



Detainee survey methodology,
results and analyses

Brook House IRC

May 2022

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Detainee survey methodology

A representative survey of detainees is carried out at the start of every inspection, the results of which contribute to the evidence base for the inspection.

HMI Prisons researchers developed a self-completion questionnaire in May 2019 to support HMI Prisons' *Expectations*. The questionnaire consists of structured questions covering the detainee 'journey' from reception to removal/release together with demographic and background questions which enables comparison of responses from different sub-groups of the detainee population. There are also three open questions at the end of the questionnaire which allow detainees to express in their own words what they find most positive and negative about the IRC. Qualitative analysis of these written comments is undertaken by HMI Prisons researchers and used by inspectors.

Sampling

For smaller IRCs or where the current detainee population is small, questionnaires are offered to every detainee. If the detainee population is large at the time of the survey, questionnaires are offered to a sample of detainees, using the following procedure. On the day of the survey a random sample is drawn by HMI Prisons researchers from a detainee population printout ordered by room location. Using a power calculation, HMI Prisons researchers calculate the minimum sample size required to ensure that the survey findings are representative of the entire population of the centre. The formula used in the calculation assumes a 65% response rate and a 95% confidence interval with a 7% margin of error.

Distributing and collecting questionnaires

HMI Prisons researchers distributed and collected the questionnaires in person. A cover sheet was included with the questionnaire which explained the purpose of the survey and that participation was voluntary. Assurances were given about confidentiality, anonymity and the storage and retention of the data. Detainees were provided with a sealable envelope for their completed questionnaire and told when researchers would return to collect it. Due to social distancing measures researchers were not able to obtain verbal consent from detainees and therefore returned and completed questionnaires were deemed as providing consent. The questionnaire was available in 23 languages. However, it was also not possible to conduct interviews with detainees who had literacy problems or visual impairments.

Survey responses

At the time of the survey on 30th May 2022 the detainee population at Brook House IRC was 346. Using the sampling method described above, questionnaires were distributed to 173 detainees. We received a total of 96 completed questionnaires, a response rate of 55%.

Returned language	Number of completed survey returns
English	23
Albanian	29
Arabic	13
Vietnamese	6
Portuguese	5
Romanian	4
Polish	3
Kurdish	3
French	2
Bengali	1
Farsi	1
Hindi	1
Lithuanian	1
Punjabi	1
Tigrinya	1
Turkish	1
Urdu	1
Total	96

The full inspection report is available on our website at:
<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/inspections/>

Detainee survey results and analyses

Over the following pages we present the full survey results followed by numerous comparative analyses for Brook House IRC. For the comparator analyses, where relevant, each question was reformulated using the Chi-square test (or Fisher's exact test if there are fewer than five expected counts in a cell) into a binary 'yes/no' format and affirmative responses compared. Missing responses have been excluded from all analyses and for some questions, responses from a sub-group of the sample are reported (as indicated in the data).

Responses from Brook House IRC 2022 compared with those from other HMI Prisons surveys

These analyses are carried out on summary data from all survey questions.

- Survey responses from Brook House IRC in 2022 compared with survey responses from Brook House IRC in 2019.

Comparisons between self-reported sub-populations of detainees within Brook House IRC 2022

These analyses are carried out on summary data from selected survey questions only.

- Responses of detainees aged 25 and under compared with those aged over 25.
- Responses of detainees in racial minority groups compared with those of white detainees.
- Responses of Muslim detainees compared with those of non-Muslim detainees.
- Responses of detainees who reported that they had a disability compared to those who did not.
- Responses of detainees who reported that they had mental health problems compared with those who did not.
- Responses of non-heterosexual detainees compared with heterosexual detainees.
- Responses of detainees who reported that they had been held in prison in the UK compared with those of detainees who reported that they had not been held in prison in the UK.
- Responses of detainees who reported not being able to understand written or spoken English very / quite well compared with those who can.

Please note that we only carry out within-IRC comparator analysis where there is a minimum of 10 responses in each comparison group.

