



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Ranby

**For reporting year
1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

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Introductory sections 1 – 3

1. Statutory role of the IMB

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

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

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

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

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

2. Description of the establishment

HMP Ranby is situated in north Nottinghamshire, midway between the towns of Worksop and Retford. Ranby is a category C male training prison (which holds those whose escape risk is considered low but who cannot be trusted in open conditions).

Since opening as a prison in 1972, Ranby has had its accommodation capacity regularly and significantly increased due to demand, including, most recently, in 2024, when further accommodation was built.

The certified normal accommodation, or CNA (the number of prisoners a prison can hold without being overcrowded), at HMP Ranby, as at the end of March 2025, was 1123¹, and its operational capacity, or OC (the maximum number of prisoners that can be held without serious risk to safety, security, good order and the proper running of the planned regime), was 1026. In March 2025, there were 118 prisoners under the age of 25.

The residential accommodation consists of eight house blocks. Located in the house blocks are the departments for the induction of new prisoners, resettlement, skills for life and safer custody. One house block has prisoners on an integrated drug treatment strategy (IDTS).

HMP Ranby has no hospital but has 24-hour healthcare cover on site. The single-story healthcare building accommodates other functioning departments such as the drug and alcohol recovery team (DART), IDTS, and the mandatory drug testing (MDT) team.

The care and separation unit (CSU), where prisoners are segregated, is in one of the older buildings in the establishment and comprises 16 single cells. Attached to the unit is a small, paved area that is used as an exercise yard and is contained by a high wall.

Education is allocated in two buildings, one of which holds the library and one the chaplaincy team. For prisoners in the CSU, there is in-cell learning and teachers visit them, as necessary.

The workshops in Ranby, which are run both by the prison and the education department, include: textiles; painting and decorating; woodwork; wood assembly; plastics; industrial cleaning; officers' mess; data input; laundry; powder coating; engineering; barbers; waste management; gardens; and building trades.

Physical exercise takes place in two buildings and the sports field. In one of the buildings, prisoners are instructed mainly on weights, and it is also where prisoners with physical disabilities are treated. Fitness equipment has been installed outside each house block.

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

- We noted in our annual report last year that there were a high number of prisoner-on-prisoner assaults. From our observations, we believe that the situation has not changed and that there is a high level of violence in the prison.
- Illicit substances are still entering the prison, despite extra searches being carried out on people coming into the establishment. The availability of illicit substances remains high.
- Drones are still being used to drop illicit items into the grounds and are a high risk to the establishment. Illegal packages thrown over the fence continue to be a problem from time to time. Dog handlers complete active dog sweeps/searches each morning.
- The care and separation unit has managed some very challenging prisoners during the reporting year, particularly regarding men with mental health issues. The long wait for prisoners to be transferred to more appropriate conditions has been a problem. The Board would like to commend the staff for their professionalism and care in very challenging situations.

Fair and humane treatment

- The Board has observed that, in the main, prisoners are treated fairly and humanely by staff at HMP Ranby. Staff relationships continue to be good in most cases.
- As reported last year, parts of the shower and toilet blocks in some areas are starting to look tired and shabby and need refurbishment.
- Bedbugs continue to be an ongoing problem. Staff have been trained to help to deal with this as much they can, but it is not an easy situation to eradicate.
- There continues to be problems relating to the transfer of prisoners' property, both whilst moving between prisons and moving between house blocks and spurs. This has caused frustration and anxiety among prisoners, leading to violence breaking out from time to time.
- Overcrowding continues to be a big issue in the prison.

Health and wellbeing

Care after Combat

- A long-established initiative that continues is the Care after Combat section, which supports ex-military veterans and their families in the justice system. A meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month. Men are invited to a quiet environment, separate to their custodial residential setting. A member of the Board has observed the meeting and found it to be most interesting and helpful to HMP Ranby's veterans.
- Many veterans face significant problems when reintegrating into civilian life, especially if they become involved with the justice system. The transition can be incredibly difficult, leading to mental health problems, lack of support and social isolation. HMP Ranby works with Care after Combat charity staff and volunteers to try to address these issues through personalised mentorship and comprehensive support services.

