



Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Stafford

**For reporting year
1 May 2024 – 30 April 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

Located at the edge of Stafford town centre, during the period of this report HMP Stafford

- was one of the oldest fully operational prisons in England and included several Grade II listed buildings
- was a category (cat) C training prison
- was for people (men) convicted of sexual offences
- had a certified operational capacity of 753 prisoners¹

The prison included seven residential wings with most cells accommodating two prisoners. Each wing had in-cell sanitation and a shower block. Except for four cells in B wing, in-cell showers were only available in the newest wing (G). One wing (D) was used for induction, and the Care and Separation Unit (CSU). G wing also accommodated the Specialist Care Unit (SCU) is an 8 bed unit utilised regionally for prisoners who require rehabilitation and palliative care.

The outside environment was exceptionally clean and tidy, and provided exercise yards, an Astroturf pitch, well-tended flower beds and garden areas and beehives. Some areas were decorated by prisoner painted murals.

During the reporting period, the senior support group's (SSG) portacabin which offered indoor and outdoor facilities for older prisoners was relocated. The new facility was shared with Lifers and imprisonment for public protection (IPP) prisoners and a support group for younger prisoners. It was agreed that the three groups would access the facilities at separate times due to their differing needs. Unfortunately, the relocation of the SSG did result in the loss of access to outdoor space and the new area lacked any natural light. The new facility is larger and has enabled a greater number of prisoners to spend time out of their cell.

Significant workshop space was provided for employment.

Fulford's Bistro provided catering for staff and visitors and was staffed and managed by prisoners, enabling them to obtain catering qualifications.

Unity 7 supplied refreshments for prisoners, Barista training courses, a charity shop and meeting place for many clubs. The facility enabled prisoners to become familiar with cashless payment systems.

Within the establishment many voluntary organisations supported the prisoners, including Samaritans (prisoner support and training for Listeners), Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT), who run the visitors' centre, Lincolnshire Action Trust (resettlement), the Shannon Trust reading plan 'Turning Pages' and chaplaincy volunteers, including official prison visitors.

¹ Figures included in this report were local management information. They reflected the prison's position at the time of reporting but may be subject to change following further validation. Therefore, they may not always tally with official statistics later published by the Ministry of Justice.

3. Key points

3.1 Main findings

Safety

- Compared to other similar establishments, HMP Stafford remained a low risk, generally safe prison. This was to be commended and reflected the hard work of the prison staff and the fact that men convicted of a sexual offence told the Board during monitoring visits that they felt safer when housed in a prison designated specifically for such prisoners.

Fair and humane treatment

- During the reporting period the IMB were not made aware of any major concerns regarding the fair and humane treatment of prisoners.
- The prison held quarterly equality diversity and inclusion (EDI) meetings which included data collected from all 13 strands. The meetings were attended by the Governor and other members of the senior leadership team (SLT) as well as prisoner representatives.
- The CSU at HMP Stafford had only three cells and these were rarely all in use. The majority of prisoners spent only a short period of time in the CSU and were returned to the wings as soon as possible.
- The main ongoing concern was the continued presence of legionella in the prison water system, which is well documented below and in section 5.1.
- Whilst there is still some work to be done in relation to prisoners' access to keyworker sessions, this had significantly improved over the last year and the Governor and her SLT were committed to improving access further over the coming months.

Health and wellbeing

- HMP Stafford houses a higher than average number of elderly prisoners, which has resulted in large numbers of prescription medications having to be managed and dispensed. It also resulted in significant numbers of prisoners requiring escorts to hospital appointments and/or emergency care. The prison has a dedicated complex care/end of life unit. In the Board's view, the standard of healthcare was acceptable.
- HMP Stafford has an ongoing issue (over two years) with legionella in the water supply. This regularly resulted in shower blocks having to be closed whilst efforts were made to treat it. The Governor and staff at the prison continued to make every effort to manage this risk and preserve the dignity of the prisoners. However, the Board has been advised that there is insufficient capital funding available to provide a permanent solution to this issue.

