



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at Lindholme

**For reporting year
1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025**

Published July 2025



Contents

Introductory sections 1 – 3	Page
1. Statutory role of the IMB	3
2. Description of the establishment	4
3. Key points	5
 Evidence sections 4 – 7	
4. Safety	9
5. Fair and humane treatment	11
6. Health and wellbeing	14
7. Progression and resettlement	15
 The work of the IMB	17
Board statistics	17
Applications to the IMB	18
 Annex A1	
IMB survey: questions and answers	19
 Annex A2	
IMB survey: summary	27
 Annex B	
‘Violence’ statistics	28
 Annex C	
Illicit finds’ statistics	29
 Annex D	
Segregation statistics	30
 Annex E	
Complaints’ statistics	31
 Annex F	
Transfer and release statistics	32

All IMB annual reports are published on www.imb.org.uk

Introductory sections 1 – 3

1. Statutory role of the IMB

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

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

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

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

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

2. Description of the establishment

HMP Lindholme is a category C male prison. It is designated as a training prison and was opened in 1985 on the site of a former RAF station, which was originally built in the late 1930s. It occupies a very large area of approximately 128 acres, close to the village of Hatfield Woodhouse, 10 miles to the east of Doncaster, south Yorkshire. It has a certified normal accommodation, or CNA (the number of prisoners a prison can hold without being overcrowded), of 924¹, and has an operational capacity, or OpCap (the maximum number of prisoners that can be held without serious risk to safety, security, good order and the proper running of the planned regime), of 946.

The establishment is a combination of buildings. Six former RAF buildings have been converted into residential accommodation. Other former RAF buildings house:

- administration, including the offender management unit (OMU) and security;
- prisoners' reception;
- industrial workshops;
- education;
- healthcare;
- chaplaincy;
- the library; and
- a bistro for staff.

More modern units were built when the prison was opened for:

- additional cellular residential accommodation, which is a mixture of single and double occupancy cells on two or three storeys;
- the care and separation unit (CSU), with 20 cells;
- the visits' centre; and
- the gymnasium.

A modern reception area for prisoners' visitors is located outside the main gate. The fire-safety upgrade work has been completed; however, work has recommenced on shower refurbishment, which has required the rolling closure of some accommodation spaces in order to complete the work. The prison is in the public sector and the Prison Service is responsible for the operation of the establishment. There are three main service providers:

- Novus, for learning and skills;
- Practice Plus Group, for primary care, substance misuse and mental health services;
- Time for Teeth provides dental services; and
- AMEY, for the provision of facilities management and site maintenance.

¹ Figures included in this report are local management information. They reflect the prison's position at the time of reporting but may be subject to change following further validation and therefore may not always tally with Official Statistics later published by the Ministry of Justice.

3. Key points

3.1 Main findings

Safety

There were three deaths in custody last year. The prison regularly reviews all its action plans concerning the safety of prisoners and has assurance mechanisms in-place to provide supporting evidence for these reviews.

From the Board's observations, the management of self-isolating prisoners has improved; however, violence has increased within the prison, much of this resulting from the significant amounts of illicit drugs and contraband coming into the prison.

The ingress of illicit drugs into the prison has had a profoundly negative effect on the prison. This is despite the best efforts of the managers and staff. Despite 60% of respondents to the IMB survey stating that they feel safe, the Board believes the prison is less safe for many of the prisoners and staff compared with the previous reporting year. Prisoners are increasingly seeking ways to be sent to the care and separation unit (CSU), where men are segregated, to escape conflict, debt or the threat of violence. This is evidenced by our assessment of segregation paperwork and applications (prisoners' written representations to the Board), as well as our monitoring of segregation reviews, safer custody meetings and serious incidents (predominantly incidents at height).

From the Board's observations, the senior management team and staff have worked tirelessly to deal with the daily issues that they are facing. However, in our opinion, significant external factors have been against them, resulting in managers facing day-to-day operational pressures that regularly distract them from more strategic matters.

Fair and humane treatment

In the IMB prisoner survey, which ran for seven days and had 404 responses out of 946 prisoners, the top three suggested improvements to prison cells were: improved temperature control, privacy curtains and more cell cleaning opportunities.

The majority of prison-cell courtesy keys are missing. This removes the ability of the prisoner to lock his cell when he is not there, relying, instead, on an officer to do it.

The practice of doubling up prison cells designed for one continues, with no sign of this outdated practice ending.

At the beginning of the reporting year the kitchen received a very poor inspection report by Doncaster Council. However, a follow-up inspection in September resulted in a classification of 'good'. This achievement was the result of considerable hard work by the kitchen team and, in the Board's view, excellent leadership by the kitchen manager.

The Board's observations suggest that attention should now be directed at the point of delivery of the food. All too often, there are shortages of the correct utensils, as well as prisoners who are responsible for serving the food not wearing whites on the serveries and not testing the temperature of food prior to serving.

The Board is concerned about the number of men (32) being held in segregated conditions in the CSU for over 42 days this year (the limit allowed without external authorisation). In addition, we are also concerned that the CSU is perceived as a place of sanctuary by prisoners, who break prison rules in order to be taken there to escape debt, threats or drugs, or to simply take themselves out of the general prisoner population.

Whilst the prison is reporting that they are fully staffed, the number of staff who are in their first three years' service is high. The consequences of this are a lack of in-depth knowledge when dealing with prisoner complaints and issues and an unwillingness to challenge unacceptable behaviour or wrongdoing.

Once again, the Board is concerned about the number of applications and complaints raised concerning the loss of property in inter-cell moves within the prison.

The Board has observed that, on occasion, prisoner complaint forms (Comp1s, which are ordinary complaints) are not reaching the complaints clerk and, similarly, the replies are not reaching the prisoner. These observations are from prisoner conversations, IMB applications and occasional direct testing of the process.

Health and wellbeing

The Board continues to be concerned about the lack of options for senior managers when choosing the most appropriate location for a prisoner whilst awaiting assessment for transfer under the Mental Health Act. This is the process of evaluating whether a prisoner requires transfer to a specialised mental health facility or if their needs can be met in the prison.

The prison has successfully established an incentivised substance-free living (ISFL) environment on L wing and it is expected to expand this using a further 64 cell units during 2025.

There are suggestions that there is limited motivation for men to reduce drug dependency because there is a lack of a regular routine. In the IMB prisoner survey, some respondents stated they felt that if they had more to do, it would help to reduce substance misuse.

Progression and resettlement

As reported last year, the Board believes too few courses are being offered in education and work that provide meaningful training and progression. The recent IMB survey, 60% of prisoners who responded stated that the offer provided did not adequately prepare them for release.

In addition, there is evidence to link the lack of meaningful activity to the increase in use of illicit substances, due to boredom.