Progression and resettlement

- HMP is designated as a category C training prison for men, yet official figures obtained by the Board reveal that it is closer to a 60% training and a 40% resettlement establishment. Despite making representations to the Minister about this in our previous annual report, the situation remains largely unchanged.
- Ranby is still receiving large numbers of prisoners who have a very short time left to serve. This does not enable them to do any courses that are designed to enable their rehabilitation in the workplace or education. The Board does not believe the situation is likely to change soon.
- We echo the HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) report of an inspection that was carried out 10-20 February 2025, which stated that dedicating resources to house block 3 has helped with resettlement planning.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

- During the reporting year, the Board has been very aware, as have members of the public, that prisons are in dire straits regarding overcrowding. To this end, work has started on the infrastructure to enable two new house blocks to be built at HMP Ranby. The house blocks themselves were initially scheduled to be built and completed in 2025. The Board has since been advised that this has been put back until 2027. Could the Minister tell us why, when the prisons are crying out for extra accommodation, the building of much needed house blocks is being put on hold, especially as much of the infrastructure is in place?
- We advised the Minister in our report last year that prisoners have been constantly located in the CSU due to their complex and challenging behaviour and mental health issues. Why has the situation remained unchanged since our last report?
- Unavailability of courses can sometimes mean prisoners are unable to meet their sentence plan. How will the Minister address this problem?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

- The prison continues to be seriously overcrowded. We ask once again what steps will the Prison Service take to reduce the operational capacity of the prison?
- The churn of prisoners with a short time to serve on their sentences continues to be a problem within the prison. This situation continues to cause issues with resettlement and progression. We ask again what will the Prison Service do to address this problem?
- Once again, we note that the proportion of inexperienced staff has continued to rise. How does the Prison Service plan to improve the training of inexperienced staff?
- The level of illegal substances in the prison has remained high. What measures will the Prison Service take to tackle this situation?
- As highlighted in last year's report, the problem with prisoners' canteen continues. Although the prison has worked with suppliers to try to address the issue, there have still been too many instances reported to the Board regarding canteen items not being delivered in accordance with what has been ordered. The delays in refunds being issued have an adverse effect on the attitude and morale of the prisoners. It is apparent that the delay in many instances is unwarranted and is still a cause for concern, which can only be rectified by much better contract management at a higher level, in the Board's view. How will the Prison Service improve the situation?

- One of the biggest issues raised by prisoners is the loss of property. Belongings often seem to go missing during transfers from other establishments, resulting in a long wait for prisoners to be reunited with their property or, in some cases, the property is never ever located. Prisoners become unhappy and frustrated with the system. When property is finally deemed as lost, it would appear prisoners have difficulty in claiming compensation? How does the Prison Service plan to resolve this problem?

TO THE GOVERNOR

- Could the Governor advise the Board on what new incentives schemes are being put forward for prisoners in the next period of time?
- In recent months, the attendance of prisoners going to work has been much lower than expected. Can the Governor explain why this is the case and what the prison is proposing to do to improve the situation?
- The Board has been aware that there have been problems regarding reconciliation of the roll. This would indicate that the reconciliation process is still not robust enough. Could the Governor explain how the prison management is intending to rectify the situation?
- During the reporting year, prisoners have informed the Board that complaint forms, IMB complaint forms and IPCI ombudsman forms have not been available on the house blocks. We have brought this matter up with the wing Governors on several occasions and also with the Governor at our Board meetings, but little appears to have been done to rectify the problem. We would expect the IPCI forms to be readily available in their own area and not in the IMB boxes. Could the Governor explain what will be done to rectify the situation.

3.3 Response to the last report

Issue raised	Response given	Progress
To the Minister		
<p>Concern raised regarding cell sharing, which has not been alleviated during the reporting year. This has led to the build-up of tension within the establishment, which has led to difficulties in the management of house blocks for prison officers.</p> <p>We commented on the fact that Ranby is designated as a training prison in our last report. There continues to be a problem, as many of the prisoners at Ranby are not only resettlement prisoners but are on short sentences. The target figure, according to the Minister, was a mix of 65%</p>		<p>No appreciable difference. Cell sharing continues to be a big problem in the prison. The prison is still overcrowded and two people sharing cells designed for one person is common.</p> <p>This situation does not appear to have improved during the reporting year and is not helped by the number of prisoners coming into Ranby on short-term sentences.</p>