In the comparator analyses, statistically significant differences are indicated by shading. The probability threshold (i.e. p-value) is set at 0.01 which means that there is a 1% likelihood the statistically significant difference between the two

groups is due to chance. Results that are significantly more positive are indicated by green shading and results that are significantly more negative are indicated by blue shading. Orange shading has been used to show a statistically significant difference in demographic or other background details. If there is no shading, any difference between the two results is not statistically significant and may have occurred by chance. Grey shading indicates that there are no valid comparative data for that question.

Filtered questions are indented and preceded by an explanation in italics of how the filter has been applied. In the comparator analyses, percentages for filtered questions refer to the number of respondents filtered to that question. For all other questions, percentages refer to the total number of valid responses to the question.

Section 1: About you

1.2	What wing or unit are you currently living on?	
	Arun	19 (20%)
	Beck.....	19 (20%)
	Clyde.....	24 (26%)
	Dove	26 (27%)
	Eden	8 (9%)
1.2	How old are you?	
	Under 18	2 (2%)
	18-20.....	5 (5%)
	21-25.....	23 (24%)
	26-29.....	21 (22%)
	30-39.....	26 (27%)
	40-49.....	15 (16%)
	50-59.....	2 (2%)
	60-69.....	1 (1%)
	70 or over	0 (0%)
1.3	How would you describe your ethnicity?	
	Asian.....	22 (24%)
	Black.....	15 (16%)
	Mixed	3 (3%)
	White.....	48 (52%)
	Other.....	5 (5%)
1.4	Do you understand spoken English?	
	Very well	25 (27%)
	Quite well	19 (20%)
	A little	32 (34%)
	No	18 (19%)
1.5	Do you understand written English?	
	Very well	23 (24%)
	Quite well	17 (18%)
	A little	30 (32%)
	No	25 (26%)

Section 2: Immigration detention

2.1	How long have you been detained in this centre?	
	Less than 1 week.....	12 (13%)
	1 week or more but less than 1 month.....	57 (61%)
	1 month or more but less than 3 months.....	14 (15%)
	3 months or more but less than 6 months.....	8 (9%)
	6 months or more.....	2 (2%)
2.2	How much time have you spent in immigration detention in the UK in total?	
	Less than 1 month	48 (54%)
	1 month or more but less than 3 months.....	15 (17%)
	3 months or more but less than 6 months.....	14 (16%)
	6 months or more.....	8 (9%)
	Don't remember	4 (4%)

2.3	Have you ever been held in prison in the UK?	
	Yes.....	44 (47%)
	No	50 (53%)

Section 3: Your journey to this centre

3.1	Before being brought to this centre, were you told where you were going?	
	Yes.....	48 (53%)
	No	43 (47%)
3.2	How were you treated by escort staff during your journey to this centre?	
	Very well	34 (37%)
	Quite well	37 (40%)
	Quite badly.....	7 (8%)
	Very badly	4 (4%)
	Don't remember	10 (11%)

Section 4: Reception and first nights

4.1	When you were searched in reception, was this done in a respectful way?	
	Yes.....	82 (88%)
	No	4 (4%)
	Don't remember	6 (6%)
	Was not searched.....	1 (1%)
4.2	While in reception, were you able to speak to someone from the health care team?	
	Yes.....	82 (88%)
	No	7 (8%)
	Don't remember	4 (4%)
4.3	Overall, how were you treated in reception?	
	Very well	42 (45%)
	Quite well	43 (46%)
	Quite badly.....	3 (3%)
	Very badly	4 (4%)
	Don't remember	2 (2%)
4.4	When you first arrived, did you have any problems with the following?	
	Getting phone numbers	16 (18%)
	Contacting family	14 (16%)
	Arranging care for children or other dependents.....	1 (1%)
	Contacting employers	1 (1%)
	Money	13 (15%)
	Housing.....	10 (11%)
	Feeling depressed	31 (35%)
	Feeling suicidal	13 (15%)
	Your mental health.....	17 (19%)
	Your physical health	15 (17%)
	Drugs or alcohol (e.g. withdrawal)	1 (1%)
	Getting medication.....	8 (9%)
	Lost or delayed property	4 (4%)
	Other problems	6 (7%)
	Did not have any problems	30 (34%)
4.5	Did staff help you to deal with any of these problems?	
	Yes.....	28 (35%)
	No	21 (27%)
	Did not have any problems	30 (38%)

