement planning and chaplaincy, which is known as the new direction centre, with the healthcare centre sitting alongside.

The visitors' room is attractive and the facilities offer a calming, friendly atmosphere, that is much appreciated by prisoners and their families. It has its own cafeteria and shop, which is run by North-East Prisons After Care Society. Visitors often comment on the peaceful atmosphere of the facility and how well children are catered for.

There is a recycling workshop, craft workshop and laundry on the grounds. During the reporting year, there has been a significant drive to reduce the impact the prison

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.

has on the environment by, amongst other things, cutting waste and bringing down water usage. The grounds are used for extensive gardening, and much of the produce is sold in the outside shop or used in the kitchens.

The outside shop is run alongside a successful cafeteria and car wash/valeting service, which appear to be well supported and appreciated by the public. They are also educational, helping towards resettlement and reintegration-focused opportunities for the prisoners involved.

A “DOJO” was added at the end of the reporting year, which gives Kirklevington its own facility for staff training in self-defence.

3. Key points

3.1 Main findings

Safety

- The Board continues to consider the prison to be a safe environment both in which to live and work.
- There was only one incident of self-harm and the person was well supported through the assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) process (used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide).
- Again this year, as in the previous reporting years, there was one death in custody.
- There were incidents regarding safety in relation to fire doors when the prisoners could not safely leave due to building works on the main block.
- There were no emergencies, and procedures were drawn up for eventualities.

Fair and humane treatment

- The prison still suffers from an ageing structure but the in-house contractor carried out suitable works to improve conditions including new shower areas, flooring, and prisoners themselves contributed to the decoration.
- Doubling up on the reception block, particularly when incoming prisoners were used to a single cell at their previous establishment, caused issue with some prisoners but overall the Board deemed conditions were acceptable.
- Food is more than acceptable in quantity and quality to prisoners and the catering management should be congratulated on their presentation, especially with such a low per head budget, as should prisoners themselves for their contribution.

Health and wellbeing

- From the Boards monitoring and observations the quality of healthcare provision is exceptional with very few complaints.
- Any absence by staff due to sickness during the year was well covered by staff from other establishments.

Progression and resettlement

- From the Board's observations there are still good relationships between staff and prisoners are provided good training and experience for resettlement into the community.
- Prisoners have extensive opportunities for resettlement and access to the community, with planned walks and visits to places such as museums.
- The prison was visited by renowned author Lee Childs during the reporting year, an experience for both him and the prisoners.

- Rehabilitation is a key object at Kirklevington and staff can be proud of their success in this objective.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

We reported one death in custody occurring early in the reporting year, yet the toxicology tests have yet to be finalised thus delaying the investigation by the prisons and Probation Ombudsman, preventing progress towards an inquest. These delays prevent closure for the family and can show a lack of authoritative care. Can this process be examined to ensure a speedier response?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

Staffing levels at Kirklevington are good, without many peaks of sickness but the Board is concerned at the amount of time it takes to start a new member on site between their initial interview and acceptance. We realise that there is a need to complete security checks, but what can amount to nine months before actually being employed is an inordinate amount of time and the Board would ask how this time period could be reduced?

TO THE GOVERNOR

We observe good relationships between all levels of staff and prisoners, with the majority working towards positive resettlement. There will always be the odd exception but talking to governors we realise that such differences are noted.

Overall governors, officers and staff should be proud of their efforts towards the prisoners stay, education and work ethic during their time at Kirklevington, and how they are prepare them for their imminent release into society.

3.3 Response to last report

- Misplaced property, although not a major issue at Kirklevington, is a continuing issue. After many years of raising the matter yet it is still not addressed.
- Although the temporary presumptive recategorisation system (TPRS) was adequately handled by prison staff at Kirklevington, it is something that can affect the system of rehabilitation, a record of which the prison should be proud.
- The rapid development cell programme again failed to come to fruition during the reporting year and the Board can only hope for a commencement soon.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

The IMB consider that HMP Kirklevington Grange is a safe environment for both prisoners and staff. There were a small number of incidents throughout the reporting year, a small number of them were serious.

4.1 Intelligence gathering

Security and intelligence information is submitted in the form of intelligence reports (IRs), which are categorised by subject. The analysis of IRs in 2025 in comparison to 2024 is shown in the table below.

Threat area	2025	2024	Change from previous year
UAL (unlawfully at large)	10	3	7
Abscond	1	0	1
Breach of ROTL (release on temporary licence)	81	106	-25
Drugs	453	483	-30
Mobile phones	63	91	-28
Other illicit articles	49	33	16
Serious and organised crime	19	20	-1
Violence	96	56	40
Safer custody	53	36	17
Order and stability	664	936	-272
Public protection	46	23	23
Sexual abuse	14	9	5
Race relations/extremism	3	9	-6
Extremism	4	0	4
Corruptors	0	0	0
Corruption Prevention	0	0	0
TOTAL	1556	1805	-249

*There has been a slight change in some of the categorisations during 2025 as collating systems have changed, but figures shown are collective figures for a particular section.

4.2 Reception and induction

During the reporting year, there were 124 receptions into the prison from other establishments, compared with 301 in 2024. On arrival, each prisoner was given an

initial induction by officers in reception. This was followed up the next day with a more detailed explanation, done by an officer and a fellow prisoner, as well as a 'tour' of the establishment to explain the location of various departments. F unit served as a reception unit, with each prisoner being allocated a double-occupancy cell on arrival, due to national population issues. Cells in F unit were originally built for double occupancy. Each prisoner was delegated a personnel officer after a few days. Prisoner exit interviews conducted by the prison showed:

- 83% said they were treated well by reception.
- 84% said they felt safe from harm from other prisoners.
- 72% said the induction programme met their needs.