Progression and resettlement

- The majority of prisoners participated in the Building Choices programme, a cognitive-behavioural programme, which enabled prisoners to develop skills for change as part of their sentence planning and preparation for release.
- Although there were a number of employment opportunities for prisoners at HMP Stafford, prisoners can often face additional challenges in securing employment due to the nature of their offences.
- The Board remained concerned that whilst HMP Stafford is not designated or funded as a resettlement prison, significant numbers of prisoners are released directly. The Board wishes to commend the hard work of the resettlement team in preparing prisoners for release and securing suitable accommodation, despite these limitations.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

- I. The longstanding and ongoing issues with legionella in the prison places all prisoners, particularly the elderly and vulnerable prisoners at increased risk of health problems. Whilst the Governor and senior leadership team continue to do their utmost to manage this risk, the IMB feel a permanent solution is long overdue. Can the minister identify and authorise capital funding to address this long-standing issue?
- II. The Board recognises the Minister's previous and well documented support for securing post release employment for large numbers of prison leavers. It is acknowledged that prisoners leaving HMP Stafford can face additional challenges due to their offending history. How does the Minister plan to address this issue in order to give the prisoners released from HMP Stafford a better chance of successfully reintegrating into society and thereby reduce their risk of reoffending?
- III. At present prisoners convicted of sexual offences (PCoSOs) are unable to be considered for release on temporary licence (ROTL). This national policy negatively impacts on prisoners at HMP Stafford from integrating into society and finding suitable employment prior to release. Would the Minister consider commissioning a review of the ROTL national policy and its application to PCoSOs?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

- I. As HMP Stafford is currently one of, if not, the oldest fully functioning prison in England and much of its infrastructure does not meet modern standards, will the Prison Service allocate additional funding to enable the facilities to better meet the needs of its prisoners?

TO THE GOVERNOR

- I. The recent relocation of the SSG from the portacabin has resulted in the loss of access to outside space and the absence of adequate natural light in the new facility. How will the Governor address the reduction in facilities allocated to older prisoners?

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1 Reception and induction

The prison had an active and dedicated team of trusted prisoners, 'Insiders', whose role it was to welcome new arrivals and ensure they were given a tour of the prison, made aware of how the prison operated and clarified the expectations around behaviour. They ensured that new arrivals settled into the induction wing and remained available to answer any queries that arose during the first few weeks.

The Insiders request all new arrivals at HMP Stafford complete an anonymous questionnaire about their experience. The overall feedback from the Insiders, and the prisoner questionnaire, was overwhelmingly positive. This was supported by feedback obtained during Board monitoring visits and discussion with prisoners who explained that they felt much safer in HMP Stafford when compared to other establishments. However, prisoners consistently fed back that although HMP Stafford was a category C prison, it felt more like a category B due to its age and infrastructure.

4.2 Ongoing prisoner support

HMP Stafford has a well-developed system of designated Listeners, prisoners who received training from the Samaritans and who provided support and guidance to other prisoners about a range of issues including mental health, family, bereavement, prison regime, problems with other prisoners and staff. Listeners dealt with approximately 85% of prisoner calls, with prison staff dealing with the remaining calls.

4.3 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

During the reporting period there were 11 deaths in custody. 10 deaths were expected or due to natural causes and one was self-inflicted. Given the age demographic of prisoners, this appears to be a low number of deaths and in the Board's opinion, reflects the quality of care provided to the prisoners by the healthcare team.

There were 66 incidents of self-harm during the reporting year. It is positive that levels of self-harm amongst prisoners who transfer to HMP Stafford noticeably reduce.

4.4 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

During the reporting period there were 17 recorded assaults and all involved prisoners alone. There were no reported incidents involving assaults on prison staff. The Board notes that this is an extremely low number when compared to other similar establishments. From the Board's observations, it reflects both the excellent prisoner/officer relationships and that the majority of prisoners with whom the Board has spoken experience a feeling of safety and lack of fear when located in a prison dedicated specifically to managing those convicted of a sexual offence.

4.5 Use of force (UoF)

During the reporting period there were 30 UoF incidents. 16 incidents involved the use of cuffs, but no incidents required the use of batons or PAVA (an incapacitant spray, similar to pepper spray). Of the 30 UoF incidents, 19 were unplanned.

The two main reasons UoF was required were threatening and abusive behaviour (seven incidents) and refusal to relocate/comply (nine incidents). The Board was reassured that the number of UoF incidents recorded remains low when compared to other similar sized establishments. It is especially commendable that the use of PAVA and batons is nil.