4.6	Did you feel safe on your first night in this centre?			
	Yes.....	47 (52%)		
	No	32 (35%)		
	Don't remember	12 (13%)		
4.7	In your first two days here, did you receive information in a language you could understand about:	Yes	No	Don't remember
	Daily life at this centre	59 (75%)	12 (15%)	8 (10%)
	Visits	43 (65%)	17 (26%)	6 (9%)
	How to see immigration staff	39 (60%)	20 (31%)	6 (9%)
	How to get legal advice	43 (69%)	15 (24%)	4 (6%)
	How to see health care staff	51 (74%)	11 (16%)	7 (10%)
	Other support available	35 (58%)	13 (22%)	12 (20%)

Section 5: Legal rights and immigration

5.1	Have you received free legal advice in this centre?			
	Yes.....	35 (41%)		
	No	51 (59%)		
5.2	Do you have an immigration lawyer?			
	Yes.....	60 (70%)		
	No	26 (30%)		
5.3	If you have an immigration lawyer, how easy or difficult is it to:	Easy	Difficult	Don't know
	Contact your lawyer	37 (67%)	11 (20%)	7 (13%)
	Have a visit from your lawyer	10 (24%)	18 (44%)	13 (32%)
5.4	How easy or difficult is it to:	Easy	Difficult	Don't know
	Obtain bail information	14 (17%)	34 (41%)	34 (41%)
	Access up-to-date information about your country	11 (16%)	28 (40%)	31 (44%)
	See Home Office immigration staff	16 (21%)	30 (40%)	29 (39%)
5.5	Are Home Office immigration staff keeping you informed about the progress of your case?			
	Yes.....	31 (36%)		
	No	39 (46%)		
	Don't know	15 (18%)		

Section 6: Respectful detention

6.1	Please answer the following questions about the wing or residential unit you are currently living on:	Yes	No	Don't know
	Do you normally have enough clean, suitable clothes for the week?	61 (70%)	23 (26%)	3 (3%)
	Can you shower every day?	80 (93%)	6 (7%)	0 (0%)
	Do you have clean sheets every week?	45 (55%)	33 (40%)	4 (5%)
	Do you get cleaning materials for your room every week?	48 (56%)	33 (38%)	5 (6%)
	Is it normally quiet enough for you to sleep or relax at night?	36 (42%)	46 (54%)	3 (4%)
	Can you get your property from the centre's property store when you need it?	50 (60%)	18 (21%)	16 (19%)

6.2	Normally, how clean or dirty are the communal/shared areas of your wing or unit (landings, stairs, showers etc.)?	
	Very clean.....	21 (24%)
	Quite clean.....	45 (52%)
	Quite dirty	17 (20%)
	Very dirty.....	4 (5%)
6.3	What is the quality of food here?	
	Very good	10 (11%)
	Quite good	36 (39%)
	Quite bad	26 (28%)
	Very bad	20 (22%)
6.4	Do you get enough to eat at meal times?	
	Always	30 (34%)
	Most of the time	18 (20%)
	Some of the time.....	30 (34%)
	Never	11 (12%)
6.5	Does the centre's shop sell the things that you need?	
	Yes.....	52 (57%)
	No	29 (32%)
	Don't know	10 (11%)
6.6	Do you know how to make a complaint about your treatment in this centre?	
	Yes.....	38 (44%)
	No	48 (56%)
6.7	In your experience, are complaints dealt with fairly?	
	Yes.....	17 (19%)
	No	6 (7%)
	Not made a complaint.....	65 (74%)
6.8	Have you ever been too afraid to make a complaint about your treatment in this centre?	
	Yes.....	24 (27%)
	No	65 (73%)

Section 7: Staff

7.1	Do staff here treat you with respect?	
	Always	54 (59%)
	Most of the time	22 (24%)
	Some of the time.....	14 (15%)
	Never	1 (1%)
7.2	Do staff here knock and wait for an answer before entering your room?	
	Always	49 (56%)
	Most of the time	15 (17%)
	Some of the time.....	16 (18%)
	Never	8 (9%)
7.3	Are there any members of staff here you can turn to for help if you have a problem?	
	Yes.....	65 (79%)
	No	17 (21%)