4.3 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

Deaths in custody

There was one death in custody in May 2025, comparable to the same number in the previous reporting year. The death occurred in a single occupancy cell. At the time of writing the toxicology tests have not yet been concluded. This has resulted in the Prisons & Probation Ombudsman (PPO) adjourning their investigation, there has been no progress towards an inquest and no medical cause of death has been finalised.

There are indications as to the cause of death, and a number of early matters for improvement were identified, ahead of any findings from the PPO and Coroner. These have all been implemented. These delays prevent closure for the family and can show a lack of authoritative care.

Mental health and self-harm

There was one incident of self-harm during the reporting year. The prisoner concerned was supported through the ACCT process.

There were six occasions where prisoners were supported via ACCTs, the majority were having thoughts of suicide or self-harm.

4.4 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

There was one incidence of prisoner-on-prisoner assault, and one incident where a prisoner was placed in the transition room for their protection following an assault. There were also some instances where prisoners were supported through the challenge support and intervention plan process (CSIP, used to manage prisoners who pose an increased risk of violence) as a result of suspected assault or bullying.

45 CSIP referrals were made during the reporting year, for the following reasons:

- 31 x mandatory drug test failures
- 5 x suspected under the influence
- 2 x alcometer (a test that measures blood alcohol concentration) failures
- 2 x suspected fighting
- 1 x concerns for mental health
- 2 x threats of violence
- 1 x possible victim of assault
- 1 x possible victim of bullying

The IMB have noted that there are cases of prisoner injuries that are possibly caused by prisoner-on-prison assault, which have not been recorded as such or raised through the CSIP process. IMB will continue to monitor information around all prisoner injuries.

4.5 Use of force

There were four incidents of use of force (UoF) during the year. All were unplanned and concerned four different prisoners. Body-worn video recordings were available of three of the incidents.

All the incidents were at the lower level of the use of force spectrum, with no use of batons or PAVA spray and handcuffs used in only one incident.

4.6 Preventing illicit items

During the year there were searches carried out, which resulted in finding illicit items. The frequency of substance abuse is measured via mandatory drug testing (MDT), with three selection criteria: random, risk assessment and suspicion.

	Random tests	Risk assessment tests	Suspicion tests	Total
Number conducted	249	137	76	462
Positive results	17	13	28	58
% positive results 2025	6.8%	9.5%	36.8%	12.5%
% positive results 2024	4.6%	11.4%	32.3%	10.6%

During the year, a total of 95 prisoners were returned to closed conditions, of whom 34 were returned as a result of links to illicit items and a further 14 were returned as a result of drug abuse and MDT failure.

Fire safety

There were no fires during the year. There were 100 incidents of fire alarms, that were investigated. Most were related to prisoners cooking in kitchenettes on the wings.

Locking and unlocking of fire doors was an issue during the year and this was highlighted whilst major repairs were carried out to the main building roof and the use of scaffolding. This resulted in several policy changes that were carefully monitored by the IMB as it affected prisoner ability to evacuate in an emergency. These changes are now carefully monitored by the Board.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

The accommodation at Kirklevington is basic and tired in places, with some men expressing disappointment in the facilities on arrival at a category D open establishment. Bathroom and shower facilities are rudimentary, and the shower enclosures are small. Cleaning appears to be carried out thoroughly, but the ageing flooring and fittings can make it difficult. Funding was secured to do the following work:

- ABCJ units shower/toilets to have a full refit
- R Unit will receive new sinks and cladding on the walls
- G Unit bath area will get a new floor along with wall cladding and an adjacent toilet on a new floor.
- F Unit will also get a new floor in the toilet /shower area.

There was paint programme in place on the main block using pastel and accented colours on the doors. Going forward the prison is looking to theme each unit with local countryside and landmarks. New appliances have been purchased for every kitchenette and the plan is to replace them every four months due to the use they get.

A second pool table was acquired the association room so that it could be accessed after the main kitchen has closed in the evening.

In an exit survey issued by the prison in 2025, completed by all prisoners on release, 75% of prisoners agreed or strongly agreed with the statement; “the quality of my living conditions is good in this prison.”

Due to national prison population challenges, doubling up of 20 cells in the induction block had been necessary and this was perceived as a regressive step by prisoners transferring to an open prison. The doubling up was mentioned as a dislike by some prisoners on the prisons 2025 exit survey

The issue with bed-bug infestations continued, despite the best efforts of managers, who followed established protocols. This was contained to a few units, with regular visits by a pest control team. A new protocol has been introduced to help with this.

Prisoners rated the food highly. It was cited as one of the things ‘liked’ about Kirklevington in the prisons exit surveys, and there were many positive comments made by prisoners in the food comments book and in conversations with the IMB. The comments have been positive throughout the year with particular praise for the Christmas food offering. The catering manager and his team were responsive to

requests of prisoners and flexible in meeting demands, such as dietary requirements and amended menus for outside workers returning late. The kitchen staff have been involved in producing items for particular themes for example rainbow salads for pride month. In the Board's opinion, the provision is remarkable considering the small budget per head. The kitchen is well maintained and well managed, in the Board's view, with prisoners learning useful life skills such as bread-making.

5.2 Segregation

There is no segregation unit in the prison, but there are two 'transition rooms' which, the Board believes, are adequately equipped and supervised when in use. These are generally used when prisoners are being relocated to another establishment, prisoners can also be placed here for their own safety or following an incident of violence.

