

imb Independent Monitoring Boards

**Annual Report of the
Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Dartmoor**

**For reporting year
1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023**



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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

2.1 HMP Dartmoor is a Category C Training Prison for up to 640 adult male prisoners¹. During the reporting year the prison had to take an additional 49 prisoners, who were accommodated by doubling up in cells. On 20 September 2023 the prison's roll stood at 682.

2.2 The prison is situated in Princetown on the western edge of Dartmoor National Park, eight miles from Tavistock and sixteen miles from Plymouth (the nearest main-

¹ Figures included in this report are local management information. They reflect the prison's position at the time of reporting, but may be subject to change following further validation and therefore may not always tally with Official Statistics later published by the Ministry of Justice.

line railway station). Access is difficult with very limited public transport. The local environment is harsh and can be particularly bleak in the winter months.

2.3 The prison comprises six residential wings (known in HMP Dartmoor as Tors), a care and separation unit (CSU), healthcare suite, chapel and education facilities and workshops. In addition, there is a large gymnasium, a well-equipped kitchen and other facilities to support the life of the prison. A fully integrated smoke-free regime is in operation: all wings are integrated and accommodate main and vulnerable prisoners or offenders who have committed crimes of a sexual nature the majority of whom are in single cells. The prison and prisoners are supported by contractors and charities, either working in the prison or visiting on a regular basis.

2.4 The buildings are leased from the Duchy of Cornwall and the Prison Service is responsible for their upkeep. In December 2021 it was announced that the lease had been extended. It is a 25-year lease with a 5-year rolling break, exercisable after the first 5 years. This means the minimum term is for another ten years. However, the prison had been scheduled to close for at least a decade and there has been a severe lack of capital investment in the site because of this closure notice.

2.5 Most of the buildings in the prison are old but kept clean, built of granite and prone to damp. There are very well-maintained and attractive garden areas. The prison is one of the major employers in the town alongside agriculture, tourism, and a brewery.

3. Key points

3.1 Main findings

In summary:

- We consider that the decision by HMPPS to order cell doubling up to accommodate an additional 49 prisoners in already cramped pre-Victorian aged cells has resulted in HMP Dartmoor scoring poorly against the guidelines in the appendix of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ‘Living Space per Prisoner in Prison Establishment’ standards². The IMB considers, under the guise of ‘sustainable overcrowding’, it is neither sustainable, humane, fair or safe and has, arguably, made HMP Dartmoor not fit for purpose.
- The lack of provision of a matching increase in support services – healthcare, education, training, industries staff – means that *all* prisoners are negatively impacted by the increase in population.
- Given the relatively older age of the Dartmoor prisoner population, the long sentences many are serving and the already inadequate number of work, training and education places, the situation has been made worse because of the overcrowding with a greater proportion of the population having little purposeful activity. The resulting increased number of prisoners on the wings during the day, not in work or education because of the lack of places, has meant issues in trying to maintain a green (open) regime where prisoners are not behind cell doors for long periods of the day, and officers have less time to undertake key working and other essential prisoner-focused activities.
- Of particular concern, and raised in our report last year, is the lack of any catch-up investment to put things back where they need to be for an adequate prisoner experience. To give several examples (the detail is in the report), budgets are impacting on Dartmoor’s ability to move towards adequate employment and rehabilitation activities, and plans for essential investments including in-cell telephony, updates to body worn cameras and for a working television system are all severely degrading the prisoner experience.

Safety

HMP Dartmoor went to single cell occupancy in 2016 on decency grounds, recognising the small and basic cells and limited supporting infrastructure. The decision to reverse that now through cell doubling under the guise of ‘sustainable overcrowding’ is neither sustainable nor humane, fair nor safe, and has, arguably, made HMP Dartmoor not fit for purpose.

The decision was taken during the reporting year by HMPPS to increase Dartmoor’s population by 49 prisoners (8%). We understand that this is a greater percentage

² European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ‘Living Space per Prisoner in Prison Establishments’.

than most prisons. It is not clear what the rationale was for Dartmoor getting so many additional prisoners or why doubling up was favoured over other options e.g. the provision of temporary accommodation structures known as Rapid Deployment Cells, particularly as the use of such overflow accommodation is now being used in other prisons. The additional 49 prisoners are all held in shared cells designed to house one person.

This means:

- that 98 prisoners are subjected to cramped conditions with inadequate amounts of furniture for long periods of the day. The two cupboards are stacked one on top of the other, which is arguably unsafe and does not provide enough storage space.
- The cells have limited waist-high screened in-cell toilets, but prisoners are still in full view of their cellmate while using them, as the toilet directly faces the table where the cellmates eat.
- The bunk beds have a narrow ladder to the upper bunk, and it is difficult to see the television screen from the lower bunk. Prisoners report a shortage of bed linen, pillows and mattresses. There are insufficient power sockets.
- The lack of provision of a matching increase in staff and support services – healthcare, education, training, industries – means that all prisoners are impacted by the increase in population.

All of this means there has been a dramatic and disproportionate increase in accommodation complaints (known as ‘applications’ – written representations prisoners submit to the IMB) made to the Board which has risen from five in the previous year to 40 in this reporting year and this trend is increasing as we start a new year.

Fair and humane treatment

Given the relatively older age of the Dartmoor population, the long sentences many are serving and the already inadequate number of work, training and education places, the situation has been made worse because of overcrowding with a greater proportion of the population having little purposeful activity. The resulting increased number of prisoners on the wings during the day has meant that in trying to maintain a green regime, officers have less time to undertake key working and other essential prisoner-focused activities.

There were not enough activity places for the population prior to doubling up, and some places in education and activities have been made part-time to create more opportunities for prisoners. Too many prisoners have been, and are, unemployed or occupied for only half their time. Education courses are over-subscribed with long waiting lists.

Because of staffing shortages, prisoners are still sometimes being confined for unacceptable periods of time in cells, particularly at weekends. The IMB regard this situation as not sustainable, impacting as it does on a fair and humane regime.