Much work has been done at the national and regional level regarding creating action plans and strategies in supporting IPP (imprisonment for public protection) prisoners towards a successful parole hearing and release. The Board will monitor these efforts at the local level against the expected outcomes.

The board is concerned at the impact of prisoner population pressures is having on the prisons ability to prepare prisoners for release.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

- The Board asks that the Minister consider in what ways national resources could be deployed to provide additional support and resources to the prison in dealing with the serious ingress of illicit drugs, which is affecting its function as a training prison.
- The Board is concerned that the practice of "doubling up" cells designed for one continues

- Inter-prison transfers to resettlement prisons are limited, which reduces the aim of rehabilitation. The board considers that a more multifaceted plan should be adopted rather than merely building more prison places.

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

- The Board asks that, in regard to those prisoners who have undertaken a gatekeeping assessment, the Director-General considers providing prison management with further resources, such that they will have increased options when assessing where to locate a prisoner whilst waiting for a bed in a secure hospital.

TO THE GOVERNOR

- The Board asks that the Governor considers reviewing the quality of CSU paperwork and putting in place quality-assurance procedures.
- The Board asks that the Governor considers monitoring the population of the CSU as currently many prisoners are being held there in excess of 42 days.
- The Board asks that further measures be taken to reduce the loss of property during cell movements within the prison.
- The Board asks that the Governor considers implementing a deep-cleaning programme of the in-cell toilets.
- The Board asks that a review be undertaken of submission and collection process for prisoner complaint forms (Comp1s, Comp1As/appeal forms, DIRFs/discrimination incident reporting forms) in order to raise prisoner trust and confidence.

3.3 Response to the last report

TO THE MINISTER

Mental health of prisoners in segregation

During the reporting year, there has been a significant increase in the number of prisoners in the segregation unit waiting for a bed in a secure mental health facility. Given the amount of evidence indicating prolonged stays in segregated conditions are detrimental to mental health, it does seem to be a paradoxical situation, and one in which a prisoner's mental health is likely to deteriorate even further.

How does the Minister plan to tackle this serious issue - and when?

Response: the Minister shared the Board's concerns and recognised the challenges. He hoped to provide assurances that there would be an adequate supply of adult secure mental health beds. He would continue to focus on maximising the existing capacity, ensuring appropriate lengths of stay and reducing transition. The Government hopes to introduce a Mental Health Bill as soon as possible.

Update: the Board recognises and acknowledges the efforts being made to resolve this unsatisfactory situation. Nevertheless, whilst the number of prisoners affected is relatively low, the options open to prison Governors remain the same, in that this almost certainly means that a prisoner is located in segregated conditions despite the risks attached to this decision. See this year's recommendations.

TO HMPPS

IPP prisoners

The Board expressed concern last year about the number of men who remain in prison with IPP sentences. This year, the number in HMP Lindholme has risen to 46, 33 of whom

are licence recalls. The Board, once again, requests that more emphasis and engagement is given to implementing the HMPPS strategy to prepare these prisoners for release.

Response: HMPPS recognised that there is a need to prioritise support for prisoners serving an IPP sentence. Area Executive Directors have been commissioned to develop operational IPP delivery plans that will directly target frontline delivery to support IPP prisoners in working towards the sentence plan objectives and a future safe and sustainable release.

Update: the Board at Lindholme has been monitoring these delivery plans over the reporting year and welcomes the efforts being made at all levels of HMPPS.

TO THE GOVERNOR

Property (internal)

There continues to be a high number of applications to the Board regarding issues with property missing within the establishment. This includes cell clearances and other reasons for the movement of property. The Board requests that this be addressed.

Update: property complaints remain high and prison management will need to continue efforts in order to reduce losses and improve prisoner trust and confidence in this issue.

Kitchen: food trollies

Plans have been discussed for many months, with little improvement. The Board asks that this area be given a higher priority and resources be allocated to achieve a long-term solution.

Update: a refurbishment plan was put in place that has succeeded in bringing the food trollies up to an acceptable standard. The challenge ahead will be to maintain these improved standards.

Discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFs): external audit

During the reporting year, the external review of DIRFs has, unfortunately, not yet happened. The Board regards external oversight as a vital measure of the veracity of the prison's systems.

Update: It seems that DIRFs were independently reviewed by the charity, the Zahid Mubarek Trust, but the Board could not verify this during the 2023-2024 reporting period, as we were not made aware of this. We are pleased to report that there was external scrutiny of DIRFs during the 2024-2025 reporting year.'

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

Sadly, there were three deaths in custody during the reporting year. The recommendations from all the death in custody reports are collated into an action plan and reviewed quarterly. The Board's observations of this indicate that it is working well and appropriate and necessary actions have been taken.

During the reporting year, self-harm incidents increased from 474 to 755 (see Annex B), although there was no significant change in the number of new assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) plans opened (these are used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide). The Board's view is that there appears to be a link between the number of illicit drugs entering the prison and the incidences of self-harm and mental health issues. The Board considers that this is yet another pressure on prisoners and staff, which is preventing a stable environment that would allow staff to manage issues much more effectively.

Results from the IMB survey indicate that 75% of prisoners (Annex A.1/Q7) know how to access a Listener (a prisoner trained by the Samaritans to offer confidential emotional support to other prisoners), if required.

4.2 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

Since last year's report, a supportive regime has been put in place to manage more safely those prisoners choosing to self-isolate. This has resulted in those prisoners being less likely to go un-noticed and monitored by staff.

Nevertheless, incidences of prisoner-on-prisoner violence have increased from 168 to 208, and prisoner-on-staff assaults have increased from 105 to 128. These increases have, no doubt, led to more use of force, in the Board's view. The likely cause of this is the increase in illicit drugs coming into the prison.

Of those prisoners responding to the IMB survey, 40% (160) said they felt 'less than fairly safe'.

As reported in the 'Fair and humane treatment' section, above, the Board has observed that prisoners often break prison rules so that they are taken to be segregated in the care and separation unit (CSU). They use this to escape the environment that exists on the wing, whether it is debt related or concerns threats of violence or other means of intimidation.

The reduced number of Board members has impacted our ability to carry out in-depth monitoring and has required difficult decisions about how and where we focus our monitoring. However, ensuring that prisoners are safe is of great concern to the Board and we will continue to be a high priority in the next reporting year.

4.3 Preventing illicit items

The Board reports that, despite the best efforts of the managers and staff, the ingress of illicit drugs into the prison has had a profoundly negative effect on its ability to keep prisoners and staff safe and reduce the reoffending of prisoners.

Prisoners are increasingly seeking ways to be sent to the CSU to escape conflict, debt and the threat of violence, much of which is linked to illicit drugs and other items. Also, the use

of illicit non-specific substances potentially endangers prisoners' general health and wellbeing. We have seen examples of individuals having to be blue-lighted to hospital whilst under the influence of illicit drugs, which is highly resource intensive.