During 2025 70 prisoners were placed in a transition room, six of these prisoners were under the age of 25, seven of these prisoners were aged 50 or over and four were from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

In 2025 in total, 95 prisoners were returned to closed conditions following being placed in the transition room. Six of whom were from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, six were under 25 years of age, 11 were aged 50 years old or over and 27 prisoners were part of the temporary presumptive recategorisation system (which allowed eligible prisoners to be transferred to the open estate 36 months before the end of their sentence).

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

From the Board's observations, there is a calm and respectful atmosphere within the prison, with very few challenges to authority. A total of 85% of the prisons exit survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their personal officer was helpful.

F unit is where prisoners are located when transferred into the prison, this unit has double occupancy cells. This can cause issues if they are used to single cells. There seems to have been a difference in the type of prisoner, these are TPRS (Temporary Presumptive Recategorisation System) prisoners being transferred to Kirklevington Grange and this has been reflected in some issues with relationships between staff and prisoners on F unit. Estimates were sort to put CCTV on the unit to monitor, however this is yet to progress.

The safer custody suite was staffed during the day, Monday to Friday, offering a comfortable, quiet space, with activities such as auricular acupuncture, fidget gadgets for managing anxiety and season-specific activities, including painting mugs for Christmas presents and a hot chocolate session.

The Board observed staff working hard to promote positive relationships throughout the prison, and good relationships appeared to be the norm.

The prisons' 2025 exit survey responses showed:

- 92% of prisoners agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "overall I am treated fairly by the officers and staff".
- 76% of prisoners agreed or strongly agreed that "the regime to be constructive".
- 83% felt well looked after when they arrived at the prison.
- 78% relationships between staff and prisoners in this prison are good.
- 81% of prisoners agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "in this prison, it is clear to me what I need to do in order to progress".

5.4 Equality and diversity

There is no purpose-built accommodation for physically disabled prisoners, although the Board have observed the prison making every effort to facilitate them when required.

During 2025, the prison received six discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFs), none of which were upheld. The number is too small to provide any statistically significant indications relating to groups with protected characteristics (including, among others, race, religion, disability, age, sex and sexual orientation). In the 2025 prison exit survey no prisoner answered yes to the question 'have you ever been victimised/harassed/ bullied due to your protected characteristic whilst in this prison?'. Exit survey responses indicated that 84% felt safe from being injured, bullied or threatened by other prisoners during their time at Kirklevington, and 76% that bullying behaviour by prisoners is not tolerated in this prison.

In 2025 screening indicated that 46% of prisoners were neurodivergent or had additional learning needs. Kirklevington proceeds on a social, rather than a medical, model, so support was available to all, with or without a formal diagnosis. The neurodiversity support manager (NSM) carried out monthly training and these included sessions provided by external autism experts.

Support and education plans were created to assist individuals whose needs were classified as 'moderate' or 'severe.' Those assessed as 'very severe' were invited to consent to their support plans being shared with external employers. The NSM sent out monthly bulletins to all staff and facilitated areas with supportive environments, namely a sensory garden and a quiet room. She provided individual, targeted support and made referrals for prisoners preparing for release, including sharing

support plans with their community offender manager. She monitored neurodivergent prisoners, compared with their peers, in rates of learning, external employment achievement, suspended ROTL (release on temporary licence) and being returned to closed conditions.

A new screening system for neurodiversity was introduced towards the end of 2025, which has modified the way the information is recorded. Neurodiversity needs are highlighted on digital prison service records and staff can easily contribute to this. They can record good strategies to supports strengths and raise awareness across the staff who engage with these men. Kirklevington have staff leads for each protected characteristic. There are also leads for additional characteristics not covered under the Equality Act, such as veterans in custody, neurodiverse prisoners, young adults/care leavers and victims of hate crimes.

There are four diversity and inclusion prisoner representatives, who meet monthly. Diversity and inclusion meetings take place every two months. The meetings review DIRFs, which involve any complaints where the equality and diversity box has been ticked. This data and each prisoner representing a protected characteristic provided an update on work/activities undertaken.

A foot bath has been supplied for Muslim prisoners, this was all arranged and suitable area secured. This is part of Wudu, which is a purification ritual in Islam performed before prayer, consisting of specific washing steps to ensure cleanliness and spiritual readiness.

Many events have been held, including tea and coffee mornings for all, a catterick careers fair for veterans, the chaplaincy set up 40 days of kindness for lent and Age UK attend twice a week to hold quiz nights.

Around the prison, regular displays are created that are linked to cultural and religious events, such as Remembrance Day, Black History Month, Ramadan, Holocaust Remembrance Day and Roma, Gypsy and Traveller cultural events, as well as pride and transgender celebrations. Services are held to celebrate/commemorate such events and prisoners are involved in planning, creating and cooking special meals for these occasions.

Each month Kirklevington has a theme that drives inclusion, awareness and diversity activities in the prison. A community information notice highlights to prisoners and staff themes for the month and highlights other notable things to consider each month. Themes in 2025 included veganuary, world cancer day, time to talk, random acts of kindness, earth day, celebrating diversity and inclusion.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

The chaplaincy at Kirklevington provides good support and events for men of varying faiths. As far as was possible, new prisoners in reception were seen by the chaplaincy team within 48 hours of their arrival.

