Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Nottingham

For reporting year
1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026

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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, of any concern it has
- report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met its standards and requirements and what impact these have on those in its custody.

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

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

2. Description of the establishment



HMP Nottingham is a category B (for those who do not require maximum security but still pose a significant risk) adult male and YOI resettlement and local prison serving the courts of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust provided healthcare services until November 2025 when this transferred to Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The normal operational capacity of HMP Nottingham is 950 prisoners, with an in-use certified normal accommodation (CNA, the number of prisoners a prison can hold without being overcrowded)) of 719.[1]

Approximately 56% of prisoners are on remand (waiting for a court hearing or trial), or convicted but awaiting sentence. This is similar to the previous reporting year (54%). The sentenced population is approximately 31.5%. The percentage who have been recalled to prison is approximately 11.4%. Much of the sentenced population is category C (those who cannot be trusted in open conditions but who are unlikely to try to escape), with approximately 10% being category B. The prison has a small number of prisoners serving imprisonment for public protection (IPP) sentences.

Accommodation has been mostly in shared cells and is arranged on seven wings; all are of modern design. One is for vulnerable prisoners (VPs) and another is for early days in custody.

The care and separation unit (previously referred to as the segregation unit) has a capacity for 12 prisoners, including one special accommodation cell (where items such as furniture, bedding and sanitation are removed in the interests of safety).

There is a separate block for education which, along with classrooms, provides capacity for two workshops and the library. The barber's suite has now closed. There are seven additional

[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.

workshops, a large sports hall and gym and a separate fitness suite. A separately located workshop and education facilities are provided for vulnerable prisoners.

3. Key points

3.1 Main findings

The number of prisoners coming into and leaving through reception remains high, with up to 60 new prisoners arriving through reception every weekday, of which 20 may be new to the prison. The number of prisoners arriving on a 14-day recall (when a prisoner released on licence or on parole is returned to prison because they have broken the conditions of their licence) remains high. The 14-day recall is being abolished and replaced by a standard 56-day recall and the Board will monitor the impacts of this significant change. The prison continues to have a very high churn (the frequent movement of prisoners into, out of, or between prisons) and experiences the challenges that this brings.

Safety

- The prison has worked hard to reduce the incidents of self-harm, and it is reassuring that the number of acts of self-harm reduced significantly, by 37.5%. This reduction has been maintained and decreased even further during the last two months of the reporting year. The number of ACCTs (assessment, care in custody and teamwork document, used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide) opened remained broadly the same as the previous reporting year. The prison attributes the decrease in self-harm to high-quality intervention through ACCTs. The Board has monitored several ACCT reviews and observed this in action over the course of the reporting year.
- The number of assaults both on prisoners and staff has remained broadly similar to the previous year.
- The use of force during this reporting year remains very similar to last year; however, it is significantly higher than two years ago.
- The prison's safer custody team appears to be well-managed, experienced and pro-active. It is certainly responsive to any concerns or issues raised by the Board.

Fair and humane treatment

- Time out of cell for prisoners continues to cause concerns because it is often limited due to inaccurate roll calls, and this has been a particular problem during this reporting year. It has a particular impact for those not in education or work. Because of lack of capacity on the wing for vulnerable prisoners (G wing), some of those prisoners are still housed on the induction wing, limiting their time out of cell and time available for association between the wings.
- There has been another reduction in staff with less than two years' experience. In February 2025, 25% had less than two years and 43% less than three years. In February 2026, 14.49% of all staff had less than two years and 25.75% less than three years. When looking at Band 3-5 prison officers, the percentages are 19.2% with less than two years' experience and 32.2 with less than three years. The numbers of less experienced staff have fallen in the last three years. Whole staff training continues to require a significant commitment, it is now organised in a way that has less impact prisoners' access to education and other activities.
- Prisoners continue to raise complaints about their property going missing both within the prison and when they transfer between prisons.
- The number of applications to the Board has increased by approximately 42%. Areas which have significantly shown an increase in the number of applications are;
    - Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions
    - Canteen, facility list, catalogues
    - Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying
    - Transfers

The emphasis on addressing the needs of neurodiverse prisoners has continued and Board members have noticed some areas of impact; for example, improved communication at adjudications and ACCT reviews.

Health and wellbeing

- The number of complaints by prisoners about healthcare is similar to the last reporting year. It continues to be high.
- As raised in previous reports, the Board has serious concerns about prisoners with severe mental health issues being held in the prison, which does not have the staff or resources to safely manage them. There have been prisoners held in care and separation unit (CSU) who are clearly very mentally unwell. There have been mentally unwell prisoners who fail to shower or use the toilet facilities and so their cells can become extremely unhygienic and unpleasant which has severe impacts for other prisoners and staff. There are delays in getting these prisoners transferred to specialist mental health units although the Board has noticed slightly quicker transfers in some cases this year.
- The Board does see examples of experienced health care staff working well with prisoners with severe mental health problems, particularly in the CSU.
- The Board has been aware of at least five prisoners who are seriously and terminally ill, three of which have been very elderly. It is difficult for the prison to meet their needs and at least two have had lengthy periods in hospital requiring bed watch, which has significant implications on staffing resources. The Board understands that compassionate release is now very rarely granted.

Progression and resettlement

- Attendance in education and work continues to be below capacity and inconsistent.This was highlighted in the Independent Review of Progress Inspection report (February 2025) from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), and the prison has continued to take steps to increase attendance with some signs of success. This remains very challenging in a prison with such a high churn and a high proportion of prisoners on remand or unsentenced.
- The Board has some concerns about the impact of the cuts to education provision during the reporting year. Some popular, well-attended courses such as barbering were discontinued; classes had increased numbers of prisoners allocated to them and teachers were concerned that they had to teach subjects which were not their specialism.
- The Board has noted the continued high number of prisoners being recalled for short periods (often 14 days). This places strain on the resources of the prison and its ability to manage prisoners' safe release and resettlement. Prisoners frequently tell us that they do not understand why they have been recalled. The recall will often result in them losing accommodation, and will disrupt family relationships, benefits and medical care. The Board will monitor the impact of changes to the recall regime.
- The visitor centre is operated by the charitable organisation PACT and continues to provide a highly valued service. It works hard to ensure that visits proceed smoothly and to provide facilities for new fathers to spend valuable time bonding with their babies. Visitors who do not receive visits are offered the opportunity to associate with others in a similar position and for neurodivergent prisoners to access 'calm' sessions.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER:

- **Provision for prisoners with serious mental health issues.**

As referenced in our two previous reports, the Board raises with the Minister the issue of the wellbeing of prisoners who are severely mentally ill. The Board remains concerned at the length of time it takes for suitable places in secure mental health hospitals to become available. This means that severely unwell prisoners are having to be detained in the care and separation unit (CSU) for lengthy periods and this is not suitable or humane accommodation for them. It places pressures on prison staff who do not have the necessary training and there have been occasions when the CSU has operated in circumstances more akin to secure mental health unit than a prison unit. When will the Minister increase the provision of secure specialist mental health spaces? If the Minister does not intend to address this issue urgently, can you explain the reason?