4.6 Preventing illicit items

Like most other establishments, HMP Stafford did have illicit items 'smuggled' into the prison; however, the numbers remained relatively low. The reception area has a body scanning machine which can be used to identify possible concealments of illicit drugs, mobile phones or similar items when new arrivals are being processed. The security team also acted on intelligence reports and undertook cell searches as required.

Random testing for illicit substances was undertaken but positive tests were very low at around 1%. The prison has developed a more rehabilitative approach to substance misuse for those willing to engage, which involves a community payback option.

The latest HMIP inspection did identify an increase in alcohol availability, which the Board will monitor.

4.7 Safeguarding monitoring/management

The Board considers HMP Stafford to be a generally safe prison. This is underpinned by mechanisms and processes that provide ongoing assessment and actions to identify and support vulnerable prisoners including; safety intervention meetings (SIM); challenge, support and intervention plans (CSIPs, used to support and manage prisoners who pose an increased risk of violence); and Assessment Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCTs, used to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm and suicide).

Monthly safer custody meetings provided analysis of safeguarding issues to inform policy. Analysis provided at the meeting helps to identify trends relating to prisoner demography, diversity strands and specific prison locations. 'Insiders' (prisoners who are trusted to guide and support new prisoners) and Listeners (prisoners trained by the Samaritans to provide confidential emotional support to fellow prisoners) representatives attended these meetings and provided update reports.

The summary above is supported by the data in the table below:

	Self-harm	ACCT	Adjudication	Death in custo dy	Assaults	Use of force
TOTALS						
2024/25	66	107	439	11	17	30
2023/24	131	160	671	5	12	57
2022/23	105	150	450	12	24	81

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

The establishment was observed to be kept very clean, tidy, and fresh looking, which for one of the oldest operational prisons in England is remarkable and testament to the hard work of both prisoners and officers.

There were concerns regarding the condition of some of the roadways within the prison and how these could impact the health and safety of prisoners, particularly those with mobility issues, including wheelchair users. Some improvement works have been completed but further works remain outstanding.

Legionella was an ongoing concern across the establishment with showers being out of commission as testing and flushing works were undertaken. Despite these inconveniences, prison staff worked hard to maintain prisoners' dignity and access to shower facilities. The Board acknowledges that without significant investment, issues with legionella will be ongoing.

The installation of in-cell phones in 2024 was well received by prisoners and resulted in reduced queues on the wings for telephones.

The Unity 7 charity shop provided prisoners with access to clothing and raised over £10,000 for charity.

The quality and choice of food was generally praised by prisoners. With a daily budget of only £3.09 per prisoner, recent inflationary increases in food have impacted on the range of foods available. However, the Board remains impressed at the ability of the catering manager and her team to provide menus that catered for a variety of dietary needs and celebratory one-off events.

5.2 Segregation

HMP Stafford's care and separation unit (CSU) was small and contained only three cells, which reflected the overall safety and good behaviour of the prisoners. It was extremely rare for all three cells to be in use at the same time. The CSU was used on 52 occasions with an average stay of 7.5 days, the single longest stay being 22 days. This was an increase on the previous year and something the Board will continue to monitor.

Whilst the prison did notify the Board when prisoners had been transferred to the CSU, communication was inconsistent. This was the same when notifying the Board about a Rule 45 hearing (to consider whether to authorise continued segregation) and negatively impacted the Board's ability to attend all hearings.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

The Board had access to daily numbers of targeted keyworker sessions and outcomes. Evidence showed 96% of prisoners knew their keyworker and 70% of planned sessions were delivered. There was a focus from management to increase the number and quality of sessions. Where performance declined, it was usually due to reduced staffing levels as a result of unplanned events such as hospital visit escorts.

5.4 Equality and diversity

The Board was pleased to note the ongoing commitment to equality diversity and inclusion (EDI) from the Governor and senior leadership team (SLT). A quarterly EDI meeting was held and attended by the Governor and other senior leaders from across the prison with EDI prisoner representatives also in attendance.

Monthly EDI data was collated across all 13 strands (e.g. disability), which allowed trends to be monitored. Each strand had a lead from within the prison, who was supported by prisoner representatives who had the opportunity to attend forum meetings.