Faiths covered are outlined in the timetable below with chaplaincy opening times as follows:

- Monday 14:00 – 16:00: chaplaincy drop in/inductions with Nik
- Tuesday 11:15 – 11:45 (every other week): meditation with AJ
- Tuesday 13:30 – 16:30: bible study with Rebecca
- Wednesday 09.00 – 11.00: chaplaincy drop in/inductions with Nik
- Thursday 14.00 – 15.00: Sikh prayers with Baljeet
- Thursday 17.30 – 18.30: Roman Catholic mass with Fr John
- Friday 09.30 (every other week): Pagan worship with Rachele
- Friday 14.15 – 16.45: Muslim prayers with Kesser
- Friday 17.30 – 19.30: chaplaincy drop in/induction with Kesser
- Sunday 18.00 – 19.00 (first and third weeks of the month: holy communion with Nik
- Sunday 18.00 – 19.00 (second and fourth weeks of the month): service with songs with John

Chaplaincy events during 2025

- 24 Feb, author talk with Sean Conway
- February-March, Ramadan
- 5 March, Ash Wednesday
- March, 40 days of kindness
- April, Passover
- April, Easter and Holy Week
- June, memorial service for a particular death in custody
- June, Eid Prayers
- August, Lughnasadh
- October, Harvest Festival
- November, Remembrance Day
- December, Carol Service

5.6 Incentive schemes

All prisoners were given enhanced status (the top level of the incentives scheme) on arrival. This was reduced to a lower level (either basic or standard) by their custody

manager if they displayed poor or non-compliant behaviour. The IMB did not receive any complaints about such decisions.

5.7 Complaints

No prisoner complained to the IMB regarding overdue responses to prison complaints. Easy, informal access to officers and staff and a monthly, well-attended consultation meeting with prisoners successfully pre-empted many issues from escalating.

Distribution of complaints in 2024 and 2025

Subject of complaint	Percentage 2024	Percentage 2025
Property	33.50%	36.43%
Residential	8.38%	6.69%
Other	3.67%	1.49%
OASys/offender management	2.62%	6.69%
Canteen	11.52%	24.91%
Work	2.62%	2.60%
Finance/cash	13.61%	6.69%
Food	1.05%	3.35%
Visits	1.05%	0.37%
Staff	1.05%	0.00%
Education	4.71%	0.37%
Gym	3.67%	0.00%
Pre-release/release	0.52%	0.00%
Security	6.28%	1.86%
Transfer/allocation	0.52%	1.12%
Recategorisation	4.71%	4.83%
Reception	0.52%	0.37%
Incentives and earned privileges*		1.49%
Bullying*		0.37%
Offending behaviour programmes*		0.37%

*3 new categories were added to the complaint system in 2025 to better able record all possible complaints.

Notable changes from 2024 to 2025 included the increase in “canteen” (monies attributed to a prisoners personal account for purchase of selected foods and personal items from a selected outside source) complaints, mostly to do with transfer from one establishment to another when what they have ordered does not arrive and refunds take time. The business hub has provided guidance to prisoners to help

them understand the time scale for the canteen transfers. Complaints about education have fallen.

Internal complaints (complaints made at Kirklevington Grange) 2025

Subject of complaint	No of internal Comp 1	No of internal Comp 1A	No of internal Comp 2	Total of internal complaints	Internal Upheld Comp 1	Internal upheld Comp 1A
Property	36	3	1	40	13	0
Residential	14	2	0	16	3	0
Other	3	0	0	3	2	0
OASys/Offender Management	14	0	0	14	1	0
Canteen	41	4	0	45	19	0
Work	6	1	0	7	1	0
Finance/cash	13	1	0	14	4	0
Food	8	0	0	8	1	0
Visits	1	0	0	1	1	0
Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	1	0	0	1	1	0
Gym	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-release/release	0	0	0	0	0	0
Security	5	0	0	5	2	0
Transfer/allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recategorization	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0
IEP	4	0	0	4	0	0
Bullying	1	0	0	1	0	0
Offending Behaviour Programmes	1	0	0	1	0	0
	148	11	1	160	48	0

External complaints (complaints from a previous establishment carried over to Kirklevington for resolution)

Subject of complaint	No of external comp 1	No of External comp 1A	No of external comp 2	Total of External complaints	External Upheld comp 1	External upheld comp 1A
Property	54	4	0	58	13	1
Residential	1	1	0	2	0	0
Other	1	0	0	1	0	0
OASys/Offender Management	4	0	0	4	0	0
Canteen	19	3	0	22	9	2
Work	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finance/cash	3	1	0	4	2	0
Food	1	0	0	1	1	0
Visits	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gym	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-release/release	0	0	0	0	0	0
Security	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer/allocation	2	1	0	3	0	0
Recategorization	11	2	0	13	0	0
Reception	1	0	0	1	1	0
IEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullying	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offending Behaviour Programmes	0	0	0	0	0	0
	97	12	0	109	26	3

A total of 30% of internal complaints were upheld, while 27% of external complaints were upheld.

Subject of complaint	Total of internal complaints 2024	Total of internal complaints 2025	Total of external complaints 2024	Total of external complaints 2025
Property	40	40	24	58
Residential	14	16	2	2
Other	6	3	1	1
OASys/Offender Management	5	14	0	4
Canteen	17	45	5	22
Work	5	7	0	0
Finance/cash	25	14	1	4
Food	2	8	0	1
Visits	2	1	0	0
Staff	2	0	0	0
Education	9	1	0	0
Gym	7	0	0	0
Pre-release/release	1	0	0	0
Security	12	5	0	0
Transfer/allocation	1	0	0	3
Recategorization	0	0	9	13
Reception	0	0	1	1
IEP	N/A	4	N/A	0
Bullying	N/A	1	N/A	0
Offending Behaviour Programmes	N/A	1	N/A	0
	148	160	43	109

5.8 Property

Over 36% of complaints received were regarding property; between January 2025 and December 2025 Kirklevington received 98 complaints regarding property, 40 internal and 58 external. 13 of the 40 total internal complaints were upheld (32.5%) and 14 of the 58 total external complaints were upheld (24%). The biggest issue remains prisoners not receiving property on transfer.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

Spectrum Community Health CIC continues to be the contracted provider for all nursing provision, clinical, drug and alcohol recovery team (DART) services, GP clinics, mental health services, non-clinical DART and pharmacy services. Healthcare meetings are held with the Governor and there is also a forum held with prisoners.