training and 34% resettlement.		
To the Prison Service		
<p>The prison continues to be overcrowded.</p> <p>The churn of prisoners on short-term prison sentences causes problems with resettlement and progression. Ranby is not a designated resettlement prison.</p> <p>The level of illegal substances coming into the prison remains high.</p> <p>Problems with prisoners' canteen [a facility where prisoners can buy snacks, toiletries and other items with their own money] and delays in refunds.</p> <p>Loss of property during transfers from other establishments and, to a lesser extent, transfers within the prison.</p>		<p>This situation has not improved.</p> <p>This situation continues and has been raised in our previous reports to the Minister. We have noted little or no improvement.</p> <p>We are reporting a similar situation this year, as we did last year.</p> <p>The prison is working hard with the canteen supplier to rectify this situation.</p> <p>This situation remains the same, although we appear to have received fewer complaints regarding loss during internal transfers.</p>

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

From the Board's observations, the arrival of prisoners at reception was carried out efficiently and with care during the reporting year. All the relevant checks and processes were in place to enable prisoners to be passed through the system quickly and efficiently.

All prisoners arriving at Ranby go through an induction process. Some issues are still arising with property being lost between prison transfers, as well as during cell clearances once in the prison.

4.2 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

There were four deaths in custody during the reporting year.

Incidents of self-harm from 1 April 2024 to February 2025 were as follows:

Apr 24	May 24	June 24	July 24	Aug 24	Sept 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Total
52	77	53	53	49	39	36	40	47	44	43	533

Assessment, care in custody and teamwork (ACCT) plans (used to support prisoners at risk of self-harm and suicide) opened from 1 April 2024 to February 2025, as follows:

Apr 24	May 24	June 24	July 24	Aug 24	Sept 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Total
16	29	17	25	17	14	27	18	24	18	20	225

Board members routinely check ACCT documents when visiting house blocks or in the CSU.

4.3 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

Prisoner assaults on staff from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025:

Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Total
8	2	6	12	9	7	8	7	5	10	8	-	82

Prisoner-on-prisoner assaults from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25		Total
12	24	20	43	24	19	33	22	24	15	29		265

The Board would like to thank the safer custody team for their help and co-operation during the reporting year.

4.4 Use of force

Statistics on the use of force include percentages of the different minority ethnic and religious groups, and any anomalies are investigated. Monthly and quarterly senior management team (SMT) meetings discuss all incidents of force and those of self-harm.

A member of the Board observes these meetings when they are able. The Board also receive the minutes of the meetings.

4.5 Preventing illicit items

Anyone coming into the prison, including staff, is rigorously searched and their property scanned to discourage illicit items being smuggled into the establishment. The Board believes that this has been an active deterrent, which has resulted in significant finds during the reporting year. However, illicit items, including drugs, continue to be a problem.

Whilst the priority is to reduce demand, efforts are constantly being made to reduce supply. All mail is scanned (as drugs can be impregnated in paper), and sniffer dogs are used. Once again, during the reporting year, there have been illicit substances finds, purporting to come through lawyers. Prisoners report to the Board that some Rule 39 mail (confidential legal correspondence) has been opened by prison staff before it reaches the prisoner, even though this is not allowed. We are aware of the need for this, due to intelligence received, but prisoners do get angry. The Board has found that many prisoners do not understand the difference between Rule 39 mail and ordinary mail.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

After almost a year out of service, the laundry is now up and running once more. The Board has observed that prisoners seem to enjoy working in the laundry and staff report very few problems with the workforce.

As reported in our last report, furniture and fittings in some of the house blocks are looking shabby and in need of refurbishment but are fit for purpose. Little appears to have been done to address this situation.

From the Board's observations, the wing cleaners do a good job of keeping their designated areas clean and tidy.

The exterior areas around the larger house blocks are often strewn with debris and rubbish, which prisoners throw out of their windows. This encourages rats and vermin to flourish and leaves the area looking very scruffy and untidy.

Bedbugs continue to be an ongoing problem. Cells are taken out of use to deal with the situation as it arises. It has become a bigger problem this year, due to the acute shortage of cells which, in turn, affects the number of prisoners the establishment can take.

There have been complaints regarding washing machines being taken out of service for repairs, although the prison does try to attend to this in as timely a manner as they are able.