7.4	Have staff physically restrained you since you've been in this centre?	
	Yes.....	8 (10%)
	No	75 (90%)
7.5	Have you spent any time in the separation/isolation unit, in this centre?	
	Yes.....	6 (7%)
	No	80 (93%)

Section 8: Faith

8.1	What is your religion?	
	No religion.....	9 (10%)
	Buddhist.....	2 (2%)
	Christian.....	28 (32%)
	Hindu	3 (3%)
	Jewish.....	0 (0%)
	Muslim	42 (48%)
	Sikh.....	3 (3%)
	Other.....	1 (1%)
8.2	Are your religious beliefs respected here?	
	Yes.....	66 (75%)
	No	2 (2%)
	Don't know	11 (13%)
	Not applicable (no religion)	9 (10%)
8.3	Can you speak to a Chaplain of your faith in private, if you want to?	
	Yes.....	49 (56%)
	No	6 (7%)
	Don't know	23 (26%)
	Not applicable (no religion)	9 (10%)

Section 9: Safety

9.1	Have you ever felt unsafe here?	
	Yes.....	46 (53%)
	No	41 (47%)
9.2	Where have you felt unsafe?	
	In your room	9 (13%)
	On corridors.....	13 (19%)
	In the dining hall	12 (17%)
	At health care	4 (6%)
	In association or shared areas (e.g. TV room)	5 (7%)
	In activity areas (e.g. library, IT room, education, gym).....	8 (12%)
	In outside areas.....	5 (7%)
	Anywhere else in this centre.....	1 (1%)
	Never felt unsafe here	41 (59%)
9.3	Do you feel unsafe now?	
	Yes.....	28 (33%)
	No	56 (67%)

9.4 Have you experienced any of the following forms of victimisation or bullying from other detainees here?

Verbal abuse.....	9 (12%)
Threats or intimidation	7 (9%)
Sexual comments	1 (1%)
Sexual assault	0 (0%)
Physical assault	0 (0%)
Theft.....	6 (8%)
Other.....	1 (1%)
Not experienced any of these from detainees here	56 (74%)

9.5 If you were being bullied or victimised by other detainees here, would you report it?

Yes.....	62 (78%)
No	18 (23%)

9.6 Have you experienced any of the following forms of victimisation or bullying from staff here?

Verbal abuse.....	2 (3%)
Threats or intimidation	1 (1%)
Sexual comments	1 (1%)
Sexual assault	0 (0%)
Physical assault	0 (0%)
Theft.....	2 (3%)
Other.....	3 (4%)
Not experienced any of these from staff here	70 (89%)

9.7 If you were being bullied or victimised by staff here, would you report it?

Yes.....	57 (75%)
No	19 (25%)

Section 10: Alcohol and drugs

10.1 While in this centre, have you developed any problems with:

	Yes	No
Illicit drugs	1 (1%)	76 (99%)
Medication not prescribed to you	5 (7%)	68 (93%)
Alcohol	0 (0%)	71 (100%)

10.2 Do you currently have a problem with:

	Yes	No
Illicit drugs	3 (4%)	77 (96%)
Medication not prescribed to you	3 (4%)	70 (96%)
Alcohol	0 (0%)	72 (100%)

10.3 While in this centre, have you been helped with your problems with:

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Illicit drugs	2 (3%)	0 (0%)	75 (97%)
Medication not prescribed to you	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	67 (93%)
Alcohol	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	70 (100%)

10.4 Is it easy or difficult to get illicit drugs in this centre?

Very easy.....	3 (4%)
Quite easy.....	0 (0%)
Quite difficult.....	0 (0%)
Very difficult	9 (11%)
Don't know	69 (85%)

10.5	Is it easy or difficult to get alcohol in this centre?	
	Very easy	2 (2%)
	Quite easy	1 (1%)
	Quite difficult	0 (0%)
	Very difficult	9 (11%)
	Don't know	69 (85%)

