



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at Gatwick, Stansted & Luton airports & Lunar House (GSL)

**For reporting year
1 January 2021 – 31 January 2022**

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Introductory sections 1 – 3

1. Statutory role of the IMB

The Gatwick, Stansted and Luton airports and Lunar House Independent Monitoring Board is appointed by the Home Secretary to monitor and report on the welfare of people in a short-term holding facility (STHF) through observation of their treatment and of the premises in which they are held.

The Board conducts its work in line with the Short-Term Holding Facility (STHF) Rules, which place the day-to-day operations of STHFs on a statutory footing. Part 7 of the Rules sets out the responsibilities of the Independent Monitoring Board (referred to in the Rules as the Visiting Committee). The Board has unrestricted access to every detainee and all immigration detention facilities and to most records. IMB members have access, at all times, to all parts of the facility and can speak to detainees outside of the hearing of officers. They must consider any complaint or request which a detainee wishes to make to them and make enquiries into the case of any detainee whose mental or physical health is likely to be injuriously affected by any conditions of detention. The IMB must inform the STHF manager about any matter which they consider requires their attention, and report to the Secretary of State about any matter about which they consider the Home Office needs to be aware.

The Board's duties also include the production of an annual report covering the treatment of detainees, the state and administration of the facility, as well as providing any advice or suggestions it considers appropriate. This report has been produced to fulfil that obligation.

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 IMBs are part of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism.

2. Description of the establishments

Gatwick Airport

The Border Force (BF) area is located adjacent to the immigration hall, the Care and Custody (C&C) managed holding facility, which is accessed through a door with a coded lock, is to one side of the immigration hall and comprises an open office area, a storage area for luggage, a main holding room, a separate family holding room, three interview rooms, a fingerprint room and a storage room for necessary supplies including food and drink for detained individuals.

From the office area a secure door leads to the main holding room, which can also be observed through a large glass window. The room has separate male and female lavatories, a landline telephone, a small wall mounted television, reading and religious materials in a selection of languages and a complaints box. It contains 15 seats, 8 of which are fixed at two tables and space for two beds to be made up from padded floor mats.

The family room is also visible through a large window and has a single unisex lavatory and baby changing facility. It contains 7 seats, 4 of which are fixed at a table and a cot and children's toys.

In each room a good supply of cold drinks and snacks is available to detained individuals.

Neither holding rooms have access to natural light or fresh air and detained individuals are unable to leave either room unless escorted. Detainees' luggage is not securely stored.

Lunar House

This holding facility is located on the 1st Floor of the Immigration Reporting Centre at Lunar House, Croydon.

The facility includes a reception area at the entrance where individuals are processed on their arrival and three holding rooms.

The main room can accommodate 21 individuals, with 4 seats located at a fixed table and space is sufficient to lay out 4 bed mats if required, and separate male and female lavatories.

The family room has 14 seats 4 of which are at a fixed table and space to lay out 3 bed mats if required, as well as separate male and female lavatories.

Both these rooms can be monitored from the C&C office.

The Dover Room, which is not equipped for overnight stays and is not used at weekends, has its own observation area, can accommodate 38 individuals including 4 chairs at a fixed table, and has two lavatories and a shower.

Luton Airport

The BF area is next to the Arrivals area, with the main office on the floor above. The interview rooms and processing areas for photographs and fingerprints, are located next to the C&C office.

The C&C managed holding facility is accessed from the BF area, through either of two doors, each with a coded lock. It comprises two holding rooms, one for men and the other for women, children, and families. It also includes a small office area for the use of C&C officers, and a room for the storage of the luggage and personal effects of detained individuals and food and other supplies.

Since our last report, notice boards have been installed in the holding rooms with posters giving details of the IMB, including contact details.

Windows in the office allow C&C officers to observe detained individuals in both holding rooms and the CCTV system covering this area has recently been updated.

There are windows between the two holding rooms, and we are told that it planned that a screen will be installed between the windows to provide a measure of privacy to the detained individuals.

Neither room has access to fresh air or natural light and detained individuals may not leave unless escorted.