Staffing

Role	Staff in post	Hours
Head of healthcare	1	Full-time (37.5 hours): covering both HMP/YOI Deerbolt and HMP Kirklevington Grange
Clinical manager	2	Full-time (37.5 hours)
Senior nurse	1	Part-time (25.5 hours)
Staff nurse	1	1 x full-time (37.5 hours)
Pharmacy technician	0	Full-time (37.5 hours)
Associate practitioner	1	Full time (37.5 hours)
Administration manager	1	Full-time (37.5 hours): covering both HMP/YOI Deerbolt and HMP Kirklevington Grange
Administration assistant	3	1 x full-time (37.5 hours) 2 x part-time (15 hours each)
Bank staff nurse	5	Bank hours: staff members used to cover weekend medications

Outsourced services

- Dentistry: Hardwick Dental Practice is a separate contract directly commissioned by NHS England
- Mental health: Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (subcontracted under Spectrum)
- Optician: Henderson Opticians
- Podiatry: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- Physiotherapy: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
- Diabetic eye screening: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

6.2 Physical healthcare

Care and treatment are delivered in line with an individual care plans and health staff complete a pre-admission assessment of prisoner's needs on arrival. These are continuously re-assessed. The Board were not concerned about waiting times for appointments at most of the clinics or for optician' services. Should it be necessary, prisoners are referred to external healthcare services.

Prisoners are encouraged to take direct responsibility for their health and wellbeing and drop-in clinics are available. Those with disabilities have access to required equipment, that can be accessed through a referral to the local social care team.

Two complaints were received regarding the provision of healthcare, both in relation to the prescribing of a strong pain killer medication.

Smoking cessation services take place, and prisoners are encouraged to attend.

Prisoners who receive methadone treatment for drug dependency were supervised taking their prescribed medicines. They had access to relevant information on drug misuse throughout their sentence.

Buvidal continues to be a replacement for methadone and is well received as an alternative drug. A total of 19 prisoners received buvidal therapy including some receiving methadone. In cases of an opioid overdose, Naloxone (a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose) has been prescribed and training has been given to enable staff to administer doses if necessary. Only healthcare staff can access medicines out of hours.

There is a defibrillator on site for use in an emergency.

Prisoners are offered a pre-release appointment with a healthcare nurse up to a month prior to leaving. The administration team will register them with a community GP ready for discharge, and enough medication is provided on leaving, if required.

Health records are kept securely, and only authorised staff can access them. Prisoners can view their own medical records on request. On-site management of medicines is carried out with use of the SystmOne computer system, which is a centrally hosted clinical computer system. Dental records are not kept by the prison; local practitioners attend the prison for appointments and, if necessary, prisoners can be referred to local facilities.

6.3 Mental health

The mental health service was good, in the Board's view, with a clear pathway for referral and treatment.. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust offered secondary mental health services, subcontracting rethink mental illness to provide psychological interventions and mind for counselling services. The healthcare team gave regular emotional health and wellbeing support to prisoners. The number of mental health referrals varied each month, and included self-referrals, as well as those by staff and the healthcare service. On average, there were 10-15 referrals per month, with some being transfers of care (patients already on secondary caseload whilst in their 'sending' establishments).

A total of six ACCTs were dealt with throughout the year. These were clearly indicated so that the Board member on duty was aware and could visit the prisoner to see if they had any concerns. The NHS trust delivered mental awareness training to Listeners (prisoners trained to provide confidential peer support to those are struggling with prison life). In addition, the majority of officers and staff received mental health training. A pamphlet is displayed around the prison showing the individual Listeners alongside their photo.

No patients were transferred to a secure health unit under the Mental Health Act during the year. However, if a prisoner was diagnosed as being mentally unwell, there is a protocol of referral in conjunction with HMP Holme House (which is about eight miles away).

6.4 Social care

Social care services are provided by Stockton Borough Council. They regularly attend the site to assess and review patients and provide training to staff. Once care plans are put in place, the on-site nursing team provide care to the patient.

6.5 Time out of cell, regime

As a category D establishment, prisoners have a key to their own rooms and can leave their rooms to use communal areas from 6.30am, but they must be back in their rooms by 9.30pm. There are four roll checks each day when, if on site, the prisoner is required to be at their cell for counting. Prisoners have relatively free access across the majority of the site. This is appreciated by the prisoners, as it gives them the freedom to exercise outside.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

The drug and alcohol recovery team, known as DART, is provided by a charity, Humankind, which is subcontracted by Spectrum Community Health. There is a full-time service manager based at HMP Kirklevington Grange, and a full-time recovery

co-ordinator. If necessary, mandatory drug testing can take place at weekends. Daytime drug treatment sessions run from 7.30am to 5pm.

Substance misuse support is a priority for the prison. Within 24 hours of arrival, all prisoners are seen and an assessment completed, which looks at a wide range of drug and alcohol misuse and any associated physical and health needs. Active support is encouraged at the prison, and on average, there were 19 prisoners involved with the prison team, which is a decrease on the previous year's figures of 38. In August, the prison held a drug overdose awareness day.

