

Elisabeth

Week Commencing: 24 April
Rota Visits April 26/29

1. General Comments

Early start at 0920 Monday!

After that various R40 and a few UOF (all minor).

On Wednesday a very busy day. Apparently there had been an extremely high number of receptions both during the previous day and overnight. I checked the booking-in sheets and they although were high they did not reflect the very high numbers quoted to me. On D wing at lunchtime there were two disruptive altercations resulting in four men going on Rule 40.

On Thursday an assault on Tascor staff by a detainee on no-notice RDs

Also Thursday, assault on detainee by another suspected of using spice.

Friday afternoon I was left a message about a man on the netting — it was expected he would come off soon. Later (2040) I was told the national squad had arrived. I asked about the Command suite and was told it was only 'partly open'. The man was eventually given a burst of gas (?) and then gave up. He was apparently frustrated about not being repatriated.

Saturday morning I attended five (of six) reviews in the CSU. Four were planned to return to the main wings or E wing after lunch. One review involved using the 'Big Word' language line. One of the men, back on a wing in the afternoon, threatened staff again and returned under R40.

Sunday: a flurry of activity — a detainee refused to give up the disabled room for a new incomer so was taken down; one assaulted Caz Dance-Jones (Duty Director) by pushing past her. Not serious. At one stage E wing was full. One miscreant decided to share a room after all so one space was freed up. Still two longer stayers in the CSU.

2. Mandatory Visits

Scheduled Wing: C

ARUN WING	0 Applications	0 Reviewed	3	ACDTs	1 SLPs
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A sofa upstairs was in a badly torn state. The laundry was busy. Wing reasonably clean

BECK WING	0 Applications	0 Reviewed	1	ACDTs	0 SLPs
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Very busy due to the high recent intake with some 'demanding' men in the office. Newcomers have been allocated over all wings due to the high numbers. Laundry clean and empty, several showers in use.

CLYDE WING	0 Applications	0 Reviewed	1	ACDTs	2 SLPs
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Main wing this week. It was basically clean but there were accumulations of rubbish bags on the top and ground floors (under the fax table); it was not surprising staff had not cleared them due to the high number of new residents continually asking questions. Both officers were surprisingly very calm considering the pestering from residents and dealt with them all very well.

There were no phones available.

Many men had had a rushed booking-in process and they were short of clothing but could not get to reception to access it. Officers said reception were not helpful (but they, too, were busy). I was on the wing for a couple of hours, including lunch and the atmosphere was rather lively. One man just walked to one of the large wheelie bins by the stairwell and up-ended it, spreading the rubbish around. He did the same with the other bin and then sat to eat his lunch. He refused to clear up the mess and was later walked to E-wing.

Staff were under pressure with lots of residents wanting information, papers to be delivered off the wing etc.

I spent a couple of hours on C wing where there were only two staff on duty during most of that

time. I waited until the lunch queue had nearly gone before joining and collecting my meal (which was very enjoyable). However, I noticed some 'generous' servings being given including rice and potatoes for one man who had the biryani (which was supposed to include the rice element). One man complained that he didn't get his omelette but I had seen another man's plate with biryani and an omelette. After lunch there was only one officer on the wing for a while so the servery workers had to wait 15 – 20 mins to be let out. When the officer left the wing to get them they could not be searched.
I opened an ACDT.

DOVE WING	1 Applications	0 Reviewed	1 ACDTs	2 SLPs
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Busy, like everywhere. An officer on another wing said D wing is 'quite needy'.

EDEN WING	0 Applications	5 CSU Reviews	5 ACDTs	0 SLPs
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Busy but working well. On Tuesday (?) evening a detainee under constant obs was discovered with a ligature in the toilet area. He was not harmed.
No-one on constant obs when I visited.

CSU	6 Detainees (Saturday)	Rule 40	6 Rule 42	0
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No residents on Wednesday

HEALTHCARE

Concerned that the workload is very high and one of the doctors' attendances will be reduced by the opening of Tinsley. Chrissie says they are barely coping. There is an increase of abuse to doctors.

KITCHEN

No problems; staffing generally stable. Lunch was good on the wing but two small vegetable samosas did not seem a generous or adequate portion for an adult man.

3. Optional Visits

ACTIVITIES

Yards in use, especially on D-Wing, despite the cold. At one point there were only three men there but they were surprised not to have an officer out there.

ART ROOM

Closed am, open pm

BARBER'S SHOP

Open in the afternoon with 'customers' and spectators

CHAPLAINCY

I spoke with Bassima on E wing

CULTURAL KITCHEN

Closed am. One detainee said it is often closed. Kitchen advised that it is only closed for staff absence or holidays and has only opened in the mornings to accommodate the Tinsley men. If the numbers remain high it may be helpful to open it regularly in the mornings after the Tinsley decamp.

CONTROL ROOM

Not visited

EDUCATION

Busy both morning and afternoon.

GYM

Well-used

IT SUITE

Reasonably busy

LIBRARY

Busier than usual

RECEPTION / DISCHARGE

Very busy with receptions. Tascor staff waiting for a man to go to Gatwick on Saturday.

VISIT CENTRE

Not visited

VISIT HALL

Attended for the Safer Community meeting

4. Meetings Attended

Safer Community

26 April

One of the main themes was the delay in HO reacting to men who want to return home. Once some men have decided to go, they want it to be immediate. According to Owen this is resulting in frustration, increase in self-harm or threats of, and some men saying that if it takes so long they'll just go for another appeal. The personal and financial implications could be considerable. Significant increase in official visits (65% more than in October). Home office under-staffed. There is no guarantee they will see men within the statutory three days. At the time of the meeting approval had not yet been given to start recruitment for replacements.

Welfare working well; last month 1500 appointments, Harmondsworth had 1200 for the month with 12 officers!

Ben said whole IR estate is fairly 'bubbly' with difficult behaviour. Staff need to be aware of personal safety. Some men frustrated as no indication of progress — no EDR as in prison.

Escorted removals are booked until June. Those with bad records and self-harmers must be escorted. Sometimes Tascor fail to provide escorts. Self-harm has increased and part of the reason may be the increased throughput.

Induction will be done in the Visits Hall. Due to the high intake new men are dispersed over all wings so this is easier to gather then together.

Increased reports of bullying in month.

Increased waiting times in HC. They cannot meet the two hour limit to see new intake — this is a contractual issue. One man on food refusal for nine days (seen regularly by BH medical staff) eventually ate when he went to hospital and 'had seen a medic'!
Some refuse outside appointments due to the need for handcuffs. Ben recommended that detainees are warned about this when the appointment is discussed.

Some detainees are consuming high numbers (4 – 5 in a day) of high-energy drinks as some are available much cheaper than Red Bull. This is causing behavioural problems. The cheaper versions may be removed from the shop.

More work needs to be done on identifying and monitoring 'adults at risk'.

Ramadan starts May 27. Tinsley opens May 22.

5. Points to be discussed at the next IMB meeting

IMB

- Not being warned that the national squad had been requested.

HOME OFFICE

- Recruitment; delays in interviewing; delays in repatriation

G4S

- Lack of phones
- Possible extended use of cultural kitchen after Tinsley re-opens?
- 'Semi' use of command suite — need for IMB attendance?
- Food portions

Elisabeth

Previous week's Rota IMB Member:
Gareth

Next Week's Rota IMB Member:
Louise