There were 97 discrimination incident reporting form (DIRF) submissions during the year with concerns related to disability (30) and ethnicity (27) being the most commonly raised issues. 33% of DIRFs were upheld during the reporting period, with 20 cases being withdrawn.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

Prisoners of HMP Stafford were well supported by members of the chaplaincy team, with many events held within the chapel and mosque and key religious festivals observed and celebrated. There were numerous examples of chaplaincy members providing individual support to prisoners, for example, during a time of bereavement.

5.6 Complaints

During the reporting period there were 1,439 complaints, which included Comp1 (initial complaint), Comp1a (appeal to the response provided against the initial complaint) and Comp2 (confidential complaint). This was 254 less than the 1,693 complaints received in the previous year. Of the 1,439 complaints, 455 (31.6%) were upheld by the establishment.

Once again, the Board wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the staff in ensuring that an effective system for tracking complaints was in place. The Board often needed to review specific complaints and the details of these were provided swiftly which enabled the Board to communicate promptly with the prisoner. The Board was satisfied that the responses to the complaints were answered in a polite and timely manner.

5.7 Property

The number of applications (prisoners' written representations to the IMB) received regarding property issues reduced to 14.7% (25 applications) from 21.2% (32 applications) in the previous year. Items which went missing whilst in the prison were often traceable with help from the reception staff, despite a manual recording system being in place. There was less success for the Board in tracking down items which had gone missing during a prisoner transfer.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

The prison facilitates a wide range of in-house healthcare services including GP, dental treatment, chiropody, audiology etc. There were also video links between the prison and local hospitals for some consultations which helped to minimise the number of hospital visits the prison needed to manage. Many prisoners stated they appreciated the access to healthcare services within the prison.

During the reporting year a review of medications was undertaken by the healthcare department with particular focus on addictive medications. This was in line with national guidance provided to GPs in the wider community. The review resulted in a short-term increase in applications relating to withdrawal or changes to prisoners' medications. These applications have now stopped, supporting the Board's belief that this was a temporary reaction to a change that was in the long-term health interest of the prisoners.

6.2 Physical healthcare

The prison utilised an excellent team of prisoner health champions who were trained to provide support and encouragement to other prisoners on a range of issues, including weight loss and healthy eating. The health champions supported the healthcare clinics by carrying out administrative duties and taking and recording prisoners' blood pressure, pulse etc. The team were well trained and supported and the Board felt they provided a positive contribution to the prisoners' health and wellbeing.

The gym offered regular sessions for the prisoners and benefitted from a range of facilities including an astroturf pitch, weights and cardiovascular equipment. A room was available for use by neurodiverse prisoners, who could participate in meditation and wellbeing classes.

6.3 Mental health

The prison offered a range of activities which appeared to have a very positive impact on the health and wellbeing of prisoners. The Jail Arts and Music Society (JAMS) was an initiative developed by prisoners and used mentors to support prisoners to learn to play a musical instrument or take part in a choir. JAMS members demonstrated their skills by performing at various events in the prison during the year.

The Board observed the workshop instructors adopting an awareness of and sensitivity to prisoners' mental health needs. The RESTART (Reintegrating Environment Striving to Achieve Results Together) scheme was successful in encouraging prisoners who were initially reluctant to cooperate with the prison, progressing to become peer mentors in other areas of prison.

6.4 Social care

Some prisoners were in receipt of a comprehensive care plan. Thirteen prisoner carers provided peer support for those with social care needs, such as bedding

changes, cell cleaning, transfer to other areas of the prison and collection of meals. The Board considered the provision of social care to be satisfactory.

6.5 Time out of cell, regime

Due to staffing levels there were times throughout the reporting period when prisoners were locked in their cells and did not receive their recreation time. During such periods, prisoners had access to in cell TVs and DVD players, reading materials, activity packs and in cell telephones. The Board acknowledges that HMP Stafford's overall regime was positive, with a focus on allowing prisoners as much time out of their cell as was possible to manage safely.

The senior support group (SSG) is a group that allows retired prisoners a space to meet and enjoy a range of activities including craft and card making. It was well used and offered a positive regime for older prisoners. During the reporting period, the SSGs portacabin which offered both indoor and outdoor facilities was relocated. The new facility was shared with Lifers and imprisonment for public protection (IPP) prisoners and a support group for younger prisoners. It was agreed that the three groups would access the facilities at separate times due to their differing needs. Unfortunately, the relocation of the SSG did result in the loss of access to outdoor space and the new area lacked any natural light. The Board will monitor the impact on all three groups of the decision to move this facility.