Health and wellbeing

During the monitoring year the delay in the transfer of contracts for healthcare in the prison, and the consequent delay in consultation and agreement to the new staffing model, created a nine-month freeze on recruitment for a number of key posts in an already challenged service. As a result, there have not been enough staff to provide a full service, and the departments have had to reduce their functions, prioritising essential activities and reducing or discontinuing others. The IMB, although not able to intervene in prisoners' medical treatment, has seen a sharp rise in the number of complaints we hear about healthcare from prisoners as we speak to them on the wings.

During most of this reporting period, the post of Head of Healthcare has been vacant and the interim postholder's substantive role of clinical lead was not backfilled. The Head of Healthcare has frequently had to undertake clinical duties, in addition to her managerial role. Despite her best efforts this puts unreasonable pressure on the postholder.

Progression and resettlement

There has been a period of stability within the work and activity hub during the reporting year but despite the considerable efforts of the staff, within both industries and education, there remains a real shortage of meaningful activity within Dartmoor. This is largely due to budget limitations, lack of staffing and the failure of machinery in some of the workshops.

HMP Dartmoor is a training prison, not a resettlement prison, but in the reporting year 95 prisoners were released directly into the community. Prison staff are to be commended for making sure that suitable provision was made for these prisoners leaving the establishment, but this is not a satisfactory long-term position as other pressures mean that rehabilitation cannot be assured.

3.2 Main areas for development

TO THE MINISTER

1. Currently 98 prisoners at HMP Dartmoor are being held in shared, cramped cells lacking furniture, originally designed to accommodate one person. The Independent Monitoring Board regards this as inhumane, unjust and unsustainable. For how long will the prison be asked to accommodate prisoners in these single cells, and can the Minister provide any assurance that there will be no further call on the Prison Service to accommodate more prisoners in doubling up?
2. Will any extra funding be provided to the Prison Service in the next financial year to enable prisons to hire additional staff and provide adequate services

so that all prisoners can be offered meaningful and purposeful activity which it is not possible to provide with increased prisoner numbers under the current budgets.

3. At the end of the reporting year HMP Dartmoor had 19 prisoners over tariff and serving indeterminate imprisonment for public protection (IPP) sentences and 18 prisoners have been subject to IPP recall. When will the actions promised in Action Plan responding to the JSC report into IPP to provide a broad range of work streams aimed at progression towards a safe and sustainable release, be implemented?

TO THE PRISON SERVICE

1. The increase in the population at HMP Dartmoor has not led to a matching increase in staff and support services. This has led to key weaknesses in purposeful activity, as identified in the recent HMIP report. While 65% of in-scope prisoners are in work/education, not all roles are full-time, many being half-time or part-time. As a result, only 41% of the residents are off the wings attending education or work. What steps will the Prison Service take to enable Dartmoor to improve capacity and capability to offer meaningful purposeful activity?
2. Because of the increase in prisoner numbers and despite some progress in the last reporting year, there remain areas in HMP Dartmoor which are below acceptable standards. This includes the infrastructure to ensure a proper TV service, damp and leaking cells and corridors, and an infestation of rodents. When will a reprofiling and a new budget to tackle these issues across all areas be announced?
3. The HMPPS's Ageing Population Strategy was due to be published this year. Given the high proportion of older prisoners in HMP Dartmoor, when will this Strategy be published and when will initiatives to help older prisoners be announced?
4. The commitment by the new healthcare provider, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, to provide overnight care at a category C prison in Devon - which will be a pathway available to prisoners at HMP Dartmoor - has not yet materialised. What is the progress on this initiative and when will it be introduced?

TO THE GOVERNOR

1. Can the implementation of the Action Plan, and the monthly progress reports issued as a result of the recent report into the prison by HMIP Inspectors be shared regularly with the IMB?
2. What representations have the Senior Management Team made about the effects that having to provide an additional 49 places in the prison are having on staff and prisoners, as well as facilities, and the ability to provide an adequate level of service and care?

3. What progress has been made in relation to prisoner confidence in the discrimination incident reporting form (DIRF) and complaints processes (1, 1A and 2). When will the Quality Assurance of responses be in place and the online training course be rolled out to all staff?
4. The Two Bridges facility is now available from time to time but is usually closed due to staffing issues and the lack of a staff member from Weston College. Is there any progress on filling that vacancy on a permanent basis and providing this valuable facility on a regular and reliable basis, or at least providing another similar facility in the prison?
5. What more can be done to ensure that Foreign National Prisoners, some of whom have little or no English, have access to notices and information provided in their own language(s)?
6. What measures will be put in place to ensure that all incidents of prisoners being found under the influence of either drugs or alcohol are recorded effectively and the relevant departments are informed as soon as an incident is discovered?

3.3 Response to last report

Progress since last report:

Issue raised	Response	Progress
A lack of purposeful activity	There will be a rolling out of part-time employment; new initiatives – industrial cleaning; chocolate making; New Futures Network to identify opportunities.	The roll out of part-time employment has enabled 65% of in-scope prisoners to be allocated purposeful activity. However, due to the part-time nature of the activity, only 41% are off the wings at a time. Some initiatives not delivered and no evidence of any work with New Futures Network carried out or implemented.
Staff reprofiling	Awaiting outcome of review. Bed-watch volunteers to be sought before the regime is impacted.	Review not yet delivered. Regime frequently impacted due to staff pressures resulting in few volunteers.
Resettlement provision	Resettlement prisoners transferred when possible.	Due to increased difficulties in transferring prisoners, there were still

		95 releases from Dartmoor in the last year with no budget available for resettlement work.
Part-time employment	National Regime Model is being developed to guide prisons through their local regime delivery planning.	The roll out of part-time employment has enabled 65% of in-scope prisoners to be allocated purposeful activity.
Ageing Population strategy	Ageing Population Strategy is being developed to ensure older prisoners held in appropriate places with purposeful & rehabilitative activities.	No action. The strategy has not been published and there is no date, at present, for its completion. Healthcare provision at Dartmoor remains not fit for purpose for elderly, infirm prisoners.
In-patient and social care	Task force set up to develop long-term sustainable solutions in safe clinical environment to meet their needs. 24-hour care packages and other bespoke care pathways are commissioned on a needs basis but it is acknowledged that facilities are not currently sufficient within the region.	No progress evidenced.
Accessibility	Funding secured for an Equality Act compliant cell and a business case made for widening 6 doorways on F wing planned. Reasonable adjustments decided on a case by case basis determined by an individual's need.	No action evidenced. No action evidenced.