From our survey (Annex A.1/Qs 14-20), we had a number of replies about the drug situation, of which the following are representative:

- *'The jail is over-run with drugs. I have never known a jail like it.'*
- *'It is the most drugs I have ever seen in a prison in 11 years, people taking spice every day, all day, go over, and the staff don't care, just put them behind doors, then out next day, no basic so no deterrent.'*
- *'There's more drug users in here than outside.'*

The number of drugs' finds and the number of men found to be under the influence of illicit substances (UTI) has doubled in the reporting year (see annex B). In addition, the Board suspects that the UTI figures are under-reported and may be significantly higher. This may be because, on occasion, incidences of UTI are not reported and, consequently, not recorded.

The failure rate of mandatory drug testing (MDT) has been 40.6% of the 502 tests that were conducted.

The principal route of illicit items into the prison is via drones and the prison has reported a significant number of sightings since September 2024. The prison's capability to detect drones is severely limited and this is not something that can be overcome by existing prison resources.

Intelligence-led searches of prisoners and cells are carried out frequently but are often limited due to staff redeployment. The prison only has limited capability to search staff entering the establishment and an 'enhanced gate system' would greatly improve security.

From the Board's observations, the senior management team and staff have worked tirelessly to deal with the daily issues they are facing. However, in our opinion, significant external factors have been against them, resulting in managers facing day-to-day operational pressures that regularly distract them from more strategic matters.

The re-establishment of a regular drug strategy forum in the reporting year is welcomed; this includes collation and monitoring of statistics, and a multi-faceted approach to tackling the issues. Unfortunately, other than some operational changes, the Board is not clear what the strategy is or what positive difference the establishment of the forum has made. Meanwhile, the challenges facing the prison persist, although, as previously mentioned, many of these appear to be outside the direct control of the prison.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

Accommodation

- Accommodation at Lindholme consists of two large wings, six spurs and two dedicated wings, one for induction and the other for drug rehabilitation.
- According to the IMB prisoner survey, 55% of those who responded said their cell would be improved with better temperature control. The prison has put in place a plan to improve this by servicing the ventilation slots. This work has almost been completed as the reporting year ends.
- The lack of cleanliness and staining of the cell toilets has been of particular concern to the Board. Whilst progress has been made in sourcing suitable cleaning materials, the physical cleaning process is ongoing and slow; this will require continued monitoring in order to reach an acceptable standard.
- In the IMB survey (see Annex A1/Q3), 76% of respondents stated that their cell did not have a privacy curtain. The replacement work to remedy this issue has been ongoing for some time and we will continue to monitor it.
- The majority of cells are fitted with a lock that allows the prisoner to lock their cell from the inside and also, using a courtesy key, lock their cell from the outside. The prison staff have keys that can override this in order to enter the cell. However, over time, the vast majority of these courtesy keys are not available. The consequence of this is that prisoners are unable to lock their cell when they leave it unattended, thus relying on staff, who are not always available, to lock them. The outcome of this is a prisoner's property is regularly stolen whilst they are elsewhere. Replacing these courtesy keys is costly and not something the prison is contemplating doing in the near future.
- Each year, IMBs across the country report on the continuing practice of putting two prisoners in prison cells designed for one, known as doubling up. HMP Lindholme reported 160 cells doubled up at the end of the reporting year, although this figure can vary each month. There are many reasons for the need to do this, and they are well recorded. Nevertheless, the fact remains that, as our country progresses in the 21st century, the Board must, once again, report that prisoners are experiencing practices not out of place in considerably less developed countries and eat, sleep and live in a toilet cubicle.

Food

In February 2024, Doncaster Council inspected the kitchen, which resulted in a very poor report and classification of 'improvement necessary'. In September 2024, the council returned for a follow-up inspection, which resulted in a classification of 'good'. From the Board's observations, this achievement was the result of considerable hard work by the kitchen team and excellent leadership by the kitchen manager.

There is still work to be done, particularly in maintaining the standard of food and food-delivery systems (food trollies). Furthermore, standards at the point of service to prisoners are poor, despite the prisoners who serve food being given hygiene training.

This is confirmed by the Board's observations: there continues to be a shortage of the correct utensils, wearing of whites on the serveries and the temperature testing of food prior to serving. In addition, there are shortages of ancillary equipment, such as mops and

gloves. Also, greater care needs to be taken when separating the different types of food preparation, such as, for example, halal and non-halal.

5.2 Segregation

The segregation unit, also known as the care and separation unit, or CSU, is a purpose-built, single-storey building containing 20 cells. One cell is used for special accommodation (where items such as furniture, bedding and sanitation are removed in the interests of safety).

There is a communal shower facility on the unit and two outside exercise yards. Throughout the year, men have been given a period of at least 30 minutes of outside exercise each day and the opportunity to shower daily.

The CSU is visited on a regular basis by a member of the chaplaincy team and by members of the IMB, as well as having daily visits by the duty Governor and a member of the mental health team.

During the reporting year, 32 men were held in the CSU for over 42 days (the limit allowed without external authorisation). This is a significant increase on last year, up from 15 (see Annex D). Whilst the Board acknowledges that, often, the reason for the lengthy stay in the CSU is outside the control of the prison management, we are, nevertheless, greatly concerned at the upward trend.

The Board notes that the number of men placed in segregation has fallen from 361 last year to 303 this year (see Annex D), and that there was an average of 14 prisoners in the CSU.

There has been a reduction in prisoners being held on Rule 53 (awaiting an adjudication, a disciplinary hearing held when a prisoner is alleged to have broken prison rules), and fewer prisoners receiving the punishment of cellular confinement on an adjudication. This has likely been the reason for the fall in the number of men held in the CSU. Nevertheless, those being held there are staying in segregation for longer periods. Whilst the reasons are varied, they are usually due to population pressures preventing transfers, as well as the prison's concerns about the safety of men when they are sent back to a normal location.

While nearly two-thirds of the population feels reasonably safe in the prison (see Annex A1/Q21), we are concerned that, quite often, men are using the CSU as a place of sanctuary.

Too often, prisoners are breaking prison rules in order to be taken to the CSU. This may be for their own perceived safety, to avoid illicit drugs, escape debt or threats from other prisoners, or to simply take themselves out of the general population.

IMB members regularly check the documentation authorising segregation. During these checks, we have observed that, whilst documentation is completed (initial authority to segregate, continued authority to segregate, defensible decision - ACCT), the quality and details provided are sometimes less than satisfactory.

This is particularly troublesome in the segregation reviews, when there are no detailed notes from previous review boards indicating action points or next steps, resulting in the prisoner getting frustrated and the reviewing governor not being fully informed.