- **Review of release and resettlement procedures**

When will the Minister invest further in probation and resettlement programmes and arrangements to reduce the number of prisoners released without accommodation or arrangements, in order to manage addiction and finance, which would reduce reoffending and recalls?

- **Accommodating very elderly and terminally ill prisoners**

When will the Minister review the accommodating of very elderly and terminally ill prisoners in a busy category B prison and consider increased use of compassionate release?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE:

- Severely mentally unwell prisoners need quicker asseessments and prompt transfers to appropriate hospital accommodation. Prison is not an appropriate environment for these individuals. How does the Service plan to address this urgent issue?
- How will the Service take steps to reduce the churn due to transfer between prisons so that the prison has better opportunities to work with prisoners on education and training?
- Will the Service take steps to reduce the number of late arrivals from out of area courts so that lockup can be timelier and security improved?
- Will the Service upgrade and computerise the transfer and storing of prisoners' property so that property losses, which upset prisoners and waste so much time, are minimised?

TO THE GOVERNOR:

- To continue to take steps to address the issue of self-harm and maintain the recent reduction in numbers.
- To monitor the overall increased use of force and further consider reasons and investigate why there is an increase.
- Will the Governor monitor the increased use of force and investigate if there is an increase in force used on prisoners from ethnic minorities?
- To increase the uptake of purposeful activity and time out of cell and ensure the number of useful qualifications increases.
- As raised previously, will the Governor consider measures to improve the transparency and objectivity of the incentives scheme process to give prisoners greater clarity and confidence in the scheme?
- What will you do to reduce the number of concerns expressed by prisoners about staff behaviours, including bullying?
- What will you do to improve the quality and quantity of food offered at lunchtimes, and for special celebrations, e.g. Eid?

3.3 Response to the previous report (2024-2025)

Issue raised	Response/progress
To the Minister What progress has been made regarding increasing the provision of secure mental health services for prisoners with severe mental health problems?	Whilst the Minister has set out the actions being taken by government, NHS England and HMPPS have begun work to address this continuing issue, the Board has seen little progress or improvement and it remains the case that health services and the prison continue to identify and address the needs of prisoners. Initial health assessments are now completed within 24 hours of reception into custody and health professionals now form part of the reception team for quicker triage.
Will the Minister consider and review the recall system, and will he invest in probation and resettlement services to improve resettlement arrangements and reduce reoffending and recalls?	Short term recalls have continued to have a negative impact. Short-term recalls will soon be replaced with fixed term recall of 56 days, which should ensure that resettlement processes can be better managed and secure better outcomes for released prisoners. The Sentencing Act will reduce the time most prisoners will spend in custody to one third. Other reforms are being planned.
Will the Minister take steps to reduce the number of prisoners who are convicted but not sentenced?	This remains a challenge. Magistrates have increased court sentencing powers and amendments to the Bail Act should help. In December 2025 a package of criminal court reforms was announced, which should progress cases more quickly.
To the Prison Service How does the Prison Service plan to address the urgent issue of seriously mentally unwell prisoners and secure quicker transfers to appropriate hospital accommodation?	Once again, the Board remains concerned about the number of seriously mentally ill prisoners who are being detained in prison, often in CSU and often for an extended period.
How will the prison service reduce the churn so that prisoners can better access education and training?	Prisoners arriving at HMP Nottingham from out of area has placed pressure on reception and impacted locking up times. Significant pressure is placed on reception staff and facilities, with prisoners arriving late in the evening. Prisoners from out of area courts has added to the churn and this continues to impact on education and training.
How will the Prison Service ensure more cohesive working relationships with the healthcare provider?	Transition to a new healthcare provider has meant significant change to services and brought some challenges.

	The Board acknowledges the limited control the prison has over an independent provider.
To the Governor How will the Governor continue to address the issue of self-harm and maintain the reduction in numbers?	The Board is pleased to note that there has been a reduction in self-harm. The prison has successfully implemented strategies, e.g. key working, ACCTs and Listeners.
Will the Governor monitor the increased use of force and investigate if there is an increase in force used on prisoners from ethnic minorities?	Information on this not available to date.
How will the Governor work with the new healthcare provider to improve healthcare for prisoners?	Prisoners continue to raise concerns about access to healthcare. The transition to a new provider on the whole seems to have been smooth so far and there have been no significant staff changes. There have been some changes eg the GP assessment in reception is now carried out remotely.
What is the Governors timeline for increasing the uptake of purposeful activity and time out of their cells?	Attendance at education and workshops did not improve for most of the year. Towards the end of this reporting year there were signs of increased numbers attending purposeful activity, but it remains below capacity. The Board acknowledges that the Governor is putting in better monitoring systems to try and increase attendance.
Will the Governor, once again, consider measures to improve the transparency and objectivity of the incentives scheme so that there are greater clarity and confidence in the system for prisoners?	Prisoners have continued to relate concerns about unfairness in the incentives system.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

HMP Nottingham continues to be a prison with high churn. A high number of prisoners are received each day. Transfers in and out result in the number through reception regularly being 80+. During the reporting year, late arrivals from out of area courts have caused prisoners to be held in reception for inordinately long periods of time on several occasions, sometimes into the early hours of the next morning. In July 2025, a late arrival of 12 out of area prisoners took 7.5 hours to process due to there being only one nurse on duty to carry out the health checks. The prison was also very concerned about this but has little control over it. It also causes final lock-up to be late and, in the Board's opinion, potentially compromises security. The impact is significant and the prison now reports the number of buses arriving late, last bus time of arrival and number of prisoners involved in its daily operations report. The Board recognises that this is beyond the control of the prison, but is concerned.