A flat screen TV is fixed to the wall with a DVD player in each room and magazines and daily newspapers in a small selection of languages are available. A landline telephone which can be used for both incoming and outgoing calls is provided for the use of detained individuals.

Stansted Airport

The BF area, including its main office, interview rooms and process areas, is located adjacent to the immigration hall and is accessed using a secure coded system.

The C&C managed holding facility, which is reached through a door with a coded lock, is adjacent to this and comprises a small office area, and a room for the storage of the luggage and personal effects of detained individuals as well as supplies of food and drink.

From the office a secure door leads to the one main holding room, with a maximum seating capacity of 14. A window in the office allows the C&C officers to observe detainees, in addition to CCTV monitoring.

Within the main room is a smaller room, which may be used by a family and/or to achieve an element of privacy. The room has separate male and female lavatories, but no shower facilities.

The holding room does not have access to fresh air or natural light and detained individuals may not leave unless escorted. There is an alarmed emergency exit at the far end of the holding room.

A large flat screen TV is fixed to the wall of the main room, with a smaller screen and DVD player in the family room. A landline telephone which can be used for incoming as well as outgoing calls is provided for the use of detained individuals, as well as a supply of magazines and newspapers in a selection of languages

3. Executive summary

3.1 Background to the report

As will be seen from the chart in Section 4.1, the numbers of detained individuals at each of the three airport STHFs monitored by the Board, increased throughout the reporting period. In January 2021 for example, 346 detained individuals were recorded, and this had increased to 1,041 in January 2022.

The COVID-19 outbreak had some impact on the Board's ability to gather information in the first three months of the period under review, during which time monitoring was carried out remotely as well as on site.

During the period covered by this report, only the North Terminal at Gatwick was open to passengers and our monitoring was almost entirely confined to this area.

Only in a very few exceptional circumstances, for example to accommodate detained individuals who were unable to be held at the North Terminal because of a shortage of space, or on a temporary basis, from other facilities, was the holding room in the South Terminal utilised.

Despite there being an agreed procedure in place to notify the IMB that the South terminal holding facility had been opened, this procedure has not always been followed.

At Lunar House, although we have monitored this facility weekly during the period covered by this report, we have seldom seen detained individuals. The facility has been observed to be clean and tidy with a good stock of food, drink and fresh fruit being maintained.

Copies of the Quran, the Bible and other religious books are available together with a wide selection of information sheets in numerous languages.

C&C officers have generally been observed to have treated those in their care with kindness and empathy. Unfortunately, due we believe to an oversight, there was one occasion during this reporting period when a significant number of individuals were brought to the facility from Dover, and we were not notified and so were unable to attend.

3.2 Main judgements

Safety

The Board's view is that detained individuals are generally cared for by C&C officers safely and with sensitivity and sympathy. Our observations have been that officers are, in the main, supplied by BF with sufficient detailed information to enable them to assess potential risk factors and that C&C's induction process is comprehensive and usually conducted with thoroughness.

However, the current size and capacity of the holding rooms at both Luton and Stansted are, in our view, inadequate to ensure the safe and decent detention of individuals in the increasing numbers seen towards the end of the reporting period and anticipated as the volume of inbound flights continue to return to pre-pandemic levels

The Board also feels that the limited size and lack of privacy mean that the C&C offices at Luton and Stansted are not suitable for the carrying out of inductions, particularly when translation services need to be accessed.

The Board is also of the view that the facilities at Gatwick's North Terminal for accommodating families, children and vulnerable detained individuals are inadequate.

Fair and humane treatment

Despite the physical limitations of the STHFs at each of the airports, particularly for longer stays, the Board feels that C&C has made reasonable efforts to provide adequate clothing, bedding, food and drink, to cater for most cultural and/or religious needs, and to provide information in a variety of languages.

During our monitoring visits we have also been impressed by the sensitivity and compassion shown by C&C officers towards the detained individuals in their care.

It is however our view that the small size and lack of adequate sleeping facilities and the absence of showers within the holding rooms, other than in Gatwick's South Terminal, make them unsuitable for detention, particularly for children and vulnerable individuals, for extended periods of time.

For those detained individuals with limited mobility or who have sight or hearing loss or other physical limitations, other than at Gatwick's South Terminal, no specific provision has been made at any of the airport holding rooms.