Finally, the Board wishes to record that, from their observations, they have no concerns regarding the management of the CSU or the care given to the prisoners by staff.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

As reported last year, staff and prisoner relationships remain generally good. The IMB survey indicated that 62% of those who responded said they were generally treated with respect, which is no change from the previous year (see Annex A/Q24).

There is still a high turnover of staff, with 158 of the 209 prison officers having served less than three years. As previously reported, there still appears to be a lack of ability of some prison officers to resolve prisoners' problems. This is observed by the number of applications to the IMB concerning issues that could easily be sorted out by wing staff.

Whilst generally staff appear to have good rapport with prisoners, Board members regularly observe staff not challenging prisoners on issues such as being correctly dressed when collecting food from the servery. Indeed, free text responses (where respondents can write their answers in their own words, rather than being limited to a set of choices) in the IMB survey go further and suggest that some staff members turn a blind eye to the problem of illicit drugs on the wing. These observations suggest a lack of confidence in staff in challenging prisoners about their behaviour or wrong-doing and imposing their authority.

5.4 Complaints

The Board is seriously concerned that, as reported last year, complaints' forms submitted by prisoners are often not reaching the complaints' clerk and, similarly, replies to a submitted complaint are not always received by the prisoner.

Although prison management have indicated an awareness of the problem, the Board has not detected any progress in rectifying this. We believe that this lack of certainty in the collection/delivery of Comp1 forms and replies creates a lack of trust and confidence in the complaints' procedure.

Nevertheless, despite the IMB survey response regarding the quality of the replies to complaints (see Annex A1/Q.29), the Board has observed that complaints are dealt with fairly.

5.5 Property

The IMB survey suggests a worrying situation whereby property does not arrive with a prisoner following his transfer from another prison (this is termed 'property – external'). Over 48% of respondents indicated this, and 44% of these respondents indicated that property did not arrive within 28 days (see Annex A1/Qs 1 and 1.1).

However, it must be noted that, overall, prisoner applications to the IMB about property (external) have fallen this year.

The Board continues to be concerned about property going missing internally. This is when a prisoner moves cells within the prison or is moved to the CSU and his property follows later. The precise nature of the problem is unclear, with the main indicator being the number of complaints, which stood at 298 (see Annex E). The Board will continue to monitor this over the coming year.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Mental health

During the reporting year, eight prisoners were referred for a gatekeeping assessment (which determines if a referred patient requires care at a specialised mental health facility). Of these, two were declined, four were accepted and two are still waiting for the outcome.

The Board continues to be concerned that prisoners who have been referred for a gatekeeping assessment are often being held in the CSU until this is complete.

As set out in NHS England's good practice guidance, a transfer to a bed in a secure mental health unit should be facilitated within 28 days. At HMP Lindholme, this is usually not the case. Whilst this situation continues, the Board recommends that additional support be given to the Governor to enable additional specialist care to be available for such prisoners who are held in segregated conditions.

6.2 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

The prison has successfully established an incentivised substance-free living (ISFL) environment on L wing and it is expected to expand this using a further 64 cell units during 2025.

There are 340 men on the substance misuse service caseload (SMS). A total of 138 are on methadone (a heroin substitute) and 21 are on Buvidal (an injectable opiate substitute that lasts 14 days).

The substance misuse team (SMT) has suggested to the Board that there is limited motivation for men to reduce illicit drug dependency, because of a lack of a regular routine (e.g. more meaningful work, education and gym activity).

A total of 74% of those who responded to the substance misuse questions in the IMB survey felt that having more to do would help them reduce their substance misuse. (See Annex A1 – Q17).

We asked six specific questions in our survey (Annex A1/Qs 14-20) to reflect our growing concerns about the illicit drug and alcohol problems. Some of the key statistics are:

- 74% of prisoners are aware of the substance misuse team.
- 41% had been offered illicit drugs in the last year.
- 23% said they had been put under pressure to take illicit drugs.

From the survey, we also determined that the SMT were spoken highly of, which is reassuring.

The plans to create substance-free living spaces is encouraging, as this goes some way to reduce the demand for illicit drugs coming into the prison.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

Education within the prison is delivered by Novus, which operates under the Prison Education Framework (PEF). The model of education and work focuses on assessment, engagement and employability skills, and is based on the five core principles of teamwork, communication, self-management, problem solving and presentation.

Monitoring of this important function of the prison has been hampered by the reduced size of the Board and the need to prioritise other areas.

All prisoners are assessed during their induction period to determine their suitability for employment or educational courses; twice-weekly sequencing meetings attended by key stakeholders then decide on the appropriate pathway for each individual prisoner.

Courses available include catering, welding, plastering, digital media and barbering, with the opportunity in barbering and catering for them to progress through to Level 3. However, places are limited and there is a waiting list. As reported last year by the Board, there are still too few courses being offered within the prison to provide and support meaningful training and progression.

Throughout the reporting year, session attendance was not consistently high enough. Although there have been attempts by management to sanction prisoners who do not attend or whose attendance is poor, it often takes far too long to remove them and also reduces the opportunities for those on waiting lists.

The IMB survey showed that 60% of respondents (the same as last year) did not feel that the offer of education and work available at the prison was adequate in preparing them for release and reducing the chances of reoffending in the future.

The prison has an excellent library facility, with an enthusiastic staff who offer a varied range of opportunities for the prisoner to engage in. There is a weekly rota system for attending the library and prisoners can, additionally, order specific books on their in-cell tech.

7.2 Vocational training, work

HMP Lindholme is a large site. It houses a mix of workshops that cater for external contract-based work, training with qualifications such as welding and plastering, and more general work-based activities. These include, for example, manufacturing sandbags for the Ministry of Defence, and waste management, which recycles all prison waste.

The Board is concerned that some of the workshops are limited to small numbers, and a shortage of workshop places within the prison means that many prisoners work only part time. These workshops offer no accreditation and do not adequately support and prepare prisoners with the training necessary for meaningful work on release. The Board agrees with the recent HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) report, which highlighted that prisoner progress in workshops and work was not appropriately planned and monitored to aid prisoner development.

The large former aircraft hangars are still condemned and not in use, due to the need for significant investment in the infrastructure. Similarly, the large bakery has closed, due to a lack of investment in repairing and replacing machinery. In the past, the facility provided real-time qualifications for prisoners to develop transferrable skills, which would prepare them for work on release

It is the Board's view that the reduced opportunities in work and education contribute to a lack of motivation and engagement by the prisoners. This translates into prisoners feeling they have no purpose, as well as an increase in illicit drug use and, ultimately, no support for prisoners to prevent reoffending on release.

On a more positive note, the Board can report, with satisfaction, that the Bistro (a small café-like facility providing meals and snacks for staff) offers catering qualifications up to Level 3, which provide prisoners with realistic employment prospects.

This section of the annual report is one that the Board will be devoting much attention to in the next reporting year, as it underpins HMP Lindholme's function as a training prison, particularly in reducing reoffending.