The total number of receptions (to include those transferring) for the reporting year was 6,241. The highest monthly figure was in January, when there were 525 new admissions and 99 transfers.

Reception is generally well-staffed with experienced officers, and the health and safety custody checks are well-managed. The cramped holding rooms are equipped with TVs, although prisoners have reported that these do not always work.

The reception process generally runs smoothly and reports from prisoners new to the prison indicate that there are few delays and processing times are acceptable (approximately two hours).

The induction process generally proceeds smoothly with all newly arrived prisoners located on the first night wing. There have, however, been occasions when this wing is full and some prisoners have needed to be located on other wings. Prison liaison representatives (PLRs) continue to play a valuable role in supporting and helping new prisoners, some of whom have literacy or language difficulties, with aspects of prison life such as canteen ordering, complaints, safety and how to access support.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

The Board has observed the link between self-harm, drugs, debt and boredom. HMP Nottingham has a strategy to reduce this, and during this reporting year, members have observed staff encouraging prisoners to engage in activities to reduce boredom and improve their wellbeing. Wings have been provided with new furniture in the association areas, as well as games and equipment such as table-tennis tables to support this. At the end of the reporting year, it was announced that there would be a pilot to re-introduce pool tables on all wings, which prisoners on the 'enhanced' (highest) level of the incentives scheme, a system of earned privileges to incentives positive behaviours, were allowed to use. Previously, there had been resistance from staff because of perceived risks from the use of pool balls.Prisoners have reported that they enjoy these facilities; however, sometimes the games provided are unsuitable as they take longer to complete than prisoners have available during association time. Prisoners also report that there is still not enough to occupy them. The gym also provides positive opportunities for many prisoners to engage and improve their wellbeing and mental health.

During the reporting year there were four deaths in custody, one apparently self-inflicted death and three apparently from natural causes. One of these prisoners had late-stage cancer and was receiving palliative care. He had significant frailty. The report from the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman noted the inconsistent use of restraints when this prisoner was transferred to and from hospital. On one transfer he was free from restraint, but on two subsequent occasions the

prisoner was restrained when there did not seem to be any change in his condition. The healthcare assessment said there was no medical reason why the prisoner should not be restrained but the risk assessment failed to properly take into account the current risk of escape. The Ombudsman expressed disappointment that previous concerns and recommendations that he had raised about restraint of ill and frail prisoners had not been addressed. It was again recommended that healthcare staff reflect the current health and mobility of a prisoner when they complete an escort risk assessment. The prison should take all information recorded in the medical section into account when making decisions about the use of restraints. The Board had also raised concerns previously.

The Board is pleased to note that the prison seems to have addressed this issue and in two subsequent deaths of seriously ill prisoners up to date risk assessments were carried out and the Board was advised that the prisoners had not been restrained when being taken to hospital and whilst in hospital where they died.

The Board was also informed of two deaths that occurred within 14 days of release.

During the reporting year the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) published its final report into the death of a prisoner who died in March 2020 from a cardiac arrest arising from a lung infection. The report identified serious failings in healthcare. There was a failure to properly use NEWS (national early warning score assessments) and inconsistent and unclear use of Code Blue. The report also found serious errors in record keeping by healthcare. The prison says that it has been assured by healthcare that the recommendations have been implemented. The Board has noticed that the prison is now calling Code Blue in a consistent way so that healthcare can make a clinical decision.

Acts of self-harm

Month	2023	2024	2025
March	86	107	49
April	93	77	43
May	100	81	55
June	67	91	66
July	91	117	51
August	74	116	67
September	82	63	69
October	88	79	57
November	74	70	54
December	65	58	50
January	33	68	36
February	45	63	22
Total	898	990	619

During this reporting year, incidents of self-harm have decreased by 37.5%. This is clearly a significant reduction in self-harm, which is to be welcomed. The Board was pleased to note that the decrease appears to have been maintained and become greater during the last two months of the reporting year. The prison attributes this to high-quality intervention through ACCTs.

ACCTs opened

Month	2023	2024	2025
March	83	44	45
April	67	48	40
May	59	55	46
June	55	51	57
July	78	58	53
August	54	55	57
September	64	35	59
October	86	52	48
November	61	37	38
December	68	46	46
January	58	44	44
February	51	40	46
Total	784	565	579

The number of ACCTs over the reporting year has remained broadly the same as for the previous two years. The Board has noted the prison's policy of aiming to keep the number of open ACCTs as low as possible so that high-quality work can be done with those prisoners and the prison considers this an important factor in the reduction in self-harm incidents. The Board is pleased to hear, however, that if an ACCT is deemed necessary, it will be put in place, regardless of the impact on this data.

There were 36 occasions during the reporting year when a prisoner was placed on constant supervision and there was a total of 29 prisoners on constant supervision. These numbers are lower than last year. The average length of time on constant supervision was 4.38 days. This remains an area of good practice, with staff keeping efficient accurate notes which support handovers.

During this reporting year, the number of Listeners (prisoners who offer confidential support to other prisoners) has once again fluctuated. This is impacted by the number of transfers and releases. At times, when there have been too few available, it has negatively impacted the service which has, in turn, negatively impacted the mental health and well-being of some prisoners. It can also place pressure on those Listeners who are available. The prison is conscious of this, and the recruitment and training of Listeners continues.

On some occasions, prisoners have reported to the Board that staff have refused appropriate access to a Listener on some wings.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

Prisoner on prisoner assaults

Month	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
March	25	24	35
April	17	28	23
May	22	18	33
June	20	40	26
July	24	21	42
August	29	41	28

September	29	22	39
October	22	33	21
November	28	25	37
December	29	34	16
January	26	37	22
February	25	24	17
Total	296	347	339

Prisoner on staff assaults

Month	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
March	13	7	13
April	8	8	14
May	15	11	9
June	13	9	7
July	10	11	17
August	11	12	10
September	9	10	14
October	2	13	9
November	6	8	15
December	10	16	11
January	2	13	7
February	15	19	7
Total	114	137	133

The number of violent incidents involving assaults has remained broadly unchanged from the last reporting year, with a notable reduction in the last two months of this year. There was a significant increase in March 2025, with 48 incidents and 37 in April 2025. This data involved 55 individuals. Most of these were prisoner-on-prisoner assaults.