Evidence sections 4 – 7

4. Safety

4.1.1 The Head of Safety and Residence oversees all aspects of safety in the prison, and regular meetings of the Safety Intervention Team and Safer Custody are held and the Board receives agendas and minutes of the meetings. Board members also occasionally monitor the meetings. There is detailed monitoring of vulnerable prisoners involving a multi-disciplinary approach. Most actions that the Board has reviewed have been followed up.

4.1.2 Progress has been made in the use of CSIPs (challenge, support and intervention plan), a process used to support and manage prisoners who pose an increased risk of violence. Staff training has resulted in other support mechanisms, such as greater awareness of the CSIP process, referring prisoners to the Safer Custody Reps, Peaceful Solutions, raising awareness of the new Family Support Line being used prior to prisoners being placed on a CSIP. Regular reviews take place and prompt cards are being issued to staff to help identify when a CSIP should be used.

4.1.3 Prisoner Safer Custody Reps play a significant role in raising concerns that other prisoners have about their wellbeing. The reps are provided with diaries, concern forms and distraction packs. They are beginning to have more engagement with self-isolators and prisoners on constant watch, which the Board welcomes.

4.1.4 At the end of the reporting year seven prisoners were on an open ACCT (assessment, care in custody and teamwork documents), which are used to support prisoners at risk of self-harm and suicide. After the Board raised concerns about the quality of some of the reviews, the prison accepted that the quality of the ACCT process required improvement, particularly in relation to the lack of detail in the care plans. More clarity is being provided to staff and the Board will monitor this and continue to sample ACCT documents.

4.1.5 Board members routinely hear from prisoners about the level of covert bullying. They are often reluctant to officially report these incidents either through fear of repercussions, or a lack of faith in the complaints system. Several elderly, vulnerable prisoners accommodated on F Wing also expressed concerns to the IMB about their safety when prisoners were returning to the adjacent G Wing, although the Board acknowledges that these concerns appear to have been addressed by the prison. As reported elsewhere, in July a member of staff was taken hostage. This is an extremely rare event and it was resolved quickly and professionally. One issue resulting from the debrief observed by the IMB was the lack of trained negotiators in the prison and we will monitor this.

4.1.6 The Peaceful Solutions scheme is run by trained prisoner facilitators and continues to play a very important role in helping prisoners who have concerns about their wellbeing. There are on average 50 confidential one-to-one sessions each month. Bullying is one of many key issues raised in the discussions. The Board welcomes the work that these prisoners undertake and also acknowledges the

valuable role played by the Listeners (trained by the Samaritans) but regrets that on occasions staff shortages on the wings have resulted in Listeners being unable to provide this important service.

4.2 Reception and induction

4.2.1 Board members attend inductions for new arrivals on a weekly basis, which in their new location provide better interaction between prisoners and IMB members. Attendance from some of the other agencies working in the prison can be sporadic. Particularly for prisoners who are entering the main prison system for the first time it can be an unsettling experience and it is important that these prisoners know what support is available and who can provide it.

4.3 Suicide and self-harm, deaths in custody

4.3.1 Self-harm incidents remain relatively low and compare favourably with other Cat C training prisons in the estate. A new Family Support Line has recently been introduced to support family and friends who have concerns about prisoner welfare. Safer Custody is expected to respond within 72 hours. The Board will continue to monitor this.

4.3.2 There were three deaths in custody during the reporting year. The coroner's reports to date raised no issues that needed further monitoring from the IMB. A recent death in custody raised concerns regarding prisoners not always wearing their wrist alarms, which can be triggered in case of emergency, but this issue is being addressed by the prison.

4.4 Violence and violence reduction, self-isolation

4.4.1 Levels of violence in the prison remain low, but there is concern that the increase in the quantity of drugs entering the prison and men being found under the influence of drugs and illegal alcohol, as well as the debt levels associated with these, is increasing the risk of violence. The Board will continue to monitor this.

4.4.2 In May a member of CSU staff was assaulted by a prisoner in a drug-induced psychosis. In July a prisoner took a member of staff hostage. After three and a half hours he was persuaded to give himself up. The prisoner was arrested and removed to the High Security Estate.

4.4.3 During the course of the reporting year the IMB conducted an exercise in attempting to talk to many of the prisoners who had decided to self-isolate. At the end of the reporting year there were 12 who had decided to do this, most because they felt unsafe or were afraid of the repercussions of having gone into debt. Most of the prisoners the IMB spoke to were happy to remain in self-isolation. There is clear evidence of prison staff regularly engaging with these prisoners to assess their needs and see if anything has changed. However, the Board has concerns that the number of self-isolators is increasing and that prisoners are under the misguided impression that in self-isolating they are more likely to be able to get a transfer to another prison.

4.5 Use of force

4.5.1 Unfortunately, the monthly use of force meetings, which IMB members used to monitor when able, have not been held this reporting year. Inadequate staffing has resulted in the data not being presented. This is a concern as the number of incidents involving the deployment of force for the middle part of this reporting year are significantly higher than the equivalent period for 2022. The use of body-worn cameras has improved during this year and in recent months over three-quarters of incidents have been captured. However, there were periods when they were inoperative.