The DART team provides access to both narcotics anonymous and alcoholics anonymous monthly support groups at a nearby location. Prisoners can also attend local recovery connections support group meetings once a month. The prison team runs weekly evening DART support sessions, which have been well attended. Two DART peer mentors were introduced this year, who facilitate a weekly recovery group.

6.7 Soft skills

Prisoners are encouraged to be active during their leisure time and have excellent facilities, with access to a gym, a separate building within the prison grounds, a fitness centre in the main building, and exercise machines in one of the outer units. There is an outside five-a-side football facility, together with an outside playing field. The gym personnel offered a variety of activities throughout the year, involving both staff and prisoners. These included:

- Walking the Cleveland Way, a popular national walk of 175 km that is taken in bite-sized parts and involves prisoners and staff.
- Carpet bowls, with a local outside group giving prisoners the opportunity to mix with local people.
- Training with Sunderland football club foundations, working towards a coaching qualification.
- The national 'Park Run,' which can include up to 20 runners, both staff and prisoners.
- Sea fishing off the northeast coast.
- A sports day, with both staff and prisoners competing.
- Prisoners competed in the recovery games (linked to DART and drug abuse).
- Wellbeing events, for both staff and prisoners, including 'trauma' yoga and acupuncture courses, where prisoners can use these skills for other prisoners.
- Three prisoners competed in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme by camping overnight in the field inside the prison boundary.
- Basketball project involving a match with a local team 'Teesside Lions'.

- In November, the DART team ran a 'forest school' consisting of woodland walking and woodcraft skills, which was well attended.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

Novus held the contract for the education provision at Kirklevington Grange. A new contract, Prison Education Service (PES), began in October 2025.

The head of education and skills oversaw a manager, neurodiversity lead, three teachers and a learner support worker. Peer mentors changed frequently but were always available.

Prisoners were in education for either five afternoon or five morning sessions a week, depending on their work and other commitments and 47 part time places for education were available. Education was given high priority and any absence robustly challenged. The curriculum consisted of Maths, English and life skills with digital skills, including online safety embedded into all these subjects. The programme supported a prison-wide focus on rehabilitation and sustainable employment outcomes. The opportunity to acquire cultural knowledge and skills was enriched by visits from theatre groups, film showings, visits to museums and discussions of current affairs and issues. Personal development opportunities are embedded alongside curriculum skills and knowledge to maximise reintegration into work and life outside prison.

Initial assessments identified prisoners with additional learning needs and a new digital platform available to all staff offered suggested ways to support prisoners across the establishment.

The platform also recognises the intended future work destinations and where possible matches this to internal prison work available.

There were issues with IT systems relating to the change to the digital education platform installed by the MoJ, consequently some data is currently unavailable and some learner accounts have been unreliable.

Available data shows that between April and September 2025, 74.2% of available courses were allocated, attendance stood at 87.2% and 42 courses were completed. Early in 2025 there were some staffing issues, but the team managed to maintain the provision. There were 25 sessions (2.75 hours each) cancelled, mainly due to short term staff sickness and/or unavailability of suitably qualified staff.

Changes to government policy in sentencing meant that more prisoners arrived with lengthy time to be served at Kirklevington; up from three years maximum to five years. There were also more short-term prisoners who had too little time to complete

qualifications. The increase in early releases meant there were more men withdrawing from education as they left unexpectedly early.

The IMB visited the education department twice weekly and always found classrooms calm and productive, with positive attitudes and good participation. Often men who had avoided education and were reluctant to undertake classes initially reported having enjoyed attending and praised the support of teachers. From the Boards observations, relationships are good and staff go the extra mile to support students and adapt to the needs of many neurodivergent individuals. Two men gained Koestler awards for work produced; one made an outstanding debut with his artwork and the other was given an honourable mention for a letter he wrote about the holocaust as part of his course work.

Of 133 men responding to the prisons exit survey 91 (68%) agreed they had been offered support with reading, 38 neither agreed nor disagreed, possibly as this was not required, and only four (3%) stated they had not.

There were no complaints to the IMB regarding education.

The IMB visited the library twice weekly and found it to be calm, attractive and welcoming. The staff are friendly and have been responsive to prisoners requests, varying the provision across the year and trying new activities, quizzes, displays and timings.

The staff mounted attractive displays reflecting calendar events such as Black History Month and an 'author of the month.'

A reading ahead challenge ran throughout the year to encourage a reading habit. Between January and June there was an issue with the corporate network connection to Stockton Council, which runs the library, consequently data was not collected and reservations were limited. This has impacted on the available statistics.

Total issues

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Fiction	252	36	62	44	54	77	42	61	628
Non fiction	446	57	72	69	126	101	94	122	1087
Total audio/vis	803	142	276	206	315	266	241	271	2520
Total	1501	235	410	319	495	444	377	454	4235

Total Reservations

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Fiction	117	113	104	124	128	99	102	76	863
Non fiction	38	62	40	57	32	39	28	33	329
Total audio/vis	0	1	2	4	3	7	5	9	31
Total	155	176	146	185	163	145	135	118	1223

A book club built a small but regular group of participants. Newspapers were in demand especially for job seeking and puzzles and are now delivered more regularly. A laptop for practicing driving theory tests remained popular, as did the chess set. Due to the small space the chess set and laptop could not be available simultaneously.

The total number of visits made to the library during 2025 was 7116.