Our monitoring suggests that unless such limitations are declared by the individual or are obvious, they may not always be recognised.

We are also concerned that the mental health of detained individuals, in what can be a challenging environment may not always be adequately assessed.

Health and wellbeing

The Board's concerns, relating to detained individuals' lack of access to prescribed medication, have continued during the reporting period.

We have noted that when an individual needs to take their medication, C&C officers have usually done their best to obtain the authority of a suitably qualified medical practitioner, within a reasonable time.

This authority has usually been obtained remotely, via the NHS's 111 telephone service, but this was often not a straightforward process, and could involve long delays.

During the period covered by this report, detained individuals did not routinely have access to 'on site' healthcare professionals. This is a situation which, in the Board's view is unsatisfactory and potentially dangerous.

Removal or transfer

Our observations have been that those individuals being removed or transferred have generally been treated by C&C officers with care, kindness, and consideration.

It has been noted that officers usually explain what is to happen and answer the questions of detained individuals and, when escorting individuals to flights, they try to make the process as normal as possible.

3.3 Recommendations

TO THE MINISTER

- *at Gatwick, Luton, and Stansted airports, dedicated medical practitioners should be available, on a 24/7 basis to, where appropriate, authorise the taking of their own medication by detained individuals, or where there is an urgent need, to prescribe medication.*
- *at Gatwick, Luton, and Stansted airports, dedicated medical practitioners should be available on, a 24/7 basis, to provide detained individuals with necessary physical and mental healthcare.*

TO THE DIRECTOR/CENTRE MANAGER & TO HOME OFFICE IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

The Board feels that:

- *The short-term holding facilities at Gatwick airport's North Terminal, for families, children and vulnerable detained individuals should be improved, by the provision of additional accommodation.*
- *In addition, the seating in the family room, which is old and worn, should be replaced.*
- *The holding rooms at each of the airports monitored should be re-assessed and where necessary, re-configured to allow detained individuals with limited mobility and other physical limitations to access and move around the facilities more easily. Hearing loops should also be installed in all holding rooms.*
- *At Stansted airport's short-term holding facility, a separate, secure family room should be provided, and this should generally be reserved for the use of families, single females, and vulnerable individuals.*
- *At Luton airport we observed that a C&C officer has developed a series of picture cards to assist with translation. Pictures of the food available are also now used and we are told that this system seems to have encouraged more*

residents to eat during their stay. The Board believes that this is an innovation which should be utilises at other STHFs.

TO NHS ENGLAND

- *As stated above, at Gatwick, Luton, and Stansted airports, dedicated medical practitioners should be available, on a 24/7 basis to, where appropriate, authorise the taking of their own medication by detained individuals, or where there is an urgent need, to prescribe medication.*
- *at Gatwick, Luton, and Stansted airports, dedicated medical practitioners should be available on, a 24/7 basis, to provide detained individuals with necessary physical and mental healthcare.*

3.4 Progress since the last report

Since the publication of our previous report, covering the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, our concerns relating to the physical shortcomings of the holding rooms have not been addressed.

We have been told that arrangements to address our previous concerns relating to detained individuals' limited access to their medication and to the services of onsite healthcare professionals are in hand, but these were not in place by the end of the current reporting period.

