

Independent investigation into concerns about Brook House immigration removal centre

Panorama viewing notes

Nicola

Brook House - drugs abuse, self-harm, feels like a prison.

Asylum seekers terrorised by TSFNOs

"I've got no sympathy for him - if he dies, he dies"

"I'm going to put you to sleep"

Staff abusing men

Callum Tulley

didn't think anyone would listen to complaints so decided to go undercover for the BBC

DCO 18 (months/ age?)

Noticed abuse within a few months. Toxic atmosphere

Within 1 year → BBC whistle-blower

*Staff room incident

* fight between residents "pool bar"

BH is prison with c.500 males

Mixture of asylum seekers/ overstayers/ TSFNOs

5 wings

"someone came at him with a razor" over eggs

Home office does not segregate.

TSFNOs predatory on asylum seekers. Intimidating. Bang doors

Claims to be secure & humane

D100 - former detainee. Birmingham trainee audiologist (London hospital)

"Let down right from the start"

"zombied out"

Induction wing (B)

Independent investigation into concerns about Brook House immigration removal centre

- Drugs
- Gangs
- Violent ex-offenders

Asked for dealers to be moved from B wing - replaced 1 month later. Used as required to hold other detainees

Drugs → fear

Sensitive/Irrelevant

80% of **Sensitive/Irrelevant** come in through visits. Staff don't prevent/ know what they're doing.

*Chatting in visitors hall. (? Gietry female staff member, annex p8, 24-27)

“was that fun?”

“will someone die?”

“we were *that* close on Thursday”

*young male first time in visits hall “no idea that was a drug pass”(? Aaron Stokes annex 8, 28-30)

D1440

(student/ care worker) visa → India

G4S -training program for drugs

- Measures to monitoring

Staff voer stretched

Wings with minimum numbers of staff required

Low morale

Ratio 2:100+

Not enough staff

Rushed/ incorrect roll call

Left longer in cells

“dinner time was shit. Bang up time was shit”

Independent investigation into concerns about Brook House immigration removal centre

“3 missing” → increased hostility

D100 - “behaviour of staff & staff are the two worst things”

Re: Nathan Ring - a medical response was needed, he should take this seriously

“gurning. Checking out the inside of your skull, eyes rlling around” - then walks away

(to Detainee singing) “can you get to the chorus? I’ve heard that bit already”

“does your face taste nice? You’re chewing it off”

“scrotum”

Makes shifts(?) worse - leads taunts and mocking

“I’ve got no sympathy for him - if he dies, he dies” ? Steve Webb

*underage detainee. Female officer “I won’t flag it up” takes 2 weeks to transfer to social services

Nathan Ward - priest/ former G4S senior manager

- Wrote guideline in dealing with under 18s
- All involved should have taken action
- Age in dispute- -no breach

Raised concerns 3 years ago with Managing Director at G4S (? Jerry Petherick) re: roughness and use of force.

Couldn’t cope with job so left BH

D4006, TSFNO, assault - on suicide watch

No CCTV in rooms

DCO Calvin

Bang head/ held fingers back - “it was funny”

“attention seeking little prick”

“No sympathy for any of them” - confessed in front of officers openly - commonplace unchallenged

“I have an urge to punch them” “hopefully they’re swinging (? Aaron Stokes)

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<28d in detention - majority

200 have been detained > 1 year

“Nationals” specialist team. Spray to subdue

DCO John Connolly - restraining trainer. Racist language. Overuse of force put him in the corner. Re: camera “I’ll scrub the fucker”

* **D275** Algeria. 11 months at BH. Protest - razor blades on netting. Passport withheld by Algerian embassy - “was happy to go go, now angry” - risk

Detainee - deportation is the heart of the centre.

“if he dies he dies”

Dave/ Jan “all you need to know is how to roll on his head or hitting him with the shield”

* pilot refused carriage - claimed heart attack. “it’s wrong” “waste of hard work”

Detainees challenging home office.

‘Paul’ - oct 2015 TSFNO

No time limit on detention

Can apply for bail.

Romanian detainee with heart problems (TSFNO). Bail hearing refused → self harm, overdose on heart medication

2016 - 53 incidents of self harm. 451 at risk

DX

Refusing food - 316+ cases for not eating ACDT?

Nathan Ring ignored this. “cross him off the list. He’s a prick” “I don’t care”

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Desensitised - normalised

Staff who can't cope leave/ become immune/ abuse

"detainees with mental health issues"

?Derek Murphy (annex p9, 28) "clean this window - if this keeps going , I'll smash the shit out of him" " if I have to come back again, you're in trouble" E wing for vulnerable

"your attitude depends on how this is going for you, you help us, we help you. Piss us off, no shower, no nothing"

Mental health is treated with punishment and contempt

A wing - attempted suicide - 2 years effect on detainees & officers

E Wing - [D4006] attempt suicide, hanging. "Duracell bunny" Jo Buss - "he's an arse basically"

Jan - "Don't move you piece of shit. I'll put you to sleep" " are you going to stop being a fool/ idiot now?"

Charlie Francis - mocking " are you a man or amouse"

"no se of force report. Jo Buss does not include UoF in notes

Jan " we don't cringe at breaking bones" "if I killed a man I wouldn't be bothered

Callum Tulley asked "what is the best way to deal with this?"

R: "what Jan did *laughs*"

[D4006] released