4.6 Preventing illicit items

4.5.1 A body scanner was introduced into the prison during the course of the reporting year, located in reception. The IMB has observed use of mobile phone detectors around the prison and these sweeps have resulted in confiscation of several mobile phones. However, our monitoring shows that mobile phones and illegal drugs are still entering the prison via a variety of ways. Phones and drugs are highly valued items of currency in prison and their confiscation can lead to violent incidents and threats made to other prisoners, as well a level of debt that causes issues.

5. Fair and humane treatment

5.1 Accommodation, clothing, food

5.1.1 Over the past year, water ingress during wet weather has continued to cause damp and mould in some residential wings, affecting the quality of some prisoners' experience in their cells. During rain, corridors between wings are littered with containers to keep the floor dry. There are some areas where repairs to long-standing defects have not been carried out. Despite this, the number of cells out of use on sampled dates has dropped from eight to less than five.

5.1.2 As noted elsewhere in this report, the prison was obliged under the 'sustainable crowding' initiative to make arrangements to house additional prisoners. This has been achieved by installing double bunks in 49 cells across the prison, even though the cells are not large and often have poor ventilation. There is a lack of privacy, particularly when using the toilet, and privacy screens are ineffective. There is less storage and only one desk and chair and no additional power points. Both prisoners must watch the same TV programme. Recently arrived prisoners, and those with serious mental health issues are often placed in double cells with someone they have not met before. The IMB have serious concerns about the housing of prisoners in double cells and have raised a range of issues including disabled or infirm prisoners being unable to reach the top bunk; personal property being stolen, either because cell doors have been left open when one prisoner is at work or in education, or because one sharer has stolen from another. The effects of housing additional prisoners are reflected as a key concern in the August 2023 HMIP inspection report: 'The prison has increased its population by overcrowding 49 cells, which means that 98 prisoners now live in cramped conditions.'

5.1.3 The refurbishment of showers has started and those that have been completely refurbished are modern, give privacy and are fit for purpose, although some of the privacy doors do easily break. The IMB welcome that the refurbishment will include adaptations for prisoners with disabilities, and there will be some dedicated facilities for transgender prisoners.

5.1.4 Following the closure of the on-site laundry, arrangements for laundry of prison issue clothing and bedding were made with HMP Channings Wood. The lack of an operational on-site facility throughout the reporting period is a significant disadvantage to this remote site. Laundry of some personal clothing has been possible as some wings have a washing machine and/or a tumble dryer. However, the picture across the prison is patchy as these wing machines are not being repaired. Some prisoners wash and dry clothing in their cells, adding to the serious damp conditions in cells. An on-site laundrette facility is planned but the start date is not yet known and some temporary arrangements where machines are installed on wings is eagerly anticipated.

5.1.5 A regular cause of complaint to the IMB over the reporting year has been prisoners' concerns and frustrations about the availability of TV channels. The prison only receives an analogue signal from the nearest TV transmitter, and no solution has yet been identified about what will happen when that transmitter transfers to a

digital-only signal. This is an issue frequently raised in Applications to the IMB for which the Board has been unable to get a clear, adequate answer.

5.1.6 Long promised work on the installation of in-cell phones is not expected to be completed until the end of 2023, although it is accepted that there have been some delays caused by the challenges of the buildings. Prisoners who have used in-cell phones in other prisons have often expressed a good deal of unhappiness about them not being available at this prison. The Board concludes that the ability to contact family members and others help in a prisoner's rehabilitation, and work to support prisoners is being hampered by the lack of access to phones.

5.1.7 A radon inspection took place in 2020 but it is only in this year that some actions have been taken while further monitoring is undertaken to inform future decisions. As an interim measure, the kitchen office has been relocated to the open kitchen, which has been difficult for the staff as it is in a position open to draughts.

5.1.8 As general inflation and costs have increased in the UK, food prices have risen. The kitchen manager has had to use alternative, cheaper ingredients as well as tighten up on portion size to avoid waste. This has led to a rise in complaints from prisoners about changes to the type of meat, the lack of variety in vegetables and fruit and portion size. The Board recognises the lengths staff go to in trying to provide decent meals, but we think a decision should be made at a national level to increase the budget available.

5.2 Segregation

5.2.1 There are seven cells in the CSU; six are furnished with a bed and chair, and a further cell is unfurnished for short term use by prisoners who are a danger to themselves. The cells are cleaned and decorated by the two orderlies, who also clean all the corridors. During the year the shower area was upgraded. During those renovations one cell was taken out of use and converted into a shower, but then in May there was a proposal to alter it back into a cell for use with a trap toilet for secreted items although this is still under review.

5.2.2 This reporting year started with two of the longest stayers in residence. One returned to the wing after 84 days. The other prisoner was finally transferred on 2 February, after 143 days. The Board made several representations, including to the Regional Directorate, about the length of time this man was held in segregation. He was on an ACCT and regularly engaged in dirty protests, putting undue pressure on staff and other residents.

5.2.3 Staffing, particularly at weekends, has presented some issues with staff needing to be deployed to other wings in the prison. However, our monitoring records that the staff in the CSU do well in managing these pressures.

5.2.4 A member of CSU staff was assaulted in May by a prisoner in a drug-induced psychosis. In July with no warning a prisoner took a member of staff hostage. After three and a half hours he was persuaded to give himself up. The prisoner was arrested and removed to the High Security Estate. Following this serious incident, a two man unlock is required on all CSU cells. During this year four prisoners have been re-categorised and removed directly from SCSU.

5.2.5 The reasons prisoners arrive in CSU are varied, but include damage to cells, being under the influence of substances, being on the netting, refusing orders, having illegal items, for example cell phones, and feeling under threat on the wings. Some arrive following an adjudication. The Board appreciates the efforts made to move prisoners out and back to the wings as soon as possible, and most do not stay long. One cell is earmarked for a prisoner who had to leave CSU for a constant watch cell, as it was felt he was at too much risk to himself.

5.2.6 The staff in the unit are skilled and calm in their approach and this was evident in the hostage-taking incident. They get to know the prisoners very well and the Board has observed that staff have empathy with individual situations. The unit keeps the IMB well informed when new prisoners arrive.

