

Dick Weber  
DPA (Home)  
DPA (Mobile)

Week Commencing: 8 May 2017  
Rota Visits: 10 and 11 May 2017

## 1. General Comments

I visited for three hours on the Wednesday which enabled me to get around the wings and check the Applications Boxes. I also visited Healthcare and the Kitchen. On Thursday, I attended the Detainee of Interest and Security meetings and dealt with the applications from the previous day, all of them involving immigration matters and therefore beyond the IMB remit.

At unlock on the Monday morning, there were six detainees in the CSU on Rule 40. However, after review later in the day, all six were removed. Messrs [D151], [D1606], [D3359], [D980] and [D918] were all returned to normal location within Brook House and Mr [D672] was handed over without problem to Tascor for RDs.

The CSU remained empty for the rest of Monday and all of Tuesday, but late on Wednesday evening, Mr [D1020] was placed on Rule 40 for assaulting another detainee. He was taken off Rule 40 the following morning, but replaced shortly afterwards by Mr [D3365] who was caught stealing property. At about 8.30pm on Thursday, Mr [D720] was placed on Rule 40 for damaging Centre property on C Wing.

On Friday morning, Messrs [D3365] and [D720] were taken off Rule 40; it had originally been intended that Mr [D3365] would transfer to The Verne, but, in the event, he refused to go. However, they were replaced in the CSU by Mr [D1338] who was placed on Rule 40 for damage to Centre property. However, the latter was removed from Rule 40 on Saturday morning, leaving the CSU, once again, empty. Later on Saturday, Mr [D687] tried to self-harm (using a ligature) in the Discharge waiting room. Limited force was used to stop him self-harming and to effect his handover to Tascor staff for transfer to The Verne.

At about 7.00pm on Sunday, Messrs [D1074], [D758] and [D1887] were placed on Rule 40 after attacking another detainee in a dispute over a pool cue. The victim of the assault was struck on the back of the head by a pool ball and was taken to outside hospital for further treatment.

There were three applications, one from C Wing (Mr [D720]) and two from D Wing (Messrs [D672] and [D980]), but all three involved immigration matters in which we have no locus. Messrs [D672] and [D980] both wanted the IMB to intervene to secure their release from Brook House and Mr [D720] wanted us to help him to remain at Brook House rather than transfer to Morton Hall where single rooms are available. I told him that it might help his cause by being on his best behaviour and this advice clearly had an impact because he was placed on Rule 40 only a few hours later.

On my flying visit to D Wing on the Wednesday, I had been approached by Mr [D1523] about securing a transfer to Dungavel and about the failure of Harmondsworth to reply to his complaint of being assaulted by staff. I know that at least two colleagues have been approached by Mr [D1523] who did not impress me as being in the least reasonable in his approach. Nevertheless, there is some reason for disquiet over the nature and timing of the response that he received from Harmondsworth. I advised him to write to the Director of Harmondsworth and/or the Prison and Probation Ombudsman. In addition, I told him that I would report events as I understood them to the IMB Chair at Harmondsworth. On the subject of a possible transfer to Dungavel, I established that the latter establishment was unwilling to take him because of his seriously disruptive behaviour at a string of establishments. I spoke to Mr [D1523] on the Thursday and gave him this information (probably not for the first time); he was not especially

impressed. In my view, the Board can do no more for Mr [D1523] in respect of either of these matters.

Finally, I was approached by Mr [D1368] whose applications – mainly about medical treatment – were dealt with last week by Louise who was told that the detainee was at Colnbrook for an interview. In fact, this man had returned to Brook House – having been refused admission to Colnbrook because they were short of staff, thereby missing an interview with staff from the Pakistan High Commission. Louise had left a written reply for Mr [D1368] on B Wing which he did not receive, possibly because, unknown to her, he was, in fact, now on A Wing. I gave Mr [D1368] a copy of Louise's note from the file and told him that I would raise the circumstances of his fruitless trip to Colnbrook at our forthcoming Board meeting.