7.2 Vocational training

Prisoners were employed in internal jobs which matched their aspirations for employment wherever possible. These included kitchen work, cleaning, recycling, community forestry, horticulture, car valeting, driving and customer facing work in an extremely popular café. In addition, a multi-skills unit provided varied experiences in carpentry and painting and decorating. They engaged in maintenance and refurbishment projects within the prison.

Prisoners had their own workbooks that contained their learning targets, lists of correct PPE, any lateness or absences were recorded, linked Maths and English skills also being indicated. Prisoners were given a 30-minute session each week with an instructor to update their record. An employment coach from People Plus worked with prisoners alongside their supervisors and trainers to capture transferable skills including communication, teamwork, self-management and ethics. This was available to potential employers to demonstrate skills and support transition into employment upon release.

Only a few courses resulting in formal qualifications were available to prisoners due to the short period (usually 9-12 weeks) prior to prisoners being risk assessed for ROTL employment outside of the prison. A level 1 recycling operative course, online environmental awareness, manual handling training, and construction card assessments were run during the year.

From the Boards observations safer custody staff worked hard to provide a small but welcoming area, with various activities to occupy prisoners in their spare time and also provide a listening ear when needed. They are well respected by the prisoners who often comment on them 'going the extra mile.' A bring your hobby to work initiative where officers and staff ran clubs relating to their own hobbies continued. A gym and training suite was well used and pool, darts, a music making space and association areas, including outdoor spaces exist for recreation. Gym staff ran many events and competitions as well as outside activities including fishing, walks on the North York National Park and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

7.3 Offender management, progression

A Governor led reducing reoffending with two supporting managers, covering two services - reducing reoffending services and reducing reoffending delivery. The head of management delivery and head of management services in the OMU oversaw staff who dealt with low to medium and high risk prisoners.

The many changes to sentence policy, requiring early release of prisoners to create capacity in higher security prisons, impacted in terms of the workload of these staff. It necessitated further training in recalculating sentences. All staff required this received the training and, the team dealt with this very efficiently.

During the course of the year the temporary presumptive recategorisation scheme was instigated and there were 103 prisoners received on this status. Of these receptions 21 (20%) of them were subsequently returned to closed conditions prior to their release date.

As a consequence of early transfers to an open establishment some prisoners had not completed courses to address offending behaviour. These courses were amalgamated in 2025 to create one new programme called 'building better choices'. In the intervening period priority was given to men already in the community and it has proved impossible for prisoners at Kirklevington to access this course. An increased number of prisoners arrived with incomplete or basic offender assessment system (OASys) assessments, all of which increased demand upon Kirklevington staff to upgrade the information.

The policy for home detention curfew was also adjusted. This impacted open prisons from June 2025 and required OMU staff to recalculate sentences.

There were 116 prisoners released with an electronic tag under home detention.

27 parole hearings were held and 14 men were released from the establishment at the direction of the Parole Board.

The team were responsive to increased queries raised by prisoners regarding their changed release dates. They instigated a twice daily 'drop-in' session with a prison offender manager to allow men to ask their many questions. This was very much appreciated by prisoners.

Although some aspects of offender management in custody process does not apply in category D prisons the governor set aside time for personal officers to meet with prisoners and record notes relating to their contacts.

7.4 Family contact

Throughout their time at Kirklevington prisoners were supported by many groups and charities. North East prisoner after care society ran enrichment events throughout the year including a family fun day during each school holiday, and additional visits for new dads to meet their babies, have a photograph and give the child a teddy. At the request of prisoners who did not have children, an adult only evening was held in 2025. This was very much appreciated; mocktails were made and quizzes and bingo held.

Family visits were easy to book and readily available, many families expressed to the Board complete satisfaction with the space, facilities and levels of supervision. Adaptions were made for neurodivergent children and individual circumstances accommodated. There were no complaints to the IMB regarding visits.

7.5 Resettlement planning

In response to a prison run exit survey conducted at the point of release the following opinions were recorded:

- Of 133 respondents 89 (67%) said they strongly agreed or agreed with the statement; 'I have been encouraged to address my offending behaviour', 39 (29%) neither agreed nor disagreed and 5 (4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- To the statement, 'the regime encouraged me to think about and plan for my release,' 100 (75%) agreed or strongly agreed, 25 (19%) had no particular opinion and 8 (6%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Soon after their arrival at Kirklevington prisoners are engaged in creating a sentence plan including their future job aspirations. Where possible this was considered when allocating them to internal work placements and vocational training opportunities. The information, advice and guidance (IAG) team supported prisoners to consider all work opportunities and assisted them in writing CVs. Recently the team was reduced to one member of staff, curtailing the time available for this and placing greater dependence upon local employers to provide employability training.

In the Boards view the prison employment lead and their team worked diligently and effectively to secure employment opportunities for prisoners during their ROTL period and long term upon release. There has been a focus on recruiting new employers, especially employers in new technologies and large construction companies; the latter being very popular with prisoners. The process of recruiting and approving employers can be lengthy and the team dedicated time to ensure employers appreciated the situation and their responsibilities fully.

The number of men available for ROTL employment at any time is variable dependent upon the stage of their sentence, physical fitness, age and job vacancies. It is usual for between 50 and 80 men to be in ROTL employment. The purpose of a resettlement prison is to equip the men to rejoin society as useful, engaged citizens and members of their families. A large part of this is the opportunity to work and resume family life on temporary release (ROTL).

Table shows the number of temporary releases for work & family resettlement

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Number of ROTL Releases	6426	7160	7376	7846	28,808
Temporary Release Failures*	9	19	12	11	51
UAL Unlawfully at Large	0	2	0	0	2
Absconds (escapes)	0	0	0	1	1

*ROTL Failures may be late returns, failing drug/alcohol test, carrying illicit items, being in restricted areas.