5.3 Staff and prisoner relationships, key workers

5.3.1 Meetings of the Prison Council restarted from the spring of 2023 and there is good attendance by representatives from each wing. Prisoners take responsibility for drawing up an agenda, producing minutes and identifying follow up actions and questions requiring answers. Some meetings have focused on specific matters and relevant staff invited to attend. Unfortunately, several meetings have been cancelled at short notice due to staff absences which has resulted in council members being unable to raise their concerns. When meetings have happened, IMB members who have observed them are pleased to report on the constructive approach of the council members who are keen to find positive solutions for issues and who are providing a valuable voice for prisoners' concerns.

5.3.2 Key working has been slow to restart since the opening up of the prison regime after the Covid lockdown. Because of the resulting increased number of prisoners on the wings during the day, in trying to maintain a green regime, officers have less time to undertake key working and other essential prisoner-focused activities.

5.3.3 At present only 52 key working sessions take place a week and the number of sessions seems unlikely to substantially increase soon, due to the high occurrence of escorting duties and bed-watches which impact on the availability of officers and impact negatively on the daily regime. Key working has an important part to play in helping with rehabilitation and the Board would like to see a rapid improvement in the number of key working sessions undertaken. It is particularly important that all self-isolators and other vulnerable prisoners have access to a key worker.

5.4 Equality and diversity

5.4.1 The Board is disappointed that there appears to be little, if any, significant progress on many of the actions included in the Minister's letter to the IMB of 13 March 2023, which if implemented would have addressed, or facilitated addressing, many of the serious concerns we raised last year concerning support of diversity and inclusion.

5.4.2 Specifically, our monitoring has not observed any improvements from the Ageing Population Strategy, the updated policy frameworks for Diversity and Inclusion, the reinstatement of cells in C to provide greater accessibility, the project

mandate for wider works across F to increase accessibility. This is not in the direct control of the local management at Dartmoor but is a major concern of the IMB as without progress on these it is difficult to see how support of all areas of diversity and inclusion at HMP Dartmoor can significantly be improved.

5.4.3 At a local level, the Board is encouraged by the considerable attention and commitment to diversity and inclusion from the Governor and Leadership Team. Prisoner led forums for protected characteristics have been formed, there is greater focus on supporting prisoners with dementia or those who are neurodiverse (including appointing a Neurodiversity Support Manager) and the Diversity Inclusion Action Team (DIAT) chaired by the Governor is meeting regularly and attended by prisoner representatives.

5.4.4 In early August 2023 members of the Board spoke individually to a sample of 11 prisoner DIAT reps, covering faith, prisoners aged under 25 and over 50, those with a disability, and LGBTQ+. . The strong common themes that emerged were that DIAT is only now beginning to get initial traction in the prison, and the commitment of the No1 Governor and some (but only some) other governor grades and staff is evident and appreciated by reps. The DIAT meeting itself was still not quite right yet, in their view being too stats-driven rather than a meaningful prisoner input and discussion of current DIAT issues and the prison's plans. The Board's monitoring supports these findings but there is still a long way to go before adequate training and systems are in place to support equality and diversity at the prison and to help guide officer and staff behaviour.

5.4.5 Based on our discussions with prisoners there is still no confidence in the DIRF system. Prisoners again told us they feared personal come back if they raise issues. The Board welcomes recent management intentions to rebuild confidence in an appropriately working and robust DIRF system as a matter of urgency but are disappointed that little progress has been made since our last Annual Report.

5.4.6 There is a new DIRF online training course run by the Zahid Mubarek Trust (ZMT), to be rolled out to officers and staff at Dartmoor outlining how DIRFs should be treated and quality assured. The Board attended the course as part of monitoring and were impressed by its quality and its focus and guidance on treating DIRFs appropriately. Rolled out across HMP Dartmoor with its recommendations implemented, it should be of significant benefit.

5.4.7 It is the view of the Board that there is poor support provision for Foreign National Prisoners in Dartmoor. This is an area that the Board will be monitoring in the next reporting year.

5.4.8 There has been an increase of over 100% (admittedly from a low level) in the number of Applications the IMB received over the course of the year to do with equality and diversity issues.

5.4.9 Overall, we commend the SLT for their commitment to further improvements in this area and we do observe many instances of officers and Governors going out of their way to support individual prisoners. However, our monitoring showed:

- inadequate systems, poorly followed and managed, with inappropriate behaviours not always challenged and some prisoners scared of raising their concerns
- older prisoners (currently 24% of the population) and prisoners with disabilities (currently 33.4% of the population) continue in some areas to report being poorly supported

We commend the initial progress made but there is still a long way to go and the prison support to diversity and inclusion is still, in our view, inadequate. Fixing this issue will, in our view, require delivery of many of the changes highlighted by the Minister in his letter of 13 March 2023 and continued strong action by the Governor and SLT to cascade changes throughout the organisation.

5.5 Faith and pastoral support

5.5.1 Prisoners have again this year, frequently expressed to the Board their strong appreciation of the faith and pastoral care they have received. This includes the support that they received day to day, and during times of personal or family crisis. Our monitoring indicates an extremely hard working and empathetic chaplaincy team, who deliver a first-class service to prisoners and the prison. This view is supported by the results of a recent national audit.

5.6 Incentives schemes

5.6.1 The Rewards and Incentives Scheme, together with Basic (the three levels of incentives are Basic, Standard and Enhanced), was re-introduced late in the last reporting year. The use of E wing as an enhanced facility appears to have worked well, and the number of prisoners on a basic regime has remained low over the course of the year.