7.3 Offender management, progression

Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) prisoners

In recent annual reports, the Board has submitted recommendations to both the Minister and the Director of HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) regarding IPP prisoners.

The Board acknowledges that, during this reporting year, much work has taken place at both national and regional level to improve opportunities for this unique group, such that they may be able to demonstrate a reduced risk to society and be better prepared for release. For instance, at HMP Lindholme, a prisoner forum with IPP prisoners takes place quarterly in order to give these men a voice. The Board has seen the action plans that are intended to achieve these objectives and believes they are both comprehensive and achievable.

However, there are challenges ahead, given that a recent survey of IPP prisoners, with over 50 responses across five prisons, suggested that 91% felt a deeper sense of hopelessness than a year ago, and 72% did not understand the outside world and were fearful of release.

Consequently, communication with this group will be key to successful outcomes, and this communication should highlight progress made with IPP prisoners, both in custody and post-release.

Finally, a word of caution is needed, as it is imperative that action at the prison level is consistent with the stated objectives of the action plan and that the needs of each individual prisoner are considered. The Board believes it is a mistake to concentrate on targets at the expense of the individual.

7.4 Resettlement planning

The population pressures throughout the prison estate affect many aspects of an establishment's work and purpose. In particular, the inability to move prisoners through the prison system, depending on the time they have left to serve, has a detrimental effect on the rehabilitation prospects of prisoners and the aim of reducing reoffending. This is demonstrated visually in Annex F.

The consequences of this are that, as the number of prisoners staying at Lindholme up to their release date increases, so does the work in preparing them for release. This is work that the prison is not resourced to carry out and, therefore, places unreasonable pressures on the offender management unit to the detriment of other prisoners at Lindholme.

8. The work of the IMB

Board routine

Once again, the Board has functioned with considerably fewer numbers than the full complement. In order to do this, a careful balance has had to be struck between levels of monitoring. In addition, the methodology of monitoring has changed, from place-based to concern-based. Essentially, this means following up on observed concerns rather than merely visiting a place each week in rotation.

During the summer, two Board members resigned and three new members joined and began their induction. Nevertheless, we have maintained a weekly presence in the prison, including weekly rounds of the care and separation unit, answering prisoners' applications to the IMB and monitoring areas of concern. The main concern this year was the ingress and impact of illicit drugs into the prison.

In November, once again, a survey was conducted using laptop technology (see Annexes A1 and A2). The survey was completed by 404 prisoners (44% of the prison population), a reduction on last year's 516 (56%). It included a mix of questions from previous surveys and a few new questions, including the opportunity to answer some questions using free text (where respondents can write their answers in their own words, rather than being limited to a set of choices).

Whilst a crude indicator, data from the survey showed that, of those who answered, 263 (65%) were aware of the IMB in the prison and 55% indicated that they knew how to submit an application (a prisoner's written representation) to the IMB.

After reviewing this year's applications, we note a reduction in those concerning property (categories H1 & H2 in the table, below) and transfers (K).

Board statistics

The total number of visits to the establishment was, compared with 346 in the previous year.

Recommended complement of Board members	15
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	6 (including one member on long-term limited attendance)
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	7 (including one member on induction and one member on long-term limited attendance)
Total number of visits to the establishment	356

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year 2023/24	Current reporting year 2024/25
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	5	10
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	18	12
C	Equality	3	7
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	6	7
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	5	9
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	7	1
F	Food and kitchens	6	3
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	21	33
H1	Property within the establishment	22	10
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	33	19
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	11	3
I	Sentence management, including HDC (home detention curfew), ROTL (release on temporary licence), parole, release dates, recategorisation	21	13
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	20	18
K	Transfers	17	2
L	Miscellaneous	0	3
	Total number of applications	195	150

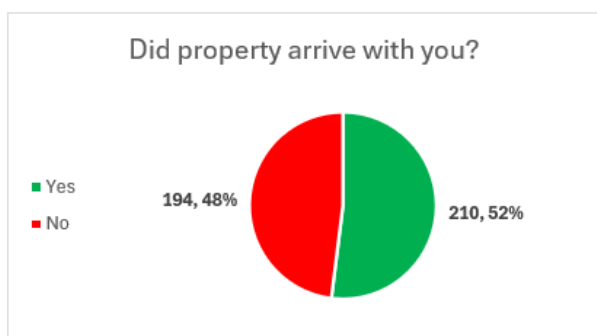
Annex A1

The survey, which ran for seven days, was conducted on prisoner laptop digital technology. The prison population at that time was 946, 404 of whom completed the survey, giving a response rate of 43%. This is a lower rate than those of previous years - 56% in 2023 and 63% (2022) - but still significantly better than the approximate 11% response rate when the survey was conducted manually. Percentages are rounded so may not total 100%.

Please note that during the editing process questions 4, 5 & 6 were deleted.

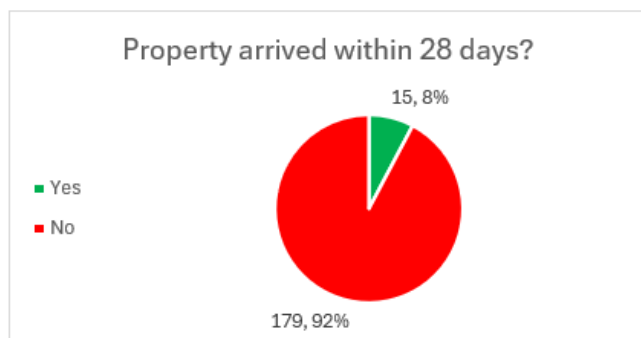
Where available, comparisons with the 2023 and the 2022 reports are shown in grey; note that some questions had not been asked previously. Responses to 'other', where applicable, were provided in the form of free text, which has been separately analysed and forms a background to comments elsewhere in the report.

1 When you arrived at Lindholme did all your property arrive with you?		2022	2023
Yes	210	52%	54%, 59%
No	194	48%	46%, 41%



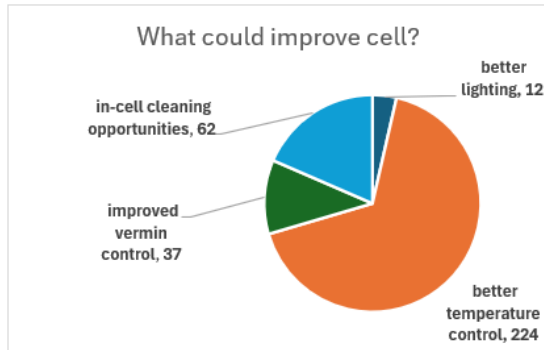
1.1 if no did you receive your property within 28 days?