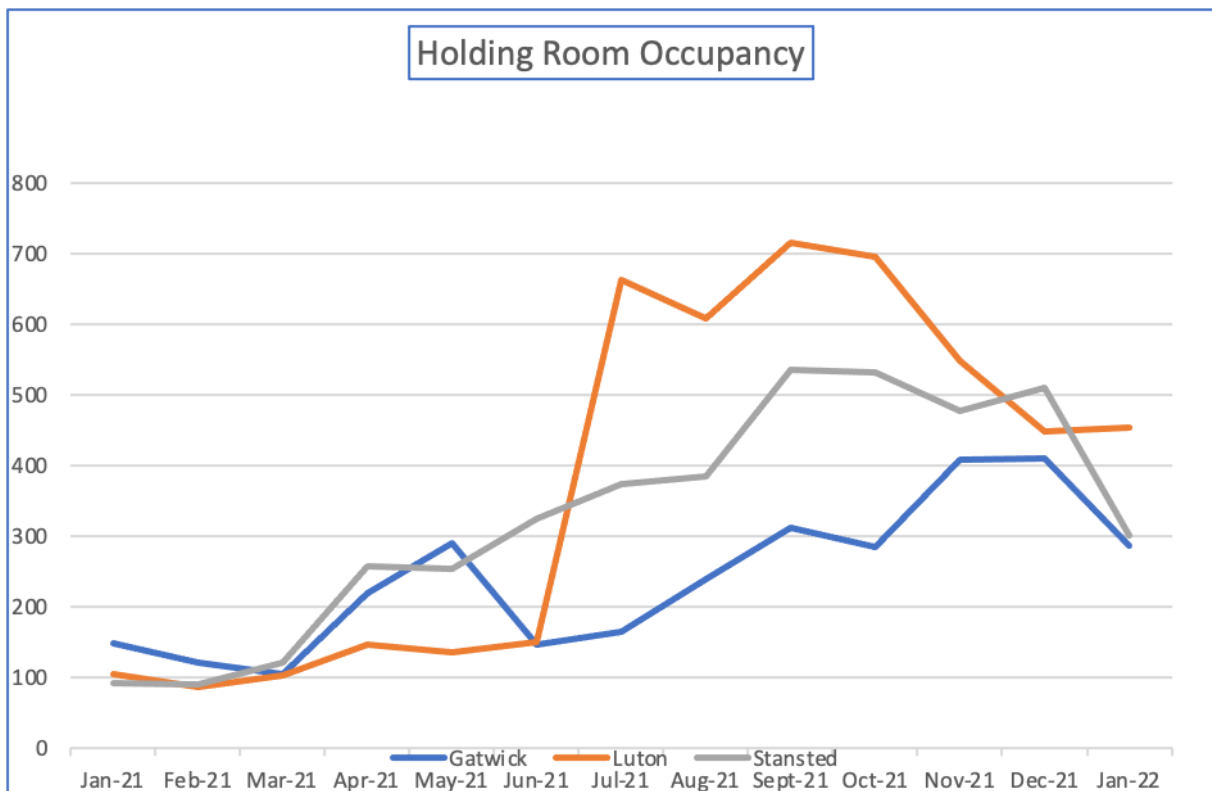
Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Arrival and induction

The chart below clearly shows that during the period under review, the numbers of detained individuals at the monitored STHFs has increased significantly and the Board anticipates that as Covid restrictions continue to be eased and the number of flights arriving at the three airports begin to return to pre-Covid levels, these numbers will increase still further.

It should be noted that the data used to compile this chart is locally held management information rather than official statistics.



Gatwick, Luton and Stansted

Detained individuals are accepted into the holding facilities by C&C officers, subject to fully completed documentation from BF, including the Authority to Detain (IS91) document.

On most monitoring visits during the period covered by this report, the IS91s relating to the individuals in the holding room were examined and were generally found to have been fully and accurately completed.

Each newly arrived individual is taken through a standardised induction process by a C&C officer, the purpose of which is to explain the relevant rules and conditions relating to their detention. Where necessary this is facilitated using either a

telephone accessed translation service or, in exceptional circumstances, a mobile electronic translation device.

Inductions have been regularly monitored throughout during the reporting period, using C&C's 'Induction Check List', which includes questions relating to health and medication and our observations have been that these have generally been conducted with sensitivity and care and individuals' questions and concerns have been adequately addressed.

However, at both Luton and Stansted airports, the very small size of the C&C offices means that inductions, often using telephone translation services, must be carried out in these busy areas where other officers are working, and BF officers and other detained individuals may need to enter.

The Board feels that the limited size and lack of privacy mean that the C&C offices at Luton and Stansted are not suitable for the carrying out of inductions, particularly when translation services need to be accessed.

We have observed that C&C officers appear generally to have good working relationships with BF officers who usually provide sufficient information about newly arrived individuals to enable C&C officers to target potential problem areas.

It has been noted that occasionally the translation service was not easy to access, but C&C officers have generally coped well with these issues. We were told by officers that at certain times, for example in the late evening and early hours, it can be more difficult and/or take longer to access translators specialising in certain languages.