5.7 Complaints

5.7.1 Where the Board has monitored the prison's complaint responses (e.g. in looking at IMB applications), we find that these continue to be inconsistent in detail both at COMP1 (a form for making an ordinary complaint) and COMP1A (a form to appeal the response to your first complaint) levels. The response quality, as for last year, still seems to be determined by the individual person responding. The Board observed some excellent responses, but others seemed more limited and would benefit from further quality assurance. This is particularly the case where prisoners have ticked the box claiming discrimination and yet the complaint has not been treated as a DIRF, sometimes being rejected as not having a discrimination element at the point of logging the complaint.

5.7.2 The Board became aware of the particularly high level of COMP2 (a form for making a complaint about a sensitive matter) being submitted to prison management during the year, particularly during the first half, many of which were not strictly COMP2 matters. In discussion with both prisoners and management, we were told, like last year, that prisoners no longer had confidence in the COMP1 process and were resorting to COMP2 to try and get a better or more speedy resolution. Prison

management have worked hard to begin to address the issues here, but it is the Board's view that further training of prison staff in responding to and quality assuring both complaint and non-IMB application responses, and awareness raising of the COMP system amongst prisoners would be beneficial and productive.

5.7.3 The COMP2 system has also changed nationally during the year with no COMP2 now coming to the IMB Chair but being directed to the IMB through the normal applications process. We have found this to be an improved system as it enables such concerns to be handled more effectively.

5.8 Property

5.8.1 Like last year, the Board received an increase in Applications regarding loss of property within the prison (up from 11 to 19). Almost all these complaints were easily resolved. We will continue to monitor this. There were, however, still 18 complaints concerning property lost immediately prior to or in transit to the prison which are less easy to resolve and can cause unhappiness among prisoners who lose valuable or important property like legal paperwork or family photographs.

6. Health and wellbeing

6.1 Healthcare general

6.1.1 The IMB does not monitor the medical quality of healthcare, as this is a matter for healthcare professionals. Our monitoring has been a mixture of rota visits, observing the bi-monthly Local Delivery and Quality meetings (chaired by the Governor); monitoring GOoD (good order or discipline) Boards; through regular reports from, and meetings with, the Acting Head of Healthcare; the monitoring of daily and weekly management information, conversations with prisoners and data from other reports.

6.1.2 The top three risks to prisoners throughout the reporting period are:

- Clinical practice: Staffing levels of the department have been critical due to the recruitment freeze for some key roles, sick absences and leavers. This is a risk to the clinical care that can be provided. Weekend cover has been particularly difficult.
- Social Care support: If patients are unable to receive social care support over a 24-hour period and when needed, the patients may not be safe to remain in the establishment and there is difficulty in moving such patients to establishments which can meet their needs.
- Financial: If the patient population at HMP Dartmoor continues to include elderly and complex patients, then the cost of escort and bed-watches will continue to be over budget month on month.

6.1.3 This has been a year of major change and pressure for the health care services at Dartmoor. The implementation of the re-tendering exercise carried out in 2022 finally took place in December 2022, after a nine-month delay. The physical and mental health provider is Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, which also provides clinical services for Substance Misuse; the psychosocial services for Substance Misuse transferred to Change Grow Live (CGL). All other subcontracts - Dental, Podiatry, X-rays and Scans, Physiotherapy and Opticians remain unchanged.

6.1.4 The delay in the transfer of contracts and consequent delay in consulting and agreeing the new staffing model created a nine-month freeze on recruitment for a number of key posts in an already challenged service. Due to changes and consultations on staffing levels/profiles, there have not been enough staff to provide a full service; there has been a reduction in the level of service and some courses and activities have ceased.

6.1.5 During most of this reporting period, the post of Head of Healthcare has been vacant and the interim postholder's substantive role of clinical lead was not backfilled. She has frequently had to undertake clinical duties, in addition to her managerial role, as only she has the skills, qualifications and experience to perform them.

6.1.6 Staffing posts in all areas are still not fully filled and IT equipment has only now been transferred to the new provider. Space is limited and a lack of computer access in treatment rooms reduces the number of one-on-one sessions and clinics able to be held and have impacted on the service provided for prisoners. The new Mental Health and ISMS teams have been unable to access prison training which could put them at risk. Despite these circumstances, prisoners have generally been favourable about the care given.

6.1.7 Health promotion activities have also been limited by staffing pressures. However, six-monthly retinal screening has taken place, and a Healthy Weight group has started. Some services - e.g. smoking cessation - are offered on an ad hoc basis.

6.2 Physical healthcare

6.2.1 Due to the change of provider, there has been no completed consultation on an agreed staffing establishment for the service delivery model for primary healthcare and, as a consequence, a freeze on recruitment of some key posts. This has resulted in a vacancy rate of up to 50% and a reduction in the service provided to prisoners. The on-site Pharmacy team has been reliant on temporary staff due to vacancies and sickness. On occasion medications were dispensed slowly due to staff shortages, creating long queues and frustrations. There is no provision for lunchtime and evening doses which means that some patients do not always receive their medicines at appropriate dosing intervals. The weekend medication administration has also been disrupted due to staff shortages.

6.2.2 The staffing situation is made more difficult due to the lack of approved agency staff available in the south west. It has therefore been necessary to rely on current staff members working additional hours as Bank staff, and to require the Healthcare management to undertake clinical roles. The Board consider neither of these actions as satisfactory.

6.2.3 The impact on prisoner experience has been more marked this year, resulting in:

- Slower queues for the dispensing of medicines
- Slower response times
- Less continuity of nursing
- Some clinics being cancelled
- Slower responses to complaints and concerns
- Limited health promotion activities and the cessation of some NHS health checks, annual learning disability health checks, antipsychotic checking for prisoners not on caseloads and abdominal aortic aneurysm screening
- The vaccination roll-out now being limited to only Covid and Flu jabs

6.2.4 On a positive note, backlogs for dental treatment have been significantly reduced due to an increase in dental clinics, now running five days a week. Emergency and urgent treatment are dealt with quickly and the Board has no concerns about waiting times for normal check-ups. Accommodation is now the limiting factor to increased dental provision. Physiotherapy waiting times are

significantly reduced and continue to improve. Podiatry and optician sessions continue to be a challenge as the current number of contracted sessions does not meet the patient need.