The gardens at HMP Stafford were maintained to an incredibly high standard by the prisoner gardening team and provided a place for prisoners to meet, read and enjoy the outdoor space.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

The Board acknowledges one of the recommendations of the Report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons who carried out an inspection on 19th November to 5th December 2024 that 'Recent gaps in the mental health and psychosocial substance misuse service leadership had reduced oversight and had impacted service delivery. Patients under the care of mental health services waited for up to 34 weeks to access interventions, which was too long.' The Board are aware that this was partly due to the lead for mental health at HMP Stafford having to take a prolonged period of sickness absence.

A good substance misuse service was delivered by PPG for clinical care and inclusion and for psychosocial interventions as reported by HMIP in its recent inspection.

6.7 Soft skills

Soft skills development at HMP Stafford focused on providing prisoners with a more positive mindset during their time in prison and on the key skills they would require upon their release.

Workshop-based initiatives were deemed to be successful and provided prisoners with many of the skills necessary to assist with rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. This included supporting prisoners, particularly those on long sentences to gain experience with today's technology, including on-line banking and shopping, using email and navigating the NHS online appointments system. The IMB commends the education providers at HMP Stafford for developing 'dummy' online

systems which allowed prisoners to have experience of online services in a safe environment.

Prisoners reported that they were happy to be involved in workshops because it provided them with skills and a daily routine. Unfortunately access to some workplace schemes, such as bricklaying, was limited due to staff shortages.

Generally, staff engagement with prisoners at HMP Stafford was observed to be positive, with officers demonstrating a professional but supportive approach that promoted mutual respect.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

Novus, the main education contractor, continued to deliver an efficient service with positive outcomes. The focus during the reporting period was on monitoring prisoner progress through the use of both electronic individual learning plans (ILPs) and use of records in the prisons industries workshops (PIWs).

End of course surveys showed that over 94% of prisoners were very satisfied with their courses and 99% agreed that the lessons and training sessions supported their needs. 100% of learners felt that they received feedback which enabled them to know when they were doing well and where they needed to improve. The learning walks were used to improve practice and enrichment skills around employability.

All education and functional skills functional skills outreach peer mentors had been trained in facilitating the reading screener and this was used with all learners on education programmes and under the functional skills outreach provision. Progress was also recorded in purposeful activity booklets for wing workers, carers, and those attending the SSG.

The Shannon Trust and Storybook dads enhanced reading skills of targeted cohorts and added value to the promotion of family life.

The Board was disappointed to note that the library was unable to fully open due to staffing issues. This did improve during the reporting year as Staffordshire County Council was able to recruit new staff. Staff were supported by prison orderlies who helped prisoners to access the library and select suitable books.

The Rehabilitative Culture Inspire Awards 2024 took place in January 2025. This was an establishment wide awards event which allowed both staff and prisoners to be nominated for their contribution to the prison community.

Training and recognition of neurodiversity within the prison increased during the reporting year, with over a third of the prison having received training. Education mentors and neurodiversity champions received a basic neurodiversity awareness session and Staffordshire Dyslexia Association attended prison to deliver sessions on dyscalculia to the peer mentors.

The three most commonly recorded neurodiverse needs were dyslexia, learning difficulty and autism spectrum condition. The neurodiversity support manager produced detailed support plans for neurodivergent prisoners and the Board was pleased to note that of the 35 prisoners with support plans, all were accessing education, skills training or work.

7.2 Vocational training, work

Industries generated £225,404.57 during the reporting period from 20 separate commercial contracts. The Board was aware that HMP Stafford was one of only a few prisons that did generate income.

The Board acknowledged the tremendous outcomes achieved by both the staff and prisoners associated with the workshops, both in terms of income generation and education. Prisoners consistently raised the issue of low pay with the Board, which they believed fell well below the level of pay received at other prisons. When compared to prisons run by the private sector this would appear to be the case, despite a pay review and increase taking effect during the reporting period.

7.3 Offender management, progression

The majority of prisoners participated in the Building Choices programme as part of their sentence planning and preparation for release.