At Luton airport we observed that a C&C officer has developed a series of picture cards to assist with translation. Pictures of the food available are also now used and we are told that this system seems to have encouraged more individuals to eat during their stay.

The Board believes that this is an innovation which might usefully be taken up at other STHF's.

4.2 Vulnerable adults, safeguarding

Gatwick, Luton and Stansted

BF and C&C officers have a responsibility to identify vulnerable adults and young people, particularly unaccompanied children. The completed IS19 form should describe such individuals but C&C officers may also identify them once they assume responsibility.

A plan to safeguard vulnerable adults and/or children and young people should be put in place with one specific officer responsible for such individuals and another carrying out checks every 15 minutes.

Very few individuals falling into these categories have been observed during monitoring visits in the period covered by this report, but in the few cases which we have observed, we have noted that plans have been in place, including the notification of the appropriate local authority Children's Services.

4.3 Children and families

Gatwick

The family room is large enough to hold only one family at a time and, if the cot is in use, there is scarcely enough room for one other sleeping space.

If the capacity of the room is exceeded for an extended period, additional families must be transferred some distance, by vehicle, to the facility in the South Terminal.

We have also observed families being transferred from the BF holding area in the immigration hall to the holding facility and back again, because of the limited capacity of the family room.

The Board feels that the facilities at Gatwick's North Terminal for accommodating families, children and vulnerable are inadequate and additional accommodation should be provided.

Luton and Stansted

The holding rooms at each of airports these are of limited size and the family rooms in each are barely large enough for a family of two adults and two children to lay down to sleep.

When these facilities are nearing their nominal capacity, which has often been the case in the latter months covered by this report, it has not always been possible for C&C to ensure that the family/female rooms were only occupied by individuals who were recorded as families.

The Board feels that the current size and capacity of the holding rooms at both these airports are inadequate to allow for the safe and decent detention of individuals in the numbers currently being held, and the increasing numbers anticipated as the volume of inbound flights continue to return to pre-pandemic levels.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

Gatwick

The facilities are generally very limited for those individuals who are detained for long periods including overnight. Padded mats are provided for those wishing to rest, although the very bright lighting in the main holding room is not conducive to sleep.

There are no showers in the North Terminal's facility, despite individuals occasionally being held for periods of 24 hours and longer.

A good range of snacks, cold drinks and fresh fruit is available in both holding rooms, hot food and beverages are available on request and most religious or cultural needs can be accommodated.

Luton and Stansted

The maximum number of detained individuals, including children and other family members who may be accommodated in each holding room at one time at Luton is 10 and at Stansted 14.

Space at both facilities is often very limited when individuals are being detained for extended periods and/or when they need to lay down to rest or sleep and this has often been the case during the reporting period, for much of which the numbers of flights have been reduced.

As the number of detained individuals has increased during the reporting period, there have been occasions when some have had to be held elsewhere, for example in the BF facilities, and we have noted that individuals have been held in interview rooms for extended periods.

Fold out mattresses, clean blankets and spare clothes are available as required, and we have observed that an adequate additional supply of these items is stored at each facility.

A good range of snacks and cold drinks are also available in the holding rooms and hot food and beverages, suitable for most religious and cultural needs can be supplied by C&C officers on request.

During the period covered by this report we have spoken to detained individuals within these holding rooms and have received no complaints about the food or drinks available.

We have however noted that a significant number of individuals, particularly those who are required to be held for extended periods complain that they cannot smoke, and the offer of nicotine patches or other aids is rarely, in our experience, accepted.

The Board feels that the small size and lack of adequate sleeping facilities and showers within the holding rooms at each of these airports make them unsuitable for detention, particularly for children and vulnerable individuals, for extended periods of time.

Although during the period of the report we were not recording the periods during which every detained individual was in the care of C&C, our observations have indicated that the numbers of individuals being detained in these facilities for periods of more than 12 hours has increased during the reporting period.

5.2 Staff/detainee relationships

Gatwick, Lunar House, Luton and Stansted

During our monitoring visits we have often been impressed by the sensitivity and compassion shown by the C&C officers towards the detained individuals in their care.

