

Brook House IRC Independent Monitoring Board

MEETING Wednesday 20th September 2017

Pre-board session dedicated to a) nominations for board officers 2018 b) preliminary discussion on Panorama programme. Hugh Ind, Director General of Immigration, attended this discussion for 25 minutes to talk about the detection of abusive officers and steps being taken by the HO in conjunction with G4S

IMB

Mary Molyneux(**MM**)
Gareth Jones (**GJ**)
Jackie Colbran (**JC**)
Elisabeth Markwick (**EM**)
Dick Weber (**DW**)
Louise Gledhill (**LG**)
Lui Hui (**LH**)
Jane Leech (**JL**)

Home Office

Paul Gasson (**PG**)
Simon Levett (**SL**)

G4S

Steve Skitt (**SS**)

Item 1 Apologies for absence / introductions Ben Saunders (**BS**) Joyce Turner (**JT**) Gilly Gajdatsy (**GG**) – Jane Leech (**JL**) (National Council) was welcomed to the meeting.

JC distributed an article regarding the Panorama investigation from “Criminal Law & Justice Weekly” for members’ information.

Item 2 Review Statutory Visit Reports Prior to minute taker’s arrival.

Item 3 Review of minutes of the 16 August 2017 meeting.

Rule 35 Reports As decided at the last meeting **JC** had taken up the two cases of concern with Alan Gibson at the July Chairs’ Forum who had passed this back to **PG** to investigate. **PG** advised that it was the Pre Departure Team who would have access to the details to be able to answer. He updated the board that following investigation the R35s should have been escalated to a higher level more promptly. He explained that the immigration team should chase a response if not received at the 48hour point (2 working days after receipt of R35) - **CLOSED**

F213 (report of injury to detainees) forms are not being completed. **ACTION SS to raise with the relevant teams.** **SS** advised that this issue has been raised with healthcare / DCMs and that in future the Oscar should raise with **SS** if Healthcare are not completing the required form – **CLOSED**

Rule 40 Paperwork – Item 7 previous minutes. It was raised and discussed whether IMB required / received all paperwork for R40 / 42. **DW** said all info is a/v in Security, where he accesses it for the AR. He prefers to use this source as numbers provided to the IMB do not correspond. It was decided to leave the current process in place for the present and monitor. **MM** raised whether UoF paperwork should be received in each case. It was agreed all U of F paperwork should be received but again it appeared this was not always the case.

LG – Suggested that there should be a section for U of F on the report template. It was agreed by the board therefore Lui to send out a draft.

ACTION (LH) To send out a draft report with a box for Use of Force incidents.

The board also discussed the possibility of sample checking UoF incidents on CCTV on their rota visits. The rota member would alert the incoming rota person of incidents which might be checked. **MM** suggested it might be the apparently more minor incidents that need reviewing. **ACTION – BOARD TO FOLLOW UP**

Item 4 Monthly Reports from Home Office and G4S

SS for G4S

SS discussed the recent BBC Panorama programme and advised on a number of points listed below:

1. Prior to the programme airing, pre emptive work had taken place within the centre to ensure there were no issues within Brook. Staff and detainees had been spoken to and letters distributed.
2. An investigation has been commissioned by G4S headed by Peter Small (HMP Rye Hill)
3. 10 staff were suspended with disciplinary meetings ongoing. 3 staff have been dismissed.
4. An action plan has been formulated in close conjunction with the Home Office. This was seen by the minister recently and is awaiting sign off. The plan includes short term and longer term goals.
5. Wing forums have been taking place on each wing weekly with G4S / HO present.
6. **SS / DW** (Debby Weston - HO) have been conducting walk rounds daily within the centre to receive detainees concerns and act upon them if required.

GJ enquired what the major concerns were. **SS** advised they appeared to be food and immigration casework, nothing out of the ordinary.

MM asked about the mixing of TSFNO's and immigration offenders with no criminal history. **SS** explained that due to operational capacity it was the only way Brook could operate as HO required Brook to be running at capacity the majority of the time. This results in the mix of detainees. **PG** explained the room sharing risk assessment carried out in Reception which is based on a number of factors, not only on if a detainee has a criminal history. Behaviour in custody was part of the wider picture as to where detainees were situated. **JC** had been told that Michelle Brown (G4S) had completed some work on behaviour in custody of ex-FNOs and non ex-FNOs and the breakdown of non-compliance was approximately 50 / 50.

JL suggested that apart from the suspended staff there could be other staff that agreed with the behaviour of suspended officers. How would G4S change this culture / ethos? **SS** advised that within the action plan there were points to address this issue. These include building more trust in the whistleblower system and also the use of bodyworn cameras by all officers that recorded continually, the info being downloaded at the end of each shift. **LH** asked how staff would be encouraged to whistle blow. **SS** advised that all staff would be receiving letters about speaking out and explaining the system is anonymous and run by a third party. **DW** asked if other stakeholders could / would use these bodyworn cameras. **SS** advised it was for each organisation to consider. The cameras have already been ordered.

SS also updated the board on the attempted escape of the three Albanian detainees across the kitchen roof and down into the inner perimeter area, where they were apprehended. **PG** updated that the PID system on the inner walls had activated which alerted officers to the attempt and led to a quick apprehension. This had been an improvement in Security following the previous escape. An investigation is underway as to further security measures.