During the reporting period, Lifers and IPP prisoners expressed concerns that their regular meetings had reduced significantly. After this was raised with SLT the meetings were reinstated, although initial attendance at meetings was poor. Lifers and IPP prisoners also expressed concern that they were being denied access to the rehabilitation programmes such as Building Choices. It was explained that whilst this was not a deliberate measure, these programmes are undertaken when a prisoner is within their 'parole window' and it is difficult to define this for prisoners with no agreed release date. The Board will continue to monitor the impact of the prison regime on Lifers and IPP prisoners.

7.4 Family contact

The Board observed that the Visits Centre and experiences of visiting families continued to be good. This was enhanced by the family forum, which took place in the visits centre and enabled families to meet with the Governor and other members of the SLT. There was an ongoing issue with the central booking line, and the Governor sought to improve the arrangement by meeting directly with the booking line team and reported her findings back to the forum.

Families continued to be pleased with the activities organised for children who visited family members in the prison. This included regular family visits events aimed at prisoners who were permitted and wished to receive visits from their children and grandchildren.

Visit spaces were increased during the reporting period in response to requests from prisoners and their families. The Board recognise the importance of the visit centre and efforts by the prison to maintain family contact

A significant number of prisoners at HMP Stafford did not receive family visits or contact, and the prison established a regular event which allowed these prisoners to socialise with each other and enjoy activities, games and listen to the JAMS musicians. These regular events provided prisoners with additional time 'out of cell' and allowed them to experience something similar to a family visit. The Board attended one such event and spoke with prisoners who were overwhelmingly positive. The prison should be congratulated on establishing this initiative.

7.5 Resettlement planning

Although not resourced as a resettlement prison, HMP Stafford continued to release prisoners directly into the community. 103 prisoners were released during the reporting period, (down from 111 in the previous year). Of those released, all but ten

were released with access to accommodation and of those ten, five found accommodation on the day of release.

During the reporting period, 13 bank accounts were opened, 49 photo ID letters were issued and 96 Jobcentre Plus appointments were held. Sadly, the Probation Service contract for the debt advice service ended in June 2024 and so there were only seven debt advice appointments during the year. The Board recognised the difficulties prison discharges created, as HMP Stafford is not funded to provide this type of support to prisoners.

The Board acknowledged that prisoners leaving HMP Stafford could face additional challenges to gain employment due to their offending history. The prison had tried to forge links with various industries, but there had been limited success due to the reluctance of employers to recruit people convicted of a sexual offence. The Board recognised the reality of this situation and was keen to understand the Minister's suggestions as to how this situation could be improved. A review of the national release on temporary licence (ROTL) policy would be welcomed by the Board as it is not currently accessible by people convicted of a sexual offence.

8. The work of the IMB

Board statistics

Recommended complement of Board members	14
Number of Board members at the start of the reporting period	8
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	8
Total number of visits to the establishment	242

N.B. the 'Total number of visits to the establishment' listed above only reflects the visits made to the prison and relates to the amount of expenses claimed by Board members. This figure does not include the time spent by members at home making phone calls, responding to emails, and investigating applications.

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	3 (2.0%)	20 (11.76%)
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	3 (2.0%)	8 (4.70%)
C	Equality	6 (4.0%)	2 (1.17%)
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	8 (5.3%)	9 (5.29%)
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	21 (13.9%)	13 (7.64%)
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	6 (4.0%)	12 (7.05%)
F	Food and kitchens	4 (2.7%)	3 (1.76%)
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	26 (17.2%)	30 (17.64%)
H1	Property within the establishment	16 (10.6%)	15 (8.82%)
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	16 (10.6%)	10 (5.88%)
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	2 (1.3%)	3 (1.76%)
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	7 (4.6%)	8(4.70%)
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	11 (7.3%)	16 (9.41%)
K	Transfers	5 (3.3%)	3 (1.76%)
L	Miscellaneous	17 (11.3%)	18 (10.58%)
	Total number of applications	151	170

Annex A – List of service providers

- Physical health and social care provider - PPG
- Mental health provider - PPG: subcontracted to Inclusion and MPFT (Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) that together form an integrated mental health and substance misuse service
- Education services - Novus and Prospects Training
- Reading and numeracy support - Shannon Trust
- Library services - Staffordshire County Council
- Escort contractor - GEOAmey
- Canteen* - DHL
- Facilities management - Amey plc
- Visits management – PACT

[* Canteen – the equivalent of an external shop that exists outside of the prison, that prisoners can order from once a week for items such as toiletries]



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