Conversations with these individuals have elicited no complaints or criticism of the C&C officers, although occasionally it seems that the different roles of BF and C&C officers can become blurred.

Both BF and C&C officers have usually been generous with their time in their dealings with the IMB, explaining procedures in detail and enabling easy access to information required.

The data which we have seen suggests that very few formal written complaints have been received by C&C, although complaint forms are available in each of the holding rooms and during the induction process which we have routinely observed, officers explain the complaints procedure.

5.3 Equality and diversity

Gatwick Luton and Stansted

For those detained individuals with limited mobility or who have sight or hearing loss or other physical limitations, other than in Gatwick's South Terminal, no specific provision has been made. Our monitoring suggests that unless such limitations are declared by the individual or are obvious, by definition, these may not always be recognised.

We are also concerned that the mental health of detained individuals, in what can be a challenging environment may not always be adequately assessed.

Reasonable efforts have been made to provide detained individuals with a culturally diverse range of food and drinks and to display notices and information in a wide range of languages, including relevant rules and regulations regarding immigration issues.

The Board feels that the holding rooms at each of these airports should be re-assessed and where necessary, re-configured to allow detained individuals with limited mobility and other physical limitations to access and move around the facilities more easily. The provision of hearing loops is in particular is, we feel, essential.

5.4 Children, families

Gatwick

Seating in the family room is old and worn, and the room is small. Floor space is limited, and it is difficult for detained individuals to use sleeping mats without reorganising the furniture and boxes of toys.

The Board recommends the replacement of the existing seating in the family room.

Luton

During one monitoring visit we noted that a potentially vulnerable child had been identified by BF officers and C&C officers, and a suitable care plan instigated for the period of their stay in the holding room.

Stansted

We have observed that the family room, which is a small, partitioned area within the main holding room, is often used by single male and female residents who wish to try to sleep.

The room, the door of which is not lockable, is not strictly reserved for family use and if children and/or family members arrive when it is already in use by others, access to it would rely on their good will. The two (separate male and female) lavatories are accessed from the main holding room.

The Board feels that a separate, secure family room should be provided, and this should generally be reserved for the use of families, single females, and vulnerable individuals.

5.5 Faith and religious affairs

Gatwick, Luton, and Stansted

Copies of the bible, the Quran and other religious books are available in all holding rooms. Prayer mats are also provided.

A small selection of halal and kosher ready meals are available on request.

5.6 Property

Gatwick

Detained individuals must surrender their luggage and most of their personal effects, including all internet enabled devices and those with cameras, on arrival in the holding facility but no secure storage area for this luggage is provided.

Luton and Stansted

Upon arrival, newly detained individuals are required to surrender their luggage and most of their personal effects, including smartphones and other devices capable of connection to the internet, and/or with cameras. These are placed in a secure storage area within the C&C office and are only returned to their owners when they leave the facility. A facility to charge them is available so they can leave with a fully charged device.

Mobile phones, capable of making voice only telephone calls are available for individuals' use during the period of their stay, and each room has a BT payphone enabled for incoming as well as outgoing calls.

A written record of the stored property of each resident is maintained by C&C officers and a receipt obtained when the items are returned.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare

Gatwick

Concerns relating to the access of prescribed medication have continued during the reporting period, with detained individuals being required to surrender all medication on arrival at the holding facility.

Contractually, C&C officers are not authorised to allow individuals access to their own medication.

We have occasionally observed detained individuals being given access to their prescribed medication by BF officers and being removed from the facility and taken to the immigration hall to take their medication and subsequently returned to the facility,

We were advised that if this situation occurs the detained individual is logged out of the facility, then logged in on their return. A check of the daily log however showed this did not always happen.

Contingency arrangements in place to deal with Covid risks have been quickly and efficiently activated when necessary.

Luton and Stansted

On arrival, detained individuals are required to surrender all medication, and this is securely stored by C&C officers for the duration of their stay.

Where an individual needs to take their medication, C&C officers will do their best to obtain the authority of a suitably qualified medical practitioner.