Yes	15	4%	14%, -
No	179	44%	86%, -



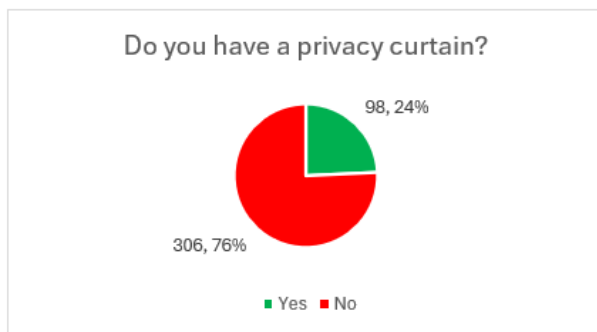
2 In your opinion what could improve your cell?

better lighting	12	26
better temperature control	224	330
improved vermin control	37	35
in-cell cleaning opportunities	62	72



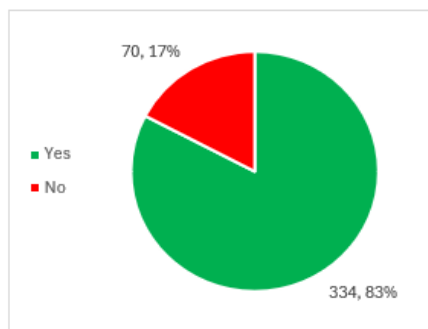
3 does your cell have a privacy curtain?

Yes	98	24%
No	306	76%



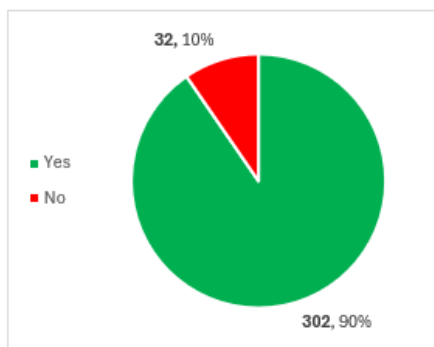
7 Are you aware of the Listeners scheme at Lindholme?

Yes	334
No	70



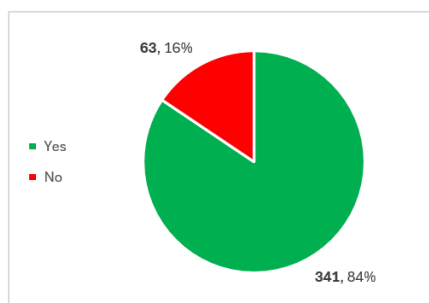
7.1 if yes do you know how to access to a listener if required?

Yes	302
No	32



8 Do you have a keyworker?

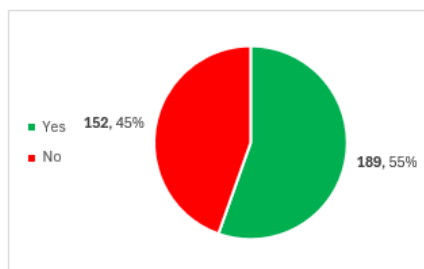
Yes	341	84%	87%	71%
No	63	16%	13%	29%



8.1 If yes, have you spoken with your keyworker in the last 14 days?

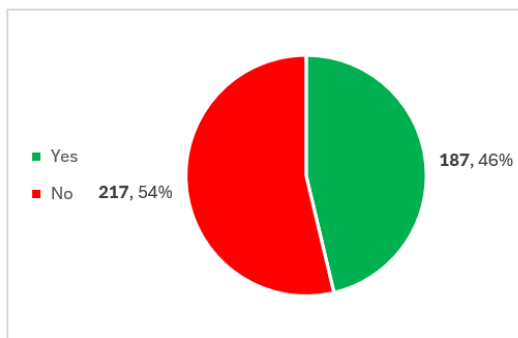
Yes	189	55%*	43%	46%
No	152	44%*	57%	54%

[* % of 341 responding]



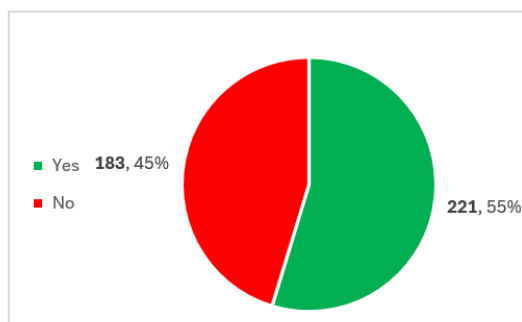
9 Did you have contact with your offender manager (POM) within 28 days of arrival at Lindholme?

Yes	187	47%	41%	56%
No	217	53%	41%	56%



10 Are you aware of your sentence plan and what work you need to do?

Yes	221	55%	55%	-
No	183	45%	45%	-



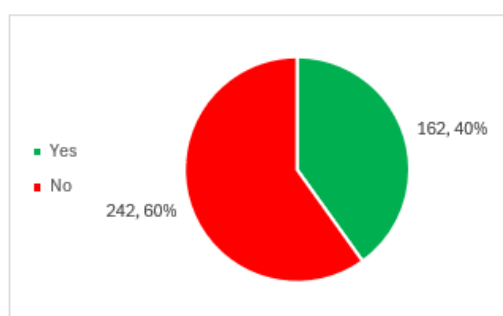
11 Do you consider that your sentence plan is preparing you for your release?

I am fully prepared	0	0%	42%	-
I am probably prepared	80	20%	18%	-
I am unlikely to be prepared	24	6%	9%	-
I am not prepared at all	111	27%	31%	-



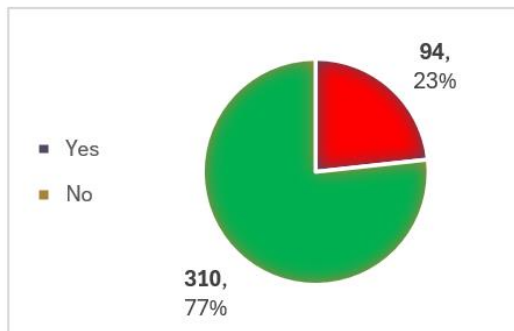
12 Do you think that the work and/or education being offered to you is adequately supporting you for release?

Yes	162	40%	39%
No	242	60%	61%



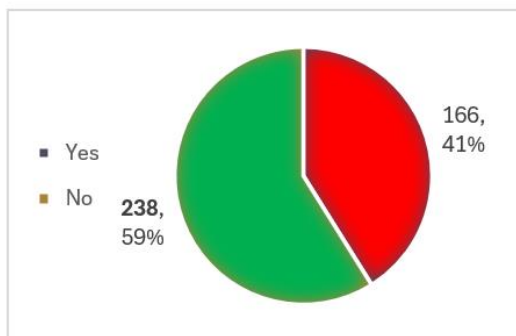
14 Have you been put under pressure to take drugs?