6.2.5 A major area of concern to the Board continues to be the support of prisoners with acute and special needs, including Dartmoor's significant older population, some of whom require extended hours of care or 24/7 support. Concerns include: prisoners requiring specialist support and management, including those with dementia and those who are neurodivergent. Dartmoor is not currently equipped to support such prisoners fully, with the result that there is a significant risk to them being treated unfairly.

6.2.6 The continued delay in the publication of a national Ageing Population Strategy is a major concern to the Board. Specific concerns at HMP Dartmoor include:

- The difficulties and delay in putting in place care for prisoners requiring non-working day support for non-emergency situations e.g., falls off beds and problems with patient support equipment.
- Access to cells not wide enough for wheelchairs.
- The support offered for prisoners with catheters overnight and at weekends; prisoners with increasing issues relating to dementia.
- The number of complex needs patients and hospital admissions that result in long-term bed-watches, due in part to the high number of elderly, chronically sick prisoners in Dartmoor's population.
- The practical difficulty of supporting prisoners when near end-of-life, or with chronic or social conditions requiring 24 hours care. The physical environment at Dartmoor is not appropriate to care for patients who require enhanced 24-hour care/social care and it does not meet their needs.

6.2.7 Of concern to the Board has been the incidents where prisoners have been released or transferred to other prisons without waiting for Healthcare to attend at the time of their departure, resulting in a failure to provide medication to take out.

6.2.8 During the course of the year the Board has received Applications about medication prescribing decisions causing issues; on some occasions medication prescribed in a hospital setting is not on the permitted prison list. Subject access requests (asking for personal health information) and delays in processing patient requests within the allotted time frames, due to staff shortages, have also been raised. On two occasions patients have been discharged from hospital, following serious operations, without warning and outside the working hours of the healthcare team. Ambulance delays at the local hospital have also resulted in some prisoners returning to the prison without treatment which is clearly not satisfactory.

6.3 Mental healthcare

6.3.1 The Mental Health team provide a wide range of initiatives – patient forums, peer support groups, both one to one and group interventions. A total of 21 patients are currently cared for under the care programme approach.

6.3.2 As in other parts of the healthcare system there are some staff shortages due to sickness and study leave and vacancies for a learning disability nurse and an attention-deficit hyperactivity practitioner. Psychiatric support is provided on a shared basis with HMP Channings Wood and the team includes a clinical psychologist and experienced psychological therapists. This can cause delays in patients being seen.

6.4 Social care

6.4.1 Social care arrangements are overseen by the in-house occupational therapist who coordinates referrals to the local authority. There is a four to six week wait for formal assessment. Personal care for nine prisoners, on Fox wing, is delivered by the Oxleas nursing team. However, the staff are not available after 6pm and clinical and regime pressures sometimes restrict the level of support provided. The care packages range from support with showers to regular welfare checks for patients with dementia, continence care and encouragement to drink or take medication. There have been issues due to the availability of nursing staff and there are three non-compliant dementia patients with significant care packages which often cannot be completed due to their illness/level of cognition.

6.4.2 Buddies provide support and non-intimate care to some prisoners and their work is highly valued and carried out to a very high standard. However, there continues to be a concern that, on Fox Wing, during restricted regimes and staff changes, Buddies have not been permitted out of cell for enough time to undertake their full duties, particularly assisting prisoners with complex medical conditions. This has impacted severely their ability to assist vulnerable, ailing and sick prisoners, leading to considerable frustration and a fear from those prisoners who rely on the Buddies' help. This has been reported to the Governor by the Board and we are aware that appropriate instruction has been given, but the problem still occurs on occasion.

6.5 Time out of cell, regime

6.5.1 The Board continues to be concerned about the amount of time prisoners are locked up in cell and the lack of consistency from one wing to another, with ad hoc decisions to keep prisoners locked up dependent on which officer is on duty rather than the circumstances at the time. Staff availability is the biggest factor impacting on regime provision and we note that the number of officers now working on detached duties has reduced their availability to HMP Dartmoor. Many prisoners have complained that their time out of cell is poor, particularly at weekends. Prisoners report that unlocking is often late, further eroding the time available. Prisoners who work are given time out in the evenings; however, this time is also often curtailed limiting the ability to make telephone calls, have a shower or prepare applications.

6.5.2 The gym has a timetable that allows prisoners access four times a week and the PE staff make every effort to maximise the number accessing each of the gym sessions. There are specific sessions for the elderly, those with mental health conditions and those who are nervous about attending the gym. Our monitoring has recorded a consistent level of satisfaction with the staff and sessions provided.

6.6 Drug and alcohol rehabilitation

6.6.1 For much of the reporting period, the unit running the integrated substance misuse service has been functioning with only 50% of the staff team resulting in significant pressure on the remaining staff members and a reduced service. The Board recognises that most targets are being met and there are a range of interventions and support offered including:

- Meeting all referred clients within 5 days of referral
- One-to-one sessions
- Group sessions, including mutual aid groups, such as SMART (an addiction recovery scheme), NA and AA, structured groups, gym sessions and a recovery café
- The recruitment and training of Substance Misuse Service Volunteer Wing Representatives who act as ambassadors and representatives of the service on their wings

6.6.2 The Board has been alerted to concerns that prisoners found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol are not reported in the Daily Briefing produced by the prison. As a result, prisoners remain at risk of harm due to not having their care needs reviewed at the time of their illicit use. The Board urges the senior management to ensure that all cases of prisoners found UTI (under the influence) are properly recorded so further action can be taken and support offered.

7. Progression and resettlement

7.1 Education, library

7.1.1 Education, provided by Weston College, has had a difficult year with the department running without an appointed Curriculum Manager until May and serious staffing shortages through both short and long-term sickness and problems in recruitment.