Fire safety checks and drills are carried out regularly. This procedure is part of the staff induction courses.

The Board rarely receive any complaints from prisoners about the food.

5.2 Segregation

The segregation unit, or care and separation unit (CSU), has a total capacity for 15 prisoners, with one constant-watch cell.

The Board continues to observe generally very good staff and prisoner relationships. It has been a challenging year for staff, due to prisoners being housed in the unit whilst awaiting transfer to mental health facilities. We believe this process is still taking far too long to facilitate, which puts a lot of strain on staff.

The CSU is regularly visited by staff from the healthcare and mental health units, as well as by the chaplaincy team, the IMB and the Duty Governor.

Roll has fluctuated throughout the reporting year and has, at times, been as low as 3-4, while at full capacity during other periods.

Prisoners are housed in the CSU for a variety of reasons, including security, their own interest and cellular confinement, as well as for 'bed blocking' (refusing to share a cell).

The Board would like to acknowledge the professional and caring approach witnessed by staff towards prisoners in some very challenging situations.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

We reported last year that Ranby has had several new young officers appointed who, despite comprehensive training, lacked the necessary skills to deal with older or vulnerable prisoners.

This situation has continued into the reporting period and has been exacerbated by officers joining the Prison Service, undergoing training then, on taking up their full-time job in the prison, finding that the role is not for them for a variety of reasons.

The Board believes that many younger officers being recruited do not possess the life skills necessary to deal with vulnerable prisoners or those with challenging behaviour. Prisoners have repeatedly reported to the Board that these young members of staff do not have the empathy or experience when dealing with men who come to them with problems.

As reported last year, the situation with key workers being pulled from their designated key worker duties has continued into this reporting year. The key workers report to the Board that this situation affects their ability to allocate time to their key worker duties. We are advised that this situation arises because of staff shortages.

From our observations, in the main, most prison officers have good working relationships with prisoners. Their concerns appear to be listened to and acted on in a timely manner.

5.4 Equality and diversity

Equality and diversity sections are overseen by a full-time diversity manager and support staff. There were 65 discrimination incident reporting forms (DIRFs) completed by prisoners and staff during the reporting year.

Month	No. of DIRFs raised	Religion/ belief	Disability	Sexual orientation	Race
April 2024	3	0	0	1	2
May 2024	1	0	0	0	1
June 2024	3	0	1	0	2
July 2024	1	0	0	0	1
August 2024	4	1	0	0	3
September 2024	2	0	0	0	2
October 2024	7	0	2	0	5
November 2024	1	0	1	0	0
December 2024	7	1	2	0	4
January 2025	2	0	0	0	2
February 2025	2	0	1	0	0
Total	33	2	7	1	22

Although DIRFs were raised and considered for application, not all were deemed to be

actual DIRFs, and the prisoners were then advised to explore alternative avenues to address their issues.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

The chaplaincy team at HMP Ranby is staffed by members from a variety of faiths, including Church of England, Roman Catholic, Free Church, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Jehovah's Witness, Paganism, Rastafarian and Quaker.

In the view of the Board, the chaplaincy is well run and caring. The prisoners report that there is a good atmosphere. A variety of regular services and festivals, as well as faith courses and studies, are run.

The problems reported last year regarding unlocking prisoners in time to attend services has continued to be patchy. Although the Governor has adjusted attendance times to try to alleviate the problem, there has been little improvement and we will continue to observe the situation.

Members of the IMB are welcomed by the chaplaincy team, and both staff and prisoners in the department are happy to talk to the IMB.

5.6 Incentives schemes

We have received very little information about this area during the reporting year but will continue to monitor the situation.

5.7 Complaints

The offender management unit (OMU) always seem to be under pressure. Prisoners constantly complain that it is very difficult to see their offender manager. From our observations, the situation does not seem to have altered since our last report.

The situation regarding the complaints department appears to have hugely improved during the reporting year. The Board has received few complaints from prisoners that they have not received replies to their complaints to the prison in a timely manner.

The department is always busy. As well as dealing with complaints, the clerk also doubles up as clerk to the IMB. The Board wishes to commend the two members of staff for their courtesy, professional and cheerful assistance when IMB approach them with queries. No matter how busy they are with other work, they always make time to deal with our requests.