Before a brief review of the individual wings, there are a number of general points to make. First, the wings, especially C and D Wings, seemed noisier than on previous visits. I wonder if this is related to the recent increase in the roll? Certainly, I did not have a sense of greater noise elsewhere; for example, on the Activities Corridor.

Second, with the exception of E Wing and (to a lesser extent) B Wing, the wing offices were very untidy. There were files and papers everywhere and no flat surface was left uncovered. It was difficult to find somewhere to sign up the ACDT books. This cannot be an acceptable environment in which staff must work and it must lead to inefficiencies because papers and other items can easily be mislaid. I accept that the wing offices are not large, and, again, perhaps the additional detainees have led to more paperwork. However, all of this suggests the need to look at what is kept in these offices and how it is kept. For example, should there be racking on the walls in order to keep material off the desks/tables?

Third, it seems now to have become the norm for rota week members to have to provide missing IMB application forms for one or more wings. In my case, there were no forms available on A, C and D Wings. There are a number of reasons for this – detainees remove the forms en masse, especially if they are kept in a folder; staff do not replace the forms as necessary; in the areas outside the wing offices (where the various forms are displayed) there are insufficient racks for the variety of forms available. As a result, some forms get displaced and, all too often, they seem to be the IMB forms. This is not an acceptable situation and for too long we have been told it will be resolved. As I understand it, there is a statutory responsibility on Brook House to enable detainees to contact the IMB. If the application forms are not available, this responsibility is not being met. So, one issue here is process: we need to identify who is responsible for maintaining the supply of forms (I believe it is the Residential function) and hold them to account. But there is a second issue in which insufficient racking prevents the proper display of forms. One option would be simply to increase the number of racks; alternatively, it might be possible to provide an individual IMB rack immediately alongside our Applications Boxes. However, something needs to be done.

## 2. Mandatory Visits

### *Scheduled Wing: A*

ARUN WING	0 Applications	4 ACDTs
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I spent a fair time on A Wing dealing with Mr [D1368] application from the previous week. I was primarily on the Wing on the Thursday afternoon immediately before the pre-dinner lock up. Unlike my previous rota visit, the Wing was pretty clean, apart from rubbish on and around the tables on the ground floor; I was assured that this would be cleaned up before dinner. However, there were a lot of dog ends among this rubbish, which suggests to me that detainees are smoking pretty much under the gaze of staff.

<b>BECK WING</b>	0 Applications	0 ACDTs
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I visited B Wing only briefly because there were no applications and no ACDT books to note. The Wing seemed clean and the atmosphere seemed good.

<b>CLYDE WING</b>	1 Application	3 ACDTs
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I had a wander around C Wing in order to find Mr [D720] in connection with his application. The Wing was clean, but there was more noise (from detainees) than I remembered from previous visits.

<b>DOVE WING</b>	2 Applications	1 ACDT
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I spent a fair bit of time on D Wing, on both days. As with C Wing, I would say that there was more noise than usual, including at the servery as lunch was being served.

<b>EDEN WING</b>	0 Applications	2 ACDTs + 1 C/W
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When I visited on Wednesday, there were no detainees in the CSU and none on Constant Watch. When I returned on Thursday afternoon, there was one detainee on Constant Watch whom I did not disturb from his sleep. As usual, E Wing was remarkably calm, given the nature of its population; as I have said before, this is a tribute to the qualities of the staff on the Wing.

<b>CSU</b>	1 Detainee
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I saw Mr [D3365] only recently arrived. He had just had lunch and told me that he was ok and that he understood why he had been located in the CSU.

## HEALTHCARE

I had a long conversation with Michael Wells. He reported that the additional 60 spaces had created new pressures. In one recent 48 hour period, 100 new detainees had been received and this would inevitably have an impact on healthcare provision; probably leading to an increase in the waiting time for GP appointments so that additional resources could be allocated to the Reception process.