The prison classifies the seriousness of assaults. The staff assault figures included 60 with no apparent injury and six categorised as red, which means the injuries are serious and require hospital treatment. Of the prisoner-on-prisoner assaults and fights 185 recorded no injury and 16 were recorded as red.

White = No apparent injury

Green = Minor injury that may not require treatment or have minimal treatment. Also spitting incidents striking the torso or below.

Amber = Injuries requiring treatment such as cuts that require stitching, severe bruising, potting incidents (an assault involving the throwing of bodily waste at another person) and spitting striking the neck or above.

Red = Potential life-threatening injuries such as serious head injuries, fractures, slashes or stab wounds that require treatment at outside hospital.

Staff Assaults												
	Mar 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026
White	7	4	3	5	12	6	9	2	3	4	5	0
Green	2	6	4	2	4	3	5	2	10	4	2	2
Amber	4	4	2	0	1	0	0	4	2	2	0	2
Red	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
Prisoner on prisoner assaults												
	Mar 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026
White	16	4	10	11	20	5	15	6	16	5	12	5
Green	10	4	7	3	9	10	5	4	9	4	3	3
Amber	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	0	0
Red	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	0	4	1	3
Prisoner fights												
	Mar 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026
White	7	10	10	8	9	9	16	5	8	1	5	4
Green	0	1	1	2	1	3	0	2	1	1	1	1
Amber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Red	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

During the reporting year, the prison has shared concerns about the decline in the use of body worn video cameras (BWVC) (1,540 in October 2024, decreasing to 980 in February 2025). The prison has encouraged staff to use BWVC as a way towards reducing acts of violence, but there is no evidence of impact yet.

4.4 Use of force

Month	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
March	55	53	89
April	82	68	72
May	59	52	82
June	63	55	78
July	77	77	78
August	93	100	77
September	49	54	73
October	52	82	92
November	63	90	87
December	47	90	59
January	59	109	59
February	61	99	75

Total	760	929	921

Use of force is at the same level as last year and this is a significant increase from two years ago. There is no clear reason, and it is something the Board will continue to monitor. 244 of the recorded incidents of use of force were when escorting holds were used.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

Illegal drugs entering the prison by a variety of means, remains a challenge. The presence of illicit drugs in prison causes additional problems such as violence, debt and bullying. The prison has robust systems and uses prisoner and staff intelligence to identify and eradicate illegal drug use. According to prison management the most likely way that drugs entered the prison during the last reporting period was through social visits and prisoners leaving the prison for court appearances. Accordingly, searches and procedures were tightened.

The prison is vigilant to illegal drugs entering the prison.

Prisoners entering the prison who fail the X-ray body scanner check continue to be located within the care and separation unit until they have a clean scan. The prison reports that recently, although the rate of failed first scans is high, the rate of failed second scans is markedly lower. The prison was able to provide data for part of this reporting year (August 25-February 26).

	2025-2026
Total number of prisoner X-ray body scans which were **positive** in the period	98
Total number of prisoner X-ray body scans which were **negative** in the period	5,826
Total number of prisoner X-ray body scans which were **inconclusive** in the period	753
total number of positive prisoner scan results subsequently assessed as being caused only by normal bodily contents rather than concealed contraband)	298
Total number of positive prisoner scans that are suspected to be due to **only inorganic** item(s)	26
Total number of positive prisoner scans that are suspected to be due to **both organic and inorganic item(s)**	0

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

Accommodation is relatively modern, with all seven wings and the care and separation unit (CSU) built about 20 years ago. All cells have a toilet and wash basin. Some cells have been adapted for disabled prisoners. These cells have built-in shower facilities. All cells have phones and numbers which can be called are approved and controlled by the prison. Prisoners can purchase phone credit or may be given it by the prison in exceptional circumstances. New televisions have recently been installed in all cells unless removed under the incentives scheme.

The Board has had some concerns this reporting year about lack of cleanliness on several wings. The prison shared these concerns, and the Board is pleased to note that action was taken and the consistency in cleaning has improved as a result. During recent visits, landings have been observed to be clean and tidy. The showers still cause the Board some concern as they are still frequently observed to be untidy and unclean.

The Board is pleased that funding was secured during this reporting year to refurbish the showers on E wing. The Governor explained that the cost of replacing three showers is £500k. The Board was pleased to hear funding had been secured, but reiterated its concerns about inconsistent levels of privacy and about cleanliness in the showers. Not all showers have been refurbished and the showers in CSU and several other wings remain in a poor state.

The Board was concerned that the lift on G wing was out of action for more than three months. This is the wing for vulnerable prisoners and there are prisoners with mobility issues and some who are dependent on a wheelchair. The lack of a lift led to some missed visits and appointments. The maintenance engineers advised that there were delays in obtaining the correct part and it is understood repairs were costly; nevertheless, the lengthy period when the lift was non-operational was unacceptable.

Another maintenance issue which has impacted on prisoners is the lack of a washing machine on G wing for over five months. The machine has not been repaired. It means they must use the machine on another wing and have limited access.

Prisoners from all wings have consistently reported to members that lack of kit and basic equipment such as a chair, is an ongoing problem throughout the reporting year. Whilst the prison has explained the issues involved such as prisoners hoarding kit, the fact remains that prisoners often do not have access to clean and dry towels, adequate mattresses or bedding. The prison's 'clean and decent' policy was achieving 90-93% compliance from wings in the autumn with regards to checking that all cells are fully equipped. It appears that prison staff are sometimes making the decision not to procure replacement or adequate kit and resources for the number of prisoners on their wing, despite being instructed to do so. This causes concern to the Board.

There have, once again, been frequent complaints from prisoners about the temperature on the wings. In summer it becomes extremely hot, particularly on the upper landings, and in winter extremely cold. The Board understands the difficulties in managing this as the heating is controlled centrally, but is concerned that this problem is an issue for prisoners with some health conditions. Lack of ventilation and fans was a particular concern for a prisoner with severe asthma during the summer months. Members were very concerned that during the winter months, the CSU was extremely cold.

Each wing, including the CSU, has a servery which is staffed by prisoners. There has, once again been a considerable number of complaints about both quality and quantity of food offered at lunchtimes, which members have also observed and reported to the prison. Lunch time food is often served well before midday.

The Board is pleased that the kitchen makes the effort to support religious customs and celebrations by providing special meals. However, some Muslim prisoners reported that during Ramadan, the quality of food they were provided with was poor: 'greasy and repetitive'. The chaplaincy team made the Board aware of its concerns about the quality of the food.