Yes	94	23%
No	310	77%



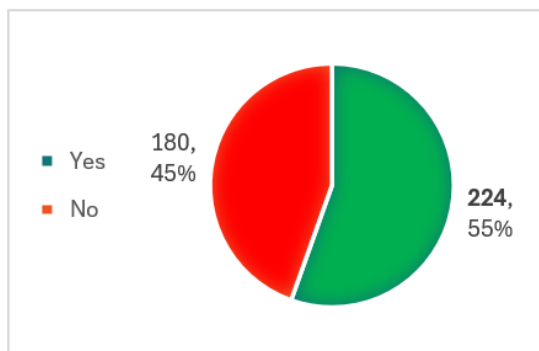
15 Have you been offered non-prescribed/illicit drugs in the past month?

Yes	166	41%
No	238	59%



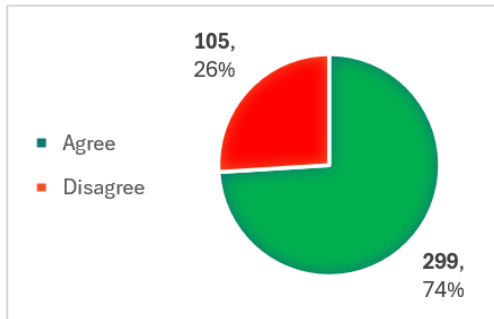
16 Would you want to live on an incentivised substance-free living wing similar to L wing?

Yes	224	55%
No	180	45%



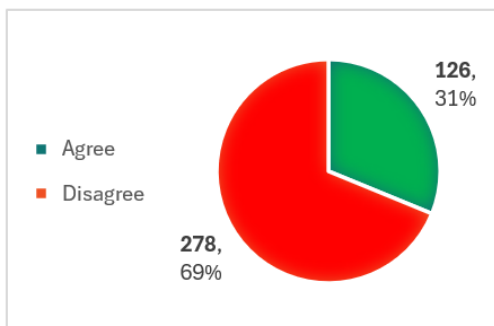
17 Do you think that having more to do during the day (work, gym, learning) would help reduce use of non-prescribed/illicit drugs?

Agree	299	74%
Disagree	105	26%



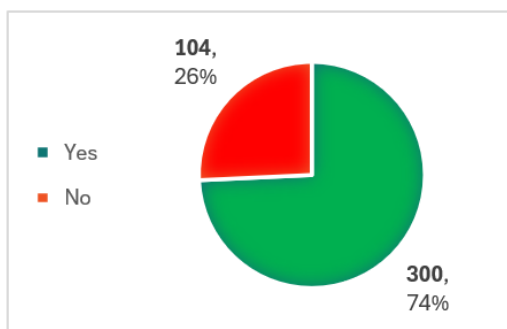
18 Do you think that more frequent mandatory drug testing would deter you from using non-prescribed drugs?

Agree	126	31%
Disagree	278	69%



19 Are you aware of the help that the Substance Misuse team can provide at Lindholme?

Yes	300	74%
No	104	26%

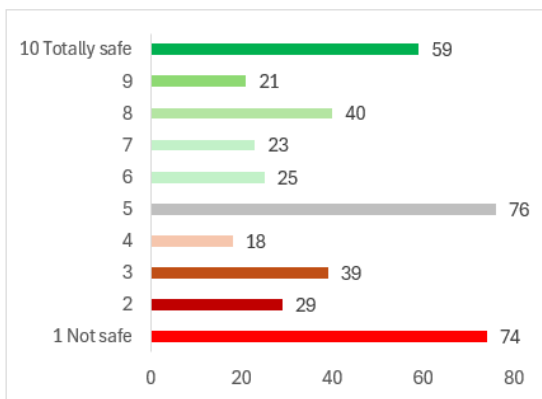


21 On a scale of 1-10

(1 - not safe, 10 - totally safe)

how safe do you feel in this prison?

1 Not safe	74
2	29
3	39
4	18
5	76
6	25
7	23
8	40
9	21
10 Totally safe	59



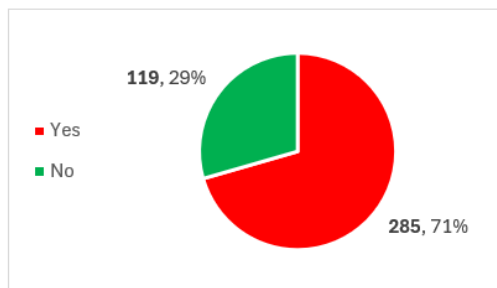
Totally safe > fairly safe (10-5) 244 60% 61%, 67%

Less than fairly safe (1-4) 160 40% 39%, 33%

22 Are you aware of victimisation, racism or bullying?

Yes 285 71% 58%, 55%

No 119 29% 42%, 45%

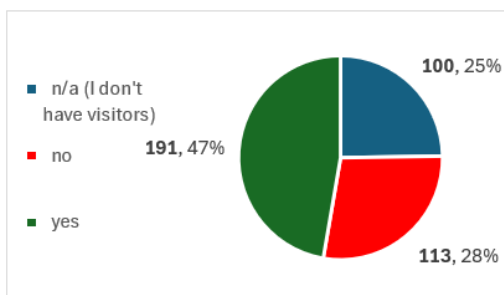


23 Are your visitors able to obtain a visiting order easily?

n/a (I don't have visitors) 100 25% 23%, 19%

no 113 28% 38%, 44%

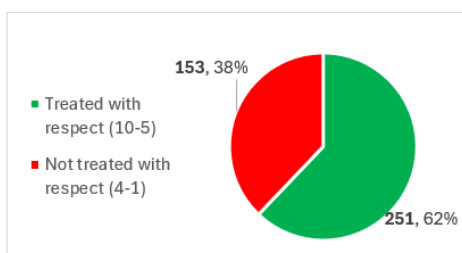
yes 191 47% 39%, 37%



24 On a scale of 1-10 (1 Not respected at all, 10 fully respected) are you treated with respect within the prison?

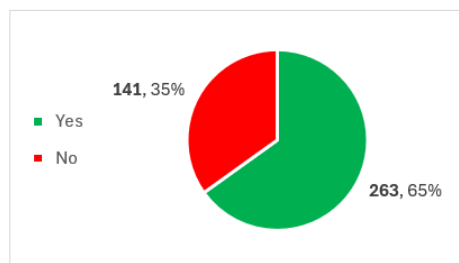
1	49
2	36
3	32
4	36
5	75
6	41
7	25
8	49
9	18
10	43

Treated with respect (10-5)	251	62%	62%, 63%
Not treated with respect (4-1)	153	38%	38%, 37%



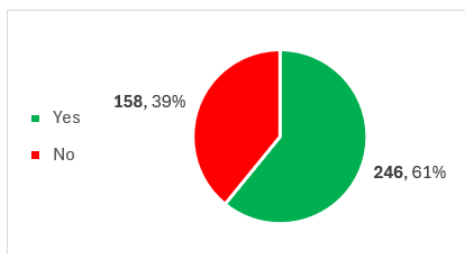
25 Are you aware of the IMB (Independent Monitoring Board) at Lindholme?