I also discussed Mr [D3309] who claims to be only 14 years old. Healthcare are aware of the Home Office's position which is based on evidence that Mr [D3309] is aged 18 years. However, as a self-declared under-age detainee, Mr [D3309] has been flagged by Healthcare as an Adult Risk Level 1. As a result, he will be subject to at least monthly review by Healthcare and a multi-disciplinary team, along the lines of an ACDT review.

## KITCHEN

I had a long conversation with Brian Harrison and John Vezza. All is running pretty smoothly at the moment and the Kitchen is gearing up for the start of Ramadan at the end of May. In a change from last year's arrangement, individual wings will be responsible for cleaning the Ramadan boxes before they are returned to the Kitchen.

### 3. Optional Visits

## ACTIVITIES

As usual, it was pretty busy on the Thursday afternoon, with activities going on in most areas. On the occasions that I passed by, the Library was well attended.

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**ART ROOM**

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Not visited.

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**BARBER'S SHOP**

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Visited just before it closed for lunch on Wednesday. No problems reported.

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**CHAPLAINCY**

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I did not visit the Chaplaincy Department.

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**CULTURAL KITCHEN**

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Not visited.

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**CONTROL ROOM**

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Not visited.

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**EDUCATION**

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Not visited, but I had a long conversation with Sebastian during my tour of the establishment on Thursday. He was very pleased with the way things are going, especially the forthcoming recruitment of an additional staff member, with some applications having come from existing staff at Brook House.

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**GYM**

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The Gym was very busy on both Wednesday and Thursday.

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**IT SUITE**

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As usual, the IT Rooms were pretty much fully utilised.

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**LIBRARY**

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Not visited, but busy.

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**RECEPTION / DISCHARGE**

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I went through the Discharge area on several occasions over the two days and it was either empty or had only one or two detainees waiting to go out. I left the establishment through Reception on the Wednesday evening. There were four detainees waiting to see the Triage Nurse or awaiting location on a wing. All pretty quiet.

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**SECURITY**

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Not visited, but I attended the Detainee of Interest and Security meetings.

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**SHOP**

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The Shop was fairly quiet when I went past just before the lunchtime lock-up on Wednesday and reasonably busy on the occasions when I walked past on Thursday afternoon.



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**G4S AND IMMIGRATION  
OFFICES**

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Nothing significant to report. However, I had a lot of help from Heena who provided a significant amount of background for the three applications and in respect of Messrs [D3309] and [D1523]

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**VISIT CENTRE**

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Not visited.

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**VISITS HALL**

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Not visited.

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**WELFARE**

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Not visited.

**4. Upcoming Charter Flights**

Dates	Destinations
16 May – Operation Monroe – Dep 2330 hours.	Pakistan
23 May – Operation Majestic – Dep 2330 hours.	Nigeria
1 June – Operation Aardvark – Dep 0745 hours.	Albania
13 June – TCU Germany – Dep 1000 hours.	Germany
22 June – Operation Aardvark – Dep 0745 hours.	Albania
28 June – Operation Majestic Gardner – Dep 2330 hours.	Nigeria/Ghana

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**5. Outstanding matters to be addressed**

- Nil

**6. Points to be discussed at the next IMB meeting**

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**IMB**

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- On-going failure to maintain a stock of IMB application forms on the wings. (Page 2)

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**HOME OFFICE**

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- Why did Mr [D1368] and another detainee have an entirely fruitless journey to Colnbrook and back on 1 May and what is being done to prevent this happening again? (Page 1)
- Any up-date on Mr [D3309]? (Page 3)

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**G4S**

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- What has been the impact of the increase in detainee numbers? (Pages 2 and 3)
- What will be done to improve the state of the wing offices? (Page 2)
- What will be done to ensure that the stock of IMB application forms on the wings is maintained and that the forms are reasonably visible to detainees? (Page 2)

**DICK WEBER**  
15 May 2017

Previous week's Rota IMB Member:  
**Louise Gledhill**

Next Week's Rota IMB Member:  
**Gilly Gajdatsy**