Our observations have been that this authority has usually been obtained remotely, via the NHS's 111 telephone service, but this was often neither a straightforward or speedy process, with long delays to speak to a doctor or pharmacist at certain times.

The Board recommends that at Gatwick, Luton, and Stansted, dedicated medical practitioners should be available, on a 24/7 basis to, where appropriate, authorise the taking of their own medication by detained individuals, or where there is an urgent need, to prescribe medication.

6.2 Physical and mental healthcare

Gatwick, Luton, and Stansted

During the period covered by this report, detained individuals did not routinely have access to on site healthcare professionals. This is a situation which, in our view is unsatisfactory and potentially dangerous.

Where detained individuals are identified by BF officers as vulnerable because of physical or mental health issues, C&C officers are required to prepare a written care plan.

If individuals require medical assistance, C&C officers will assess the situation and seek the most appropriate service by calling 111 or in an emergency 999.

The Board recommends that at Gatwick, Luton, and Stansted, dedicated medical practitioners should be available on, a 24/7 basis, to provide detained individuals with necessary physical and mental healthcare.

7. Removal or transfer

7.1 Case management

Gatwick, Luton and Stansted

Folders containing copies of the various relevant Immigration rules, setting out detainees' rights and responsibilities, are available in 19 languages, within the holding rooms, together with details of relevant contact details and phone numbers.

As part of the induction process, C&C officers have been observed to routinely offer the loan of mobile phones, which do not link to the internet, and the landline in the holding room is available for incoming and outgoing calls.

7.2 Family contact

Gatwick, Luton and Stansted

Although detained individuals are not permitted visitors, they are able to make and receive phone calls from family members and friends.

Because they are not permitted to retain their internet enabled phones while in detention, individuals often do not have access to necessary phone numbers, but we have observed that C&C officers will usually provide supervised access to their mobile phone contacts for this purpose.

7.3 Removal

Gatwick, Luton and Stansted

During the reporting period we have observed the removals of several individuals, escorted by C&C officers, and have noted that these have generally been conducted efficiently and sensitively.

However, since the middle of the year, the large numbers of individuals detained and subsequently removed and the limited resources available to C&C have often meant that these removals have needed to be supported by BF officers.

We have however observed that the good working relationships between BF and C&C officers at local level has meant that these issues have generally been managed satisfactorily.

7.4 Transfer or release

Gatwick, Luton and Stansted

Detained individuals who are subsequently 'landed' and released from detention are escorted to the exit area of the airports' main building exits by BF staff.

Those who are transferred in or out of the airport have been observed to have been transported in suitable vehicles, usually vans, operated by C&C.

Having observed the transfer of a detainee from Gatwick to another facility, we noted that the C&C officers were kind, considerate and empathetic, ensuring that the detained individual had been given sufficient food and drinks for his onward journey and adequate warm clothing.

The work of the IMB

Origins and recent developments

The GSL Board was formed in mid 2019, with originally just three members, and was not able to begin its work of monitoring until February 2020. During the following year, recruitment continued to appoint sufficient numbers of Board members to facilitate monitoring at each of the four, geographically remote, locations for which is had responsibility.

Covid restrictions meant that during much of 2020 and in the early months of 2021 the Board operated a mix of remote and face to face monitoring, but for most of the current reporting period, monitoring at each of the locations was in person.

The statistics below relating to the number of Board meetings and the numbers of visits refers both to face to face and remote meetings and visits.

For a variety of reasons, including extensive delays in the issuing of airside passes by some airports, the Board has suffered several resignations in the last year and, as a result a further recruitment campaign is underway.

During the current reporting period the Board was asked to extend its future operations to include the monitoring of the holding rooms at Southend Airport and the seaports of Felixstowe, Harwich, Tilbury and Purfleet.

Board members generally monitor the STHFs closest to where they live and subject to the successful recruitment of a sufficient number of new Board members in appropriate geographic locations, we hope to begin monitoring these additional facilities during the first half of 2022.

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	12
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	6
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8
Total number of Board meetings	13
Total number of visits to Gatwick Airport STHF	39
Total number of visits to Lunar House Immigration Reporting Centre STHF	34
Total number of visits to Luton Airport STHF	53
Total number of visits to Stansted Airport STHF	16



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