During 2025 there were 54 job failures during this employment, 25 were terminated by the employer, seven men left due to health issues or redundancy, nine were transferred out of Kirklevington Grange to other prisons and 13 for varied reasons e.g., starting college, gated for disciplinary reasons or job dissatisfaction.

At 12 weeks prior to release, the prison replicates the work of the external job centres, providing regular sessions within the employment hub. Alongside the prisoner the employment lead completes the 'work after leaving prison assessment' to match the candidate to job vacancies within their local area. In recent years, the prison has extended its contacts with national employers to enhance opportunities to transfer ROTL jobs to areas beyond the North East region. The prisoner is able to

complete regular job searches and the team assist with online sites. A Department of Work & Pensions work coach, IAG and admin support personnel were available to enhance the effectiveness of this regular 'resettlement time' (i.e. time with support to search / apply for jobs prior to release.) Within this attractive and well-equipped hub, information events and presentations, interviews and coaching sessions are held. It is a very accessible and welcoming space.

By four weeks prior to release all prisoners had bank accounts and ID documents. The team have established strong links with charities and agencies who can support men outside the prison, post release. Prisoners are sometimes offered ex-offender mentors to provide practical help to those who need it, through Clean Slate. IAG assisted prisoners to formulate a post release plan, this is also supported by NOVUS, new futures network and jobs unlocked to support employment opportunities. The probation resettlement team participated in the resettlement plan.

Kirklevington Grange employment team has been successful, despite changes to Government sentencing policies which created a greater turnover of prisoners, some with very short stays in the jail.

Table shows the number of prisoners in employment six weeks after release.

*Numbers relate to those supervised by community services and probation staff as others cannot be followed.

2025	releases	employed	Not seeking work-retired, sick, in education	Not in employment
Jan	9	5	2	2
Feb	10	6	1	3
Mar	17	5	9	3
April	16	4	7	5
May	15	2	5	8
June	8	1	4	3
July	38	15	8	15
Aug	15	6	5	4
Sept	13	3	5	5
Oct	9	4	3	2
Nov	22	9	7	6
Dec				
Total	172	60	56	56

*December figures unavailable at time of completion

When prisoners were asked by the prison at exit, 'will you be employed on release?' 55 (42%) stated that they would be in work as an employee or self-employed, four (3%) in education, 53 stated they would be unemployed (40%), two were retired ((2%) and 17 (13%) would be on disability or carer benefits

Factors undermining employment included some men, despite working whilst in jail, say they are financially better off on benefits on release. Men employed must pay for accommodation at approved premises whilst the unemployed make a minimal contribution. This was a disincentive to finding work. In addition, the necessity for men to report to probation at midday makes work unrealistic for some supervised men.

All prisoners released from Kirklevington Grange had accommodation in place.

Housing on Release	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Family Home	19	33	21	17
Flat	0	0	0	0
Hotel/B&B	0	0	0	0
CAS 3 End of sentence release	18	16	9	12
CAS 2 Release on HDC	5	3	1	3
Approved Premises	3	5	5	6
Transient/short Term accommodation	1	3	3	1
Total:	47	60	39	40

There were 138 responses to a prison run exit survey question 'will you have accommodation on release?'. 123 (90%) replied yes, 14 (10%) said they would not and one gave no response to this question.

8. The work of the IMB

The Board has been able to meet its commitment to monitoring duties throughout the year and reported on issues of concern and identified good practice on each of those visits. A Governor attended all our monthly Board meetings, giving an update on the prison and a national update. At each meeting, we had a presentation from different departments, such as Offender Management, to update us on current practices. We have had good support from Governors, officers and staff to carry out our duties and have been given access to all parts of the establishment including prison/prisoner records.

We were kept well informed of prison status by observing various departmental meetings for monitoring purposes and receiving a daily brief, a daily update and a weekly update on a regular basis. Members have an area of special interest, in line with our monitoring guidelines, and are diligent in observing meetings associated with these, giving an increased oversight of their particular section.

The IMB Chair attends the regional Chairs' meetings, together with the Open Estate Forum (category D establishments) each quarter to receive updates and discuss best practice. There is an open invitation for other Board members to attend and this offer is often taken up by different members.

The prison conformed with the Memorandum of Understanding, providing the Board with a dedicated office and access to a confidential secretary as and when required for correspondence and minutes at Board meetings. Communications with the clerk are good both off and on site as this is important as we only schedule our rota visits twice per week.

We started and ended the year with six members giving us some stability in monitoring. Our recommended complement is nine, but the lower number of members does not compromise our position of being able to monitor the prison effectively.

During the year we were able to attend the prison on two days each week for monitoring and to observe the various meetings, each time producing a comprehensive report for the Governor and the Board. Members were made aware of their time commitment through a visits' rota, compiled by the Chair three months in advance of scheduled visits.

As in the previous year there were relatively few formal applications, which are prisoners' written representations to the Board (see the applications table, below), finishing with a similar figure to the preceding year. This is probably a result of a low population, a more settled establishment, the staff being able to find solutions and

the visible presence of IMB members, who listened to prisoners' concerns and dealt with their issues before they became registered complaints.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	9
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	6
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	6
Total number of visits to the establishment	212

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	0	1
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	3	0
C	Equality	0	0
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	0	2
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	0	0
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	0	0
F	Food and kitchens	1	1
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	2	2
H1	Property within the establishment	0	2
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	6	2
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	0	0
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	1	4
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	2	1
K	Transfers	0	0
L	Miscellaneous	1	2
	Total number of applications	16	15



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