5.2 Segregation

The fabric of the care and separation (CSU) building is very basic. The showers are old and unwelcoming. It concerns the Board that it becomes extremely cold in the winter, and prisoners frequently complain about this to members. It has been observed that prisoners have minimal bedding provided and they often sleep fully clothed to keep warm. Prisoners are provided with radios, distraction packs and reading and writing materials on request.

Following some instability in the staff team earlier in the year, new appointments have been made, and a new staff team is now settled and managing the unit effectively.

There are two small adjacent exercise yards dedicated for the use of prisoners in CSU. Where risk assessments indicate that it is safe to do so, prisoners can exercise on these yards at the same time. The Board welcomes the opportunity for prisoners to engage with each other wherever possible.

Prisoners in CSU generally report to members that they are being well looked after and have everything they need and should have, including relevant documentation where appropriate. Relationships between staff and prisoners are regularly observed to be positive and respectful.

The following table sets out the number of prisoners who have been segregated on multiple occasions:

2023-24		**2024-25**		**2025-26**	
Occasions segregated	**Number of Prisoners**	**Occasions segregated**	**Number of Prisoners**	**Occasions segregated**	**Number of Prisoners**
8	0	**8**	1	**8**	0
7	0	**7**	1	**7**	1
6	0	**6**	1	**6**	2
5	4	**5**	3	**5**	3
4	11	**4**	4	**4**	0
3	11	**3**	16	**3**	8
2	37	**2**	43	**2**	88
1	331	**1**	334	**1**	292
Total	394	**Total**	403	**Total**	334
Average length of stay	8.39 days	**Average length of stay**	10.12 days	**Average length of stay**	7.93 days

The Board visits the CSU every week. In the latter part of this reporting year, there have been less prisoners accommodated here. Whilst the number of prisoners segregated twice has increased significantly, it is pleasing that the total number of days and the average length of stay in the CSU has reduced significantly over this reporting year and fewer prisoners have been accommodated three times or more in the CSU.

The Board is pleased to see evidence that seriously mentally ill prisoners are being identified and transferred to a secure mental health hospital more quickly where appropriate. However, there are still too many severely mentally ill prisoners in the CSU. Two prisoners were so severely mentally ill that they were often unable to shower or use the toilet themselves. Their cells became very unhygienic and this impacts significantly on other prisoners and staff who must work in unpleasant and unacceptable conditions.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

There has been an increase in the number of applications to the IMB about staff concerns and bullying this reporting year, with the number of applications to the Board almost doubling from 35 in 2025 to 64 in this reporting year. The prison explained it believed that this was directly related to some instability and inconsistency in leadership over the year. This will require further monitoring by the Board over the next reporting year.

The Board has regularly observed positive, respectful relationships and interactions between staff and prisoners during rota visits. Examples of comments from the Governor's weekly blog, from prisoners include;

'I'd like to thank [member of staff]... for being helpful and polite and helping me if I needed her help over the last year. Big thanks.'

'I would like to big up [member of staff] in workshop X. I have been on an ACCT for a while, and the work is helping me stay off it ... It's helping my mental health. Thank you.'

'[Member of staff]... listening and supporting me during a very stressful time to help me when I'm down.'

The Board has also noted positive staff: prisoner relationships and interactions in ACCT reviews, GOoD reviews (good order or discipline, where it is determined if a prisoner who has been segregated due to disruptive behaviour should remain segregated or return to the general population), adjudications (disciplinary hearing when a prisoner is alleged to have broken prison rules), and during day-to-day interactions on the wings. Reviews have regularly been observed to be conducted in a respectful, calm manner with clear, considered communication to ensure that the prisoner understands.

There have been a few reports from prisoners telling the Board that they feel that staff do not always understand and support the role of Listeners (prisoners trained by the Samaritans to provide confidential emotional support to fellow prisoners) and so are inconsistent in enabling prisoners to access a Listener. This has not been verified.

The prison has continued its drive to complete key worker sessions and sends regular notices and reminders to staff urging key workers to make efficient use of the time they have available to complete sessions. The number of keyworker sessions did increase during the year, rising from between 650 and 850 sessions per month between March and August to over 1,000 sessions in December and January. As reported previously, the Board sees some very comprehensive notes from keyworkers but note keeping is variable. Unfortunately, some prisoners still report to the Board that they are not aware of their key worker.

5.4 Equality and diversity

The Board had concerns about the safety and welfare of several disabled prisoners who were wheelchair users on G wing during this reporting year due to the lift being out of order for several months. This resulted in at least four prisoners having significant difficulties in accessing visits, activities and support groups. The diversity and equalities lead was immediately aware of the issue and its impact. Alternative provisions were put in place but there was still inevitable disruption for those prisoners reliant on the lift. The prison reported that the repairs took so long

because the lifts were of an obsolete model and this made securing parts difficult. The Board is pleased that this issue has now been rectified.

The Board is pleased to hear from most disabled and elderly prisoners that they are well-cared for and provided with adaptations to their cells where required, including grab-rails, in-cell shower and appropriate adjustable beds. There were no applications to the IMB concerning issues relating to physical disabilities during the reporting year.

The prison has developed initiatives and approaches to supporting neurodivergent prisoners to ensure that they are not disadvantaged or miss out on opportunities available to other prisoners. These include easy read documents for staff on wings to use with prisoners when required. The following topics have been added this reporting year:

- Prison rules and wing rules
- Staying safe in prison
- The regime and association time
- Using the kiosk – photo guides for choosing food, submitting applications, adding credit and ordering canteen items.
- Spending money in prison
- Using the phone
- DIRFs (discrimination incident reporting forms)
- Complaints
- Education, skills and work
- Adjudications

The prison has also identified low sensory load cells which can better meet the needs of prisoners who have sensory processing difficulties. One of the holding cells in reception has been equipped with sound dampening panels to support prisoners with sensitivity to sound. Neurodivergent (ND) prisoners can access ‘calm’ visits where there are only six visiting tables instead of the usual 24. This supports them to maintain contact with family and friends and helps to protect their mental health. Relaxation and exercise classes for ND prisoners have started and are supported by a heath professional.

The lead for neurodivergent support reports that she works closely with healthcare partners, and this is unusual in a setting like this. This is a strength of the prison, and the Board is pleased to see that progress in this area has been significant. It has been observed by the Board that ACCT reviews have improved for neurodivergent prisoners with a particular emphasis on effective communication and careful checking that prisoners have understood what is happening for them.