Yes	263	65%	63% -
No	141	35%	37% -



26 Do you know how to make an application to the IMB?

Yes	246	55%	-
No	158	45%	-



Annex A2

Summary of IMB Prisoners' Survey – November 2024

This year's survey was completed by 404 men, 43% of the population at the time. This is somewhat less than the previous two years, with 56% and 63% respectively.

Many of the questions mirrored questions asked in previous years to give a direct comparison, year on year.

Quality of life

- Prisoners' property remains a significant issue, particularly the instances of property not arriving with the prisoner and still not arriving within 28 days.
- While there are few comments about cells, lack of privacy curtains in double occupancy cells still is an ongoing, as is poor temperature control.
- While the majority of men say they feel safe in the prison, there appears to be an increase in the awareness of bullying or racism (71% this year compared with 58% and 55% in previous years).
- About half the replies reported that complaint forms are not readily available on wings and a similar number reported that complaints had not been dealt with satisfactorily, in their opinion.

Substance misuse

- While 41% of men stated that they had been offered illicit substances, only 23% reported that they had been put under pressure to take the drugs.
- Most men (75%) considered that having more to do in the day (work, gym and education) would help reduce substance abuse.
- A minority (31%) felt that more frequent mandatory drug testing would also help.
- A total of 75% of respondents were aware of the help that the substance misuse team could give and 55% were in favour of having an incentivised substance-free living wing.

Preparation for release

- The number of prisoners who stated they have a key worker has increased to 84% this year compared with 65% and 71% in the previous 2 years.
- Just under half had spoken to their key worker in the previous two weeks and the same proportion said that they had had contact with their prison offender manager (POM) within 28 days of arriving at HMP Lindholme.
- This year, no respondents felt that they were fully prepared for release, compared with 42% last year, and a significant figure of 27% said they were completely unprepared.
- Once again, a high proportion of men (60%) stated that education was not preparing them adequately for release.

Annex B

'Violence' statistics

Category	Last year 2023-2024	This year 2024-2025
Assaults: prisoner on Prisoner	161	225
Assaults: prisoner on staff	105	141
Use of force	443	635
UTI (under the influence)	202	693
Self-harm	474	755
New ACCTs	167	284
Finds of illicit items	460	1033

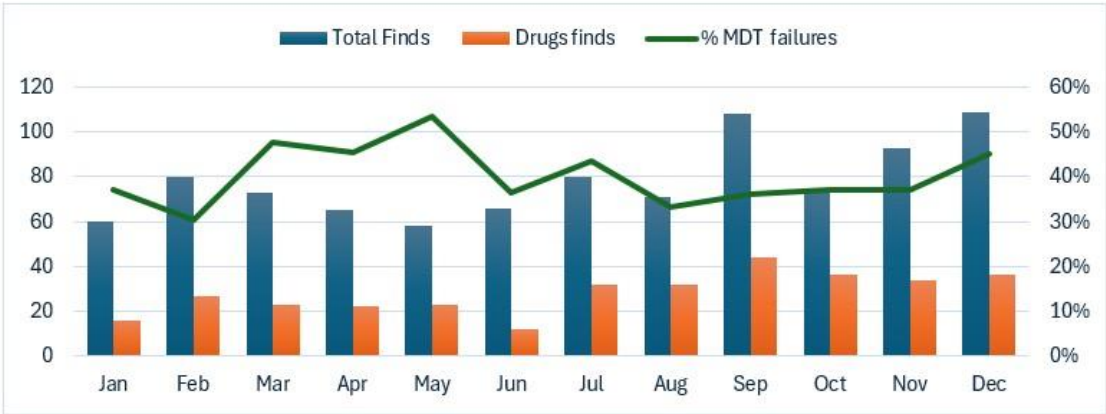
Annex C



ILLICIT ITEMS FINDS 2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Finds	60	80	73	65	58	66	80	71	108	75	93	109
Drugs finds	16	27	23	22	23	12	32	32	44	36	34	36
% MDT failures	37%	30%	48%	45%	53%	36%	44%	33%	36%	37%	37%	45%

MDT failures 16/43 13/43 19/40 20/44 23/43 16/44 17/39 15/45 17/47 20/45 17/46 11/23



Annex D

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Number of men placed in segregation unit	361	303
Average population in segregation unit	11	14
Number of men held in unit for more than 42 days	15	32
Number of IMB visits to men in segregation unit	52	61
Number of individual segregation reviews attended	252	217

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Number of men placed in segregation unit	361	303
Rule 53		15
GOOD		240
Rule 45A (own protection)		19
Cellular confinement		29

Annex E

Total number of complaints: 2089

Total number of complaints not answered on time: 180

Total number answered on time: 1909 (92%)

- Adjudications: 51
- Bullying: 5
- Canteen: 144
- Confidential: 96
- Education: 15
- Finance/cash: 42
- Food: 32
- Gym: 8
- Incentives scheme: 197
- Letters/censors: 28
- OASYS/offender management: 51
- Offending behaviour programmes: 7
- Other: 149
- Pre-release/release: 2
- Recategorisation: 61
- Property: 298
- Security: 75
- Residential: 261
- Staff: 179
- Transfer/allocation: 39
- Violence: 2
- Visits: 30
- Work: 119
- Magazines/newspapers: 3

Annex F

Transfer and release

Monthly figures for the reporting year	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
Total number of releases	18	13	16	10	6	7	7	17	32	15	16	15	172
HDC releases (Home detention curfew)	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	6	6	4	7	5	34
Prisoners released at CRD (Conditional Release Date)	6	1	1	2	3	0	0	5	17	4	1	4	44
ECSL releases (70 days prior to CRD)	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	N/A	6
Prisoners released at SED (Sentence End Date)	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	12
Prisoners released on parole direction	10	10	10	6	0	3	5	5	8	7	6	4	74
Total prisoners transferred to category C	60	24	14	48	50	29	31	9	7	5	9	9	295
Prisoners on category C resettlement transfer	48	0	12	37	34	23	18	0	0	0	0	0	172
Prisoners transferred to category D	19	13	12	14	11	12	10	25	8	23	13	11	171
TPRS category D transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	6
Category D waiting list	9	8	12	12	7	8	20	5	12	8	9	8	118
Number of prisoners in their resettlement window (10-24 months)	219	247	254	262	254	259	277	264	277	281	275	272	Avg - 262
Number of prisoners with 16 months or less to serve	157	175	157	148	141	170	228	225	214	230	236	244	Avg - 194



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at imb@justice.gov.uk