Number of complaints received from April 2024 to March 2025

April 2024	346
May 2024	285
June 2024	316
July 2024	373
Aug 2024	168
Sept 2024	160
Oct 2024	176
Nov 2024	173
Dec 2024	160
Jan 2025	232
Feb 2025	297
March 2025	317
Total	3003

5.8 Property

Very little has changed regarding property during the reporting year. The Board continues to receive numerous complaints. The management of prisoners' property during transfer has been reported by the Board as being unsatisfactory over recent years. The trend has continued.

Property is not being tracked efficiently on prison transfers which, in turn, is still leading to instances of items being lost. This issue continues to cause distress and frustration to many transferees into the prison which, in turn, gives rise to anger and frustration to those affected. In several instances, this has led to breaches of discipline, which staff on the wings must then deal with.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

Due to patient confidentiality, Board members are very limited as to the enquiries they pursue. We have found that it is often difficult to engage with staff, even when prisoners have given us written permission to pursue complaints on their behalf.

Healthcare does not seem to have enough staff, which has led to the IMB receiving several complaints from prisoners who say their complaints are either not replied to or are not replied to in a timely manner. In this regard little has changed since last year. This has been very frustrating for prisoners, some of whom have become very upset when their treatment has not gone as they perceive it should.

6.2 Physical healthcare

On arrival at the prison, all prisoners are seen by the healthcare team at the point of reception and are subject to a full and comprehensive screening, which should identify any needs. This includes physical, mental and substance-misuse treatment needs. Any relevant referrals are actioned at this point. Prisoners' health records are received via email and medications are received at the time of prisoner transfer.

In addition to a GP service, the healthcare centre also provides dentistry, optometry, podiatry, physiotherapy and pharmacy services. Waiting times are monitored to ensure compliance with key performance indicators and all prescriptions are ordered via an external pharmacy, which include those that are both urgent and routine.

The healthcare centre provides fully functional clinic rooms that offer privacy and dignity for all consultations. It has been reported to us that staffing levels continue to be a problem due, in part, to the length of time taken for an applicant to be security vetted.

6.3 Mental health

The role of the mental health matron is part of the integrated healthcare team. They are supported by an experienced mental healthcare team, which should provide care for relevant individuals within a reasonable timeframe.

The mental health team also provides input at ACCT reviews and segregation reviews.

Unfortunately, there appear to be very long waiting times, more than 28 days, for the transfer of prisoners to appropriate mental health facilities. During the reporting year, 12 prisoners were sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

We are advised that delays are dependent on the area that the prisoner has been referred to. Out-of-area referrals tend to be difficult, as there isn't a central referral process, with each area having a different one. It has been found that Nottinghamshire referrals are quicker, as they go directly to the IMPACT (Improved Pathways and Community Teams) team. Delays also occur if there are no beds, as pressure on beds in mental health hospitals is increasing.

6.4 Time out of cell, regime

The policy for each prisoner is that they attend the gym for a 1.25-hour session three times a week. There is a rota for each house block, which is available for prisoners to read on their in-cell laptop.

There are two gyms: gym 1 has six members of staff, which includes two members seconded from other establishments. Recruitment for more gym instructors is in progress, but we are informed that this process is likely to be lengthy.

Gym 2 is now sometimes used for remedial sessions, but these are only generally available for one session per prisoner, per week.

Feedback from prisoners regarding the gym is positive and there is always a big demand for sessions.

6.5 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

The Board is pleased to report that work on the house block dedicated to drug and alcohol rehabilitation appear to be continuing to go well. Prisoners are very keen to be transferred to this house block whenever a place becomes available. From the Board's observations throughout the reporting year, the staff working on this house block are dedicated and professional. Prisoners appear to have an excellent relationship with them. Prisoners report that staff communicate well with them, treat them with respect and that they enjoy living there.

During the reporting year, there were reports of the brewing of illicit alcohol in the prison, which occurs from time to time.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

All prisoners attend an induction, which is undertaken in the education unit within the first two weeks of arriving at HMP Ranby. The inductions are carried out over two sessions. The first session is to complete any relevant screening of maths, English, learning difficulties or disabilities (LDD) and reading. The second is for them to learn about the offer of education and work in the prison and to complete a pathway and a personal learning plan (PLP) with the information, advice and guidance (IAG) service. During this session they go to the library for their library induction.