Another significant area of work has been in supporting officers to develop their skills in de-escalating situations involving ND prisoners before use of force was necessary. This resulted from data revealing that ND prisoners were involved in use of force incidents more than neurotypical prisoners. This will be an interesting aspect to report on in next year's annual report

Staff are supported to understand prisoners’ needs quickly using the one-page plans which the lead for neurodivergent support now produces for all ND prisoners. This plan details what is important to the prisoner, what he needs help with and how the officer can help him.

A wider range of distraction activities has been introduced, including art equipment, puzzles and diamond art. The neurodiversity lead also links with vulnerable ND prisoners prior to significant changes in routines e.g training days and Christmas to help them prepare for the change. She

supported 18 prisoners over the Christmas period and reports that there was a significant reduction in self-harm amongst those prisoners.

Disability forums continue, with the local scrutiny board looking at discrimination incident reporting (DIRF) process and includes prisoners and multidisciplinary staff. It is noted that there was a significant reduction in the number of DIRFS submitted with 39 in the reporting year down from over 90 in the previous year. It is noted that some DIRF complaints were re-directed to the complaints team, as it was found that they were not complaints about discrimination.

The ethnic breakdown of the prison population is very similar to last year. 71% were white, 7% Asian, 11% Black, 6% mixed, 5% other and not stated.

During the reporting year the number of foreign national prisoners averaged at 132, which is 20% lower than last year. There were up to 48 different nationalities within the prison population and out of this, as much as 19 were the only one from their country. There is a foreign national specialist to support foreign national prisoners and encourage inclusivity. Dedicated forums for particular nationalities have been arranged and recently there have been events for Afghan and Sudanese prisoners, with interpreters to facilitate effective communication to try and explore and understand their prison experience.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

The chaplaincy team has continued to be strong and committed to provide important and consistent spiritual support to prisoners of all or no faith. The team is held in high regard by prisoners. A wide range of faith festivals and celebrations are observed across the prison, including:

December- carol service

January- Ethiopian Christmas, Christian Orthodox Christmas, Birthday of Parkash Guru Gobind Singh Ji (Sikh festival)

March- Ramadan and Eid

The Board is pleased to know that religious celebrations of all faiths are a regular feature of life in prison and observers are provided with time out of cell and special celebratory meals where appropriate.

The faith team are proactive in supporting prisoners and staff whenever there is an incident requiring emotional support, e.g. a death in custody.

5.6 Incentives schemes

Once again, some prisoners have complained about perceived inconsistency in the implementation of the incentives scheme (a system of earned privileges to encourage positive behaviour). They feel that it is unfair that they lose privileges for one incident but it takes much longer to earn back their status. The prison explained to the Board that there should be flexibility in reviewing at any point and moving prisoners through the regime when it is felt appropriate to do so.

5.7 Complaints

The prison dealt with 3,172 complaints an increase from last year. The Board observes that complaints are normally dealt within the prescribed timescales. There are often significant issues when a prisoner has an outstanding complaint with another prison, and it can be difficult to obtain a response.

5.8 Property

The Board has once again received a high proportion of complaints about property, both within the prison and at other prisons or on transfer. The system of recording prisoners' property on arrival is paper-based and onerous. Dealing with lost or missing items is very time-consuming. Loss of property, or uncertainty about its whereabouts is a significant issue for many prisoners as their personal belongings are often all they have. It seems to be particularly difficult to track and trace property lost at transfer from another prison. Prisoners feel powerless when trying to pursue complaints or make a new complaint about property lost at another prison. This is very frustrating for them.

During this reporting year, the Board discovered that prisoners were not made aware of where their valuable items were stored and this caused prisoners some anxiety. This followed an application from a prisoner who was attempting to trace his watch. The prison assured the Board that moving forward, it would introduce a new policy to ensure that prisoners were advised about where valuable items were stored during their time in custody at HMP Nottingham. The Board has verified that this was implemented in January 2026 and prisoners new to the prison, including those in prison for the first time, had been told where their valuables would be kept. Subsequently, newly arrived prisoners have confirmed that they are informed about where their valuables would be stored.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare, including physical healthcare and social care

In November 2025, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) took over the contract for healthcare at the prison. It replaced Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, which had managed the contract for many years. The Board notes that the transfer appears to have gone smoothly with most existing staff choosing to be transferred over to the new provider. It meant new IT and management systems, which took a while to settle. There have been reports of some delays in GP assessments for new prisoners in reception. For prisoners in reception who are on medication and need a GP examination, this consultation is now done remotely either by video or just by reference to nurses' notes. The Board questions whether this is acceptable and is aware that some senior healthcare staff have concerns.

6.2 Time out of cell, regime

Throughout this reporting year, prisoners have reported frequently that they have regularly lost association time and sometimes shower time due to inaccurate roll calls. The prison confirmed this to be the case and cited a range of reasons, including inexperienced staff and movement of prisoners. It has been a big issue for prisoners who have made frequent representations to the Board. On some occasions, 40 minutes or more of time out of cell has been lost for some prisoners and this time has not been made up despite staff being directed to do so at the earliest opportunity. This is a significant proportion of their allowed time and causes the Board some concern. There is a significant impact on time for showering and socialising, including accessing the library and this in turn can cause anxiety and adversely affect prisoners' mental health. Senior officers were charged with reallocating lost time at the earliest opportunity, so prisoners were not disadvantaged. However, there is little evidence seen or reported of this being put into practice. This issue continued into the autumn, when the prison and some prisoners reported that the situation seemed to be improving. This is supported by the daily operations reports on some days, but it does not yet appear to have been fully resolved, and prisoners are still missing time out of cell regularly.

It was reported by some vulnerable prisoners on F wing that they were regularly missing association with vulnerable prisoners on G wing. This appears to be linked to the issues around late unlocking due to inaccurate roll calls. The Board is concerned that this could be affecting the mental health and wellbeing of already vulnerable prisoners.

6.3 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

As the Board has previously reported, many prisoners come into prison with drug and alcohol dependency issues. There is a clear strategy in place. During the reporting year, substance misuse services were provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust until 18 November 2025 and by Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust from 19 November 2025. There are numerous psychosocial treatment interventions available, which can be delivered both on a 1.2.1 basis or in a group work setting.