Section 11: Health and support

11.1	Is a professional interpreter available if you need one during health care assessments?	
	Yes.....	34 (40%)
	No	12 (14%)
	Don't know	18 (21%)
	Don't need an interpreter	20 (24%)
11.2	What is the quality of health care services here?	
	Very good	22 (26%)
	Quite good	24 (29%)
	Quite bad	10 (12%)
	Very bad	12 (14%)
	Have not been to health care.....	16 (19%)
11.3	Do you have any mental health problems?	
	Yes.....	26 (31%)
	No	58 (69%)
11.4	Have you been helped with your mental health problems while in this centre?	
	Yes.....	11 (13%)
	No	15 (18%)
	Don't have mental health problems.....	58 (69%)
11.5	Have you ever felt depressed while in this centre?	
	Yes.....	67 (80%)
	No	17 (20%)
11.6	Have you ever felt suicidal while in this centre?	
	Yes.....	22 (28%)
	No	56 (72%)
11.7	If you have felt depressed or suicidal here, did you receive any help from staff?	
	Yes.....	21 (33%)
	No	26 (41%)
	Have not felt depressed or suicidal.....	17 (27%)

Section 12: Other needs and support

12.1	Do you consider yourself to have a disability (long-term physical, mental or learning needs that affect your day-to-day life)?	
	Yes.....	19 (25%)
	No	58 (75%)
12.2	If you have a disability, are you getting the support you need?	
	Yes.....	3 (4%)
	No	13 (16%)
	Don't have a disability/don't need support.....	63 (80%)

Section 13: Activities

13.1	Are you taking part in any education here?	
	Yes.....	17 (21%)
	No, but I want to.....	36 (44%)
	No and I don't want to	28 (35%)
13.2	If you are taking part in education, is it helpful?	
	Yes.....	17 (20%)
	No	0 (0%)
	Not taking part in education	66 (80%)
13.3	Do you have a job here?	
	Yes.....	17 (22%)
	No, but I want one.....	33 (42%)
	No and I don't want one	29 (37%)
13.4	Does the library have appropriate materials to meet your needs?	
	Yes.....	20 (24%)
	No	13 (15%)
	Don't know	51 (61%)
13.5	How easy or difficult is it to access what you need on the internet?	
	Very easy.....	17 (21%)
	Quite easy.....	14 (17%)
	Quite difficult	10 (12%)
	Very difficult	13 (16%)
	Don't know	28 (34%)
13.6	Can you go to the gym as often as you want to?	
	Yes.....	51 (60%)
	No	13 (15%)
	Don't know	16 (19%)
	Don't want to go	5 (6%)
13.7	Is there enough to do in this centre to fill your time?	
	Yes.....	30 (37%)
	No	35 (43%)
	Don't know	17 (21%)

Section 14: Keeping in touch with family and friends

14.1	Have you had any problems with sending or receiving mail (letters or parcels)?	
	Yes.....	13 (18%)
	No	61 (82%)
14.2	Have you had a visit from family or friends since you've been in this centre?	
	Yes.....	20 (24%)
	No	62 (76%)
14.3	Are your visitors usually treated with respect by staff?	
	Yes.....	15 (18%)
	No	0 (0%)
	Don't know	5 (6%)
	Have not had a visit	62 (76%)

Section 15: Leaving this centre

15.1	Has anyone here helped you prepare for leaving this centre?	
	Yes.....	11 (14%)
	No	65 (86%)

Section 16: More about you

16.1	Are you responsible for any child under the age of 18 in the UK?	
	Yes.....	16 (21%)
	No	60 (79%)
16.2	What is your gender?	
	Female.....	1 (1%)
	Male	76 (99%)
	Non-binary	0 (0%)
	Other.....	0 (0%)
16.3	How would you describe your sexual orientation?	
	Straight/heterosexual.....	49 (80%)
	Gay/lesbian/homosexual.....	2 (3%)
	Bisexual	1 (2%)
	Other.....	9 (15%)
16.4	Do you identify as transgender or transsexual?	
	Yes.....	3 (4%)
	No	68 (96%)