Prisoners are taught in either classroom or workshop settings, or one-to-one in outreach. Support is offered to neurodivergent learners. The prison's outreach team supports learners who are not comfortable in the classroom to help them transition.

The following courses are provided by the education unit:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Functional skills, maths: | Entry level 1 – Level 2 |
| • Functional skills, English: | Entry Level 2 |
| • Essential digital skills: | Entry 1 – Entry 3 |
| • Business: | Entry 2 – Level 2 |
| • Art: | Level 1 – Level 2 |
| • Painting and decorating: | Level 1 – Level 3 |
| • Plumbing: | Level 1 – Level 2 |
| • Multi-skills: | Level 1 |
| • Joinery: | Level 1 |
| • Horticulture: | Level 1 |
| • Tickets: | Level 2 |
| • Catering/Mess: | Level 1 – Level 2 |
| • Cookery: | Entry 3 |
| • Food safety: | Level 2 |
| • Drugs, alcohol, conflict (OMU) | Referral course: Level 1 |
| • Digital graphics: | Level 2 |
| • Monitoring: | Level 3 |
| • Safeguarding: | Level 2 |
| • Variety of LDD units delivered in mentoring course: | Level 2 |
| • Barbering: | Level 2 – Level 3 |
| • Outreach: | Maths and English |
| • Business: | Set-up course |
| • Bricklaying: | To start soon |

The library service is run by Suffolk Libraries, which is subcontracted by People Plus. The library is well used and is popular with prisoners. There is a good quantity of books of all genres, which appear to be in good condition. The librarians appear to be knowledgeable and interact well with prisoners. Very few complaints have been received by IMB regarding this service.

7.2 Vocational training, work

A large section of the prison is designated for the workshops. New jobs are being created to enable more prisoners to work full time. Prisoners inform us that they would prefer to

be working full time from a social point of view and, also, they can earn more by working in full-time employment.

In recent months, the Board has observed a reluctance in several prisoners to attend work. Attendance of late has been much lower than expected.

It is still not clear how the prison is going to develop its role as a training prison when many of the prisoners have short-term sentences, so do not have sufficient time to complete any courses.

7.3 Offender management, progression

Prisoners frequently complain that they do not know who their offender manager (POM) is. Also, difficulties have arisen during the reporting year when they have been unable to get an appointment to see their offender manager.

7.4 Family contact

The Board receives very few complaints or comments regarding family social visits, so we can only assume that visits continue to go smoothly.

7.5 Resettlement planning

As a result of the decision to release prisoners early, due to lack of places in the prison estate, the resettlement department worked very hard to process the prisoners selected to be released in September 2024 and October 2024.

Little has changed since our last report regarding providing accommodation to prisoners leaving the prison. There are just not enough places for people who require them. The early release scheme has exacerbated this situation.

Resettlement staff raise a referral form, which is a risk assessment, with all the prisoner's history. Once again, it has been noted that prisoners tend to blame the resettlement team for not being able to provide accommodation for them in the areas they would prefer to live on release.

The resettlement staff inform us that landlords can be much more choosy when selecting people for their accommodation, as housing is very scarce. The local council (in theory) should be able to assist with emergency accommodation, but in practice this rarely appears to happen.

8. The work of the IMB

Board statistics

The Board has had a difficult year regarding our monitoring duties. We are operating with a quarter of the compliment of Board members.

To carry out our duties, we have had to focus on areas that require attention. Despite this, we have managed to maintain regular weekly visits to the prison, covering important areas like the care and separation unit, where prisoners are segregated, segregation reviews and prisoner applications. We have observed other routine prison meetings when a member is available.

Recommended complement of Board members	16
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	4
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	5
Total number of visits to the establishment	203

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	24	14
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives schemes, sanctions	13	4
C	Equality	3	3
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	13	13
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	11	8
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	7	12
F	Food and kitchens	1	0
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	26	46
H1	Property within the establishment	25	16
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	39	39
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	23	12
I	Sentence management, including HDC (home detention curfew), ROTL (release on temporary licence), parole, release dates, recategorisation	33	30
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	4	54
K	Transfers	7	9
L	Miscellaneous	0	0
	Total number of applications	229	260



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