The more in depth 'ABC of substance use' is an eight-week programme, which delivers a more focused approach to addressing the needs of substance using prisoners.

In addition to the psychosocial interventions, the team offer a range of clinical interventions including methadone stabilisation, Buvidal maintenance (medication used to treat opioid dependence) and safe detox options.
All prisoners engaging with the substance use team are offered take home naloxone (an opioid antagonist used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids, particularly in cases of overdose) upon release.

6.4 Soft skills

Early in the last reporting year, prisoners reported that they were having some difficulty in accessing Listeners. Sometimes this was due to a shortage of trained Listeners being available on some wings. The Board made the prison aware of this and more Listeners were trained. The Board has had some concerns that some prisoners reported that they felt that they were sometimes denied access to a Listener by prison staff.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

The prison reports that attendance levels in education have improved slightly. However, attendance against planned capacity data shows that attendance was 43% on average during this reporting year. This is significantly lower than the last reporting year (50%).

The issues around prisoners on remand or awaiting sentencing (approx. 50-60%) remain. Attendance overall is negatively impacted by this as there is little incentive or motivation for these prisoners to attend education or training. For some prisoners this is a lengthy period of time, and their mental health can be affected as a result.

In April 2025, the prison reported that 720 out of 950 prisoners were engaged in some form of productive activity or work every day following a focus on promoting it. The Board remains concerned that there is no evidence to show increasing attendance and engagement in the opportunities provided.

The prison education staff explained that there is currently limited confidence in the data about outcomes for prisoners following a new monitoring system being introduced. Provisional outcome (qualifications achieved) data for the reporting year 2025-26 is as follows:

Level 1 maths	2
Entry level 3 maths	12
Entry level 2 maths	3
Life Skills	6
Level 2 English	3
Level 1 English	6
Entry 3 English	4
Entry 2 English	20
ESOL	13
Employability	85
Personal Development	49
Peer Mentoring	3
Painting and Decorating	109
Art	34
Construction	151
Cookery	32
Motorcycle Maintenance	48
Food Safety	18
Practical Cleaning	96

Functional Skills achievements	128
Vocational achievements	83

Reuse Refurbish	4
Waste and Recycling	12
Pedal Bike Maintenance	12

Given the number of prisoners, and the churn, the total number of qualifications achieved (933) is relatively low; however, the Board acknowledges the difficulties experienced due to the short stay nature of prisoners and the resettlement and remand remit of HMP Nottingham. Prisoners are sometimes transferred or released before they can complete their courses.

The prison library is run by Nottingham City library service. The prison values the library provision, and staff are encouraged to promote it and support prisoners to access it. The Board is pleased to report that attendance at library sessions remains popular, and it supports prisoners' wellbeing and mental health very well. All wings have two allocated library sessions each week. This is planned so that each has one morning and one afternoon session every week. This is an increase for this reporting year. This ensures that all prisoners have equal access to the library and attendance at work, education, training or appointment does not prevent anyone from accessing the library. Prisoners are only permitted to attend library sessions during association time. Prisoners have reported that they have good access to the library.

Storytime Dads is a scheme operated by the library very successfully. Prisoners (mainly fathers but also stepfathers, brothers, uncles etc) can apply. Every child involved receives two brand new books and a card made by, or chosen by, their 'dad'. There is currently no facility available to record them reading the book.

The Board has some concerns about the impact of changes to education provision during this reporting year. There has been a reduction in the number of classes and options offered but an increase in the number of prisoners allocated to each class. Cookery remains well-attended and popular, with prisoners reporting that they are learning useful new skills about cooking healthy food from scratch, which they will make with their children when they go home. It is unfortunate that the popular barbering and art classes were discontinued. Art supported prisoners' mental health and wellbeing, and they reported that they found it very useful. Some education staff report that they are concerned that they now must sometimes take subjects in which they are not experienced in teaching. The Board is concerned that this may impact the quality of teaching the prisoners receive and be detrimental to their outcomes.

There has been a focus on assessment of prisoners as they enter the prison so that they can be matched to appropriate levels of qualification more quickly, mainly in English and Maths. The prison has made the decision to focus on these subjects to improve prisoners' employment chances on release and the assessments inform pathway planning. Sequencing meetings have been observed to carefully match prisoners to education, work or training to meet their needs and interests.

The contracting of a reading specialist in January is welcomed by the Board. She has been in post for a short amount of time this reporting year and has focused on identifying prisoners who are eligible for a reading screener (part of the induction process) but have not yet completed one. The impact of this will become clearer in the next reporting year.

The Board was pleased to read in a PGD (prison group director) report, about the good work done with an IPP prisoner to support and facilitate his progression.

7.2 Vocational training, work

HMP Nottingham is a reception and resettlement prison, where prisoners generally spend a short amount of time. It was reported to the Board in April 2025 that the remand/recall population in the prison was 350. These prisoners are not required to attend education, work or training and it has been difficult for the prison to engage these prisoners. They are encouraged to attend, or to help other prisoners in return for extra time out of cell. The success of this strategy is unclear, but there is indication from the prison that some of these prisoners do engage in some form of activity every day.

Initial assessments of prisoners on entry reveals that most prisoners are working at low levels academically (below entry level 3), so the provision of lower-level qualifications seem appropriate for most. There are few opportunities to achieve higher level qualifications that are most useful in the jobs market as they take longer to achieve. There are, however, a significant number of prisoners on remand or not yet sentenced and they are spending more lengthy periods in HMP Nottingham. These prisoners report that they are frustrated by this lack of opportunity to pursue higher level qualifications, e.g. in construction.

The Board has concerns about the impact of the cuts to education provision during this reporting year. The range of provision for prisoners to access useful vocational training and achieve qualifications, has reduced significantly. Popular courses such as barbering and art are no longer available. This limits the opportunities for prisoners to achieve qualifications which may be useful in the jobs market.

The Board is concerned about the capacity of productive activity available. The prison has some large workshops which are operating at significantly below capacity. For example, one large workshop is empty and another, industrial cleaning, has only eight prisoners. The textile workshop, however, has more prisoners (26/30 allocated). This workshop had a positive, productive atmosphere as they sewed towels for other prisons. The Board considers that greater use of the available workshop spaces could increase opportunities for prisoners to engage in meaningful work and develop skills.

At the monthly sequencing meeting, prisoners' requests for engagement in work, education or training are discussed and pathways planned according to expressed preferences and availability. The prison reports that every effort is made to ensure courses are completed and certificates achieved before release/transfer. This is challenging due to the short amount of time most prisoners are at HMP Nottingham. Some staff expressed concerns that some prisoners were being allocated to levels they had already achieved and this could be demotivating.

It has been a challenge to increase attendance in education, but the prison reports that it is improving slowly. The daily operations reports show, on a sampled day, attendance as 265 in the morning session and 259 in the afternoon session. This is a positive development but still remains low.

The Board has concerns about whether there is sufficient capacity at the right levels to meet the needs of the prisoners, given that we are told that 90% are working at below entry level 3.

Vulnerable prisoners have raised concerns about the lack of opportunity to engage in purposeful activity for them. During one visit, three prisoners were observed by the Board to be engaged in a workshop stripping kettles whilst three others stood by doing nothing. The Board questioned the prison about whether they believed this to be purposeful, constructive activity and were informed that they believe it is.

During this reporting year, the prison has had a focus on increasing reading for pleasure. All wings have reading materials available, with those on E wing being displayed in an attractive and inviting way. It is disappointing that on some wings there is a limited number of books available and they

are not displayed well. It remains a challenge to provide reading resources which are appropriate for low ability readers and of an appropriate interest level.

7.3 Offender management, progression

There are still a significant number of prisoners spending lengthy periods on remand or awaiting sentencing, in the prison. This is due to the delays in the court system. Capacity issues across the whole prison estate have continued to result in sentenced prisoners waiting for extended periods to be transferred to establishments nearer to their families and where they can progress. Applications about these issues have increased during this reporting year and cause concern to the Board, as it impacts prisoners' (and families') mental health.

The Board is pleased that the charity PACT ran wellbeing/preparedness courses for prisoners prior to release.

The increased time prisoners have had to spend in cells due to roll call delays has had a detrimental effect on prisoners' progression as their time in education or training is reduced consequently. This, in addition to the cuts to education provision, causes the Board to have concerns about prisoners' preparedness for release. It also has a negative impact on prisoners' wellbeing and mental health.

7.4 Family contact

The Board is very aware that 'parental imprisonment places unique and often invisible pressures on family relationships' (PACT newsletter, March 2025). At HMP Nottingham, the PACT team provided useful training to anyone working with children, young people and families across the East Midlands.

We are pleased to report that the prison supports and promotes family contact. Key workers are encouraged to promote family ties through their direct work with prisoners.

We are also pleased to report that the prison visiting area is consistently well-maintained and equipped. It is welcoming and bright, with a good range of toys and books appropriate for all ages of children in one corner.

The Board is pleased that in October 2025, PACT introduced 'baby and toddler sensory' sessions every month for fathers of young babies 0-24 months, to attend in addition to their usual monthly visits allowance. This is an important session for fathers of young children so they can develop and maintain bonds whilst in custody. Feedback from prisoners was extremely positive and they clearly value these sessions.

Mixed wing and G wing (vulnerable prisoners) 'making positive connections' sessions take place on alternate months and support men who do not receive social visits and bring them together to enjoy games and coffee in a relaxed environment. Feedback from prisoners who have attended these sessions has been very positive, with one man saying, 'knowing there's people to talk to whilst in prison...not feel lonely...want to thank you for giving up all the time and listening to us.'

Population pressures across the whole prison estate continue to result in prisoners from a significant distance away being accommodated at HMP Nottingham. This makes it very difficult for families to access social visits. Many prisoners request transfers to be nearer home but find they must wait a significant length of time before this can be accommodated. Their requests are usually agreed but take a long time to be actioned. Family relationships and prisoners' mental health can suffer in this situation.

The chaplaincy team supported some prisoners to provide Christmas gifts for their children. This supported the maintenance of positive family relationships. This was valued by the prisoners involved.

7.5 Resettlement planning

During this reporting year, the impact of a large remand and recall population in the prison (350 in April 2025) has had a significant impact on the ability of the prison to engage these prisoners in work, training or education. Prisoners on 14-day recalls are not in the prison long enough to complete accredited courses offered. Sequencing is difficult, if not impossible, to enable these prisoners to engage in productive activity.

The Board is aware that there is a large proportion of prisoners being released without accommodation. On average, between 30 and 40% of prisoners released each month have no accommodation. The prison reports examples of prisoners being released to no accommodation as hostels refused to admit them as it was too late when they arrive. They often reoffend the next day as they have no funds, no accommodation and want to return to a place where they feel safe. The Board has spoken to several prisoners who expressed concerns about being released without accommodation. Some told us that they feared this would increase their risk of reoffending or being recalled, with a number saying that they would rather be recalled than face homelessness, as prison would provide a bed and regular meals.

A prison officer was frustrated with inadequate release arrangements when dealing with the release of a vulnerable prisoner. The officer rang the hostel where the released prisoner was due to stay to be told that it was too late in the day for the prisoner to arrive and so he was released with no accommodation, and the officer was aware of his vulnerability. The prisoner committed an offence that night and returned to prison the next day.

Prisoners are now released on a Thursday as far as possible to avoid the difficulties they face if they are released on a Friday when support services have limited or no availability. It is unclear what the impact of this policy is on re-offending.

The work of the IMB

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	15
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	138

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	25	25
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	23	38
C	Equality	5	9-5 from same prisoner
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	8	12
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	20	45
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	8	13
F	Food and kitchens	11	10
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	46	50
H1	Property within the establishment	24	27
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	18	17
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	4	12
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	20	24
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	35	64
K	Transfers	1	10
L	Miscellaneous	17	21
	Total number of applications	**265**	**376**

There has been a significant increase in applications to the IMB this reporting year, with concerns about transfers, letters, visits, telephones and public protection restrictions, canteen and staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying. These are areas for further monitoring over the next year.

Annex A

Service providers

The following services to the establishment are provided by third parties under contract arrangements:

- Healthcare (Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust until November 2025. Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) from November 2025 onwards)
- Substance misuse treatment (Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust until November 2025 Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust from November 2025 onwards)
- Learning and skills (PeoplePlus)
- Library (Nottingham City Council Library Service)
- Escort contractor (GEOAmey)
- Visitor centre (Pact)
- Maintenance (Amey)

The offender management unit also works with a large number of partner agencies in its efforts to provide resettlement opportunities for prisoners



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