7.1.2 Monitoring by the Board indicates that despite accountability procedures in place to manage fulfilment of contractual obligations there has been a notable shortfall in delivery, particularly in maths, a virtual campus (with extremely limited access until August when it was increased to 50%), inductions, rapid screening and activities for the older population.

7.1.3 At the end of the reporting year there were six staff waiting for the vetting process to be completed and one post just being advertised. Although thorough security checking is a must, delays in vetting have affected many of the services provided in Dartmoor.

7.1.4 Throughout the year some courses have been postponed, e.g. cleaning (leading to a qualification) and chocolate making; and some courses started or finished late because of the lack of suitable staff due to sickness or unsuccessful recruitment.

7.1.5 At the end of the reporting year there were just 67 prisoners in education. This low number impacts, as we report elsewhere, on the prison's regime.

7.1.6 The Board has monitored in class rep meetings, feedback forms, course pass rate and the attendance percentage. The prisoners generally rate both the teachers and the courses very highly.

7.1.7 The Board recognises the number of success stories such as the certificate award ceremony for the plasterers, painters, decorators and bricklayers and the Koestler Award ceremony (for art, design, music and writing).

7.1.8 The high staff sickness levels, difficulties in recruiting suitable staff and the lengthy vetting process have certainly undermined some of the very good work carried out by most of the staff to enable the prisoners to progress and work positively towards successful resettlement.

7.1.9 The library is operating well with 300-350 men visiting each week. At present about 20% of prisoners do not use the library regularly although there are books on the wings for prisoners to read.

7.1.9.1 The library facilitates monthly meetings of a variety of groups including the reading group, creative writing group, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller group, veterans' group, LGBTQ+ group, Lifers Lounge, ethnic minority group, etc.

7.1.9.2 The library also runs monthly themes and provides support for the Open University and other long-distance learners. The Board has received Applications where students have occasionally had difficulty in gaining access to online material for their studies, but library staff have helped in resolving those issues.

7.1.9.3 All prisoners can put in requests for books but there is a limited budget. The prisoners would benefit from a refreshment of books and magazines from other libraries. The Board's monitoring shows that there appears to be very little for low level readers, foreign national prisoners, different communities etc., and more should be done to make such material available.

7.2 Vocational training, work

7.2.1 It is recognised that within the prison system vocational training and work opportunities can help with rehabilitation. In HMP Dartmoor 140 more full-time workplaces are required but cannot be provided due to lack of investment and staff shortages. In the carpentry workshop and the prison laundry there is little work due to machinery not working and not being replaced quickly, but prisoners are still being paid. Because of staff shortages, 20 places in Diversity and 20 places in the Two Bridges facility, both facilities where older prisoners can meet, are also not operating.

7.2.2 At present most of the full-time and part-time workplaces available are filled. There are also 69 retired, 16 long term sick and nine self-isolating prisoners.

7.2.3 However, it should also be noted that areas such as braille, desktop publishing, concrete workshop and Storybook Dads (just celebrated its 20th Birthday) are at present, apparently, functioning very well with prisoners praising both staff and the value the work adds to their life. The Board would wish these successes to be replicated elsewhere in the prison.

7.2.4 There is a determination to publicise job fairs more positively to try and ensure better attendance. The Board has been assured that industries represented by the training in the prison will attend e.g., building and hospitality.

7.2.5 There is a clear need for much greater investment in space, staff and equipment if the needs of the prisoners for meaningful activity are to be met. There is commitment and ideas, but lack of investment restricts growth and development.

7.2.6 The recent inspection grade of 'Inadequate' given to Industries and Education by Ofsted and HMIP reflects the lack of investment and staffing issues, but it does not reflect the hard work and commitment of the vast majority of the staff who work in these areas.

7.2.7 The staff in the Activity Hub, Industries and Education have been very open and transparent and their general enthusiasm and positivity in frustrating circumstances is noted by the Board.

7.2.8 A positive element has been the introduction of a four-week course providing a qualification to work on building sites. Two more are scheduled for this year. There are two cleaning courses (with a qualification) to be run when trained staff are

available. With the modification of the criteria for acceptance on the Clinks course in the kitchen the numbers have increased, and it appears to be going well. There have also been two football coaching courses run by Plymouth Argyle which have been very popular, and another is due to begin.

7.3 Offender management, progression

7.3.1 Changes in the working practices of the Offender Management Unit have meant that concerns raised last year about prisoners not being seen in time to prepare for parole boards or release have largely been overcome.

7.4 Family contact

7.4.1 HMP Dartmoor is situated in a remote location with poor public transport and this is a barrier to family contact for many prisoners. The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) family engagement worker provides a range of support to target prisoners' specific needs and helps them engage with their families.

7.4.2 The visits' hall is managed by PACT and it has been renovated and redecorated in this reporting year and offers clean, bright and welcoming facilities with a well-equipped children's area and a kitchen providing hot and cold refreshments served by a team of friendly orderlies. PACT volunteers have been observed warmly welcoming prisoners' families and there is generally a good atmosphere in the hall. The visits' hall is open for one session on Fridays (PM), and two sessions (AM & PM) on Saturdays and Sundays providing places for up to 15 visitors each session. However, uptake has halved in the last year and is declining. This may be due to the fact that the telephone line for booking social visits was unavailable for a short period during which visits could only be booked online, disadvantaging visitors unable to use the internet. Additionally, some visitors have found the online booking system difficult and confusing to use.

7.4.3 Telephone contact with friends and family is limited due to lack of in-cell telephony and time pressure due to regime curtailment. Prisoners at work or in education are particularly disadvantaged and it is often reported to us that the time available for telephoning family is often curtailed due to queues for the limited number of phones on each wing. Secure video calling is only available on Monday to Thursday afternoons, which is unsuitable for families who work or have childcare commitments during these hours.

7.4.4 There have been 12 family days during the reporting period for up to 15 prisoners each, four of which were designated as adult only, to reflect the needs of the older population. Observed events have been well organised and enjoyed.

7.4.5 Incoming and outgoing post to families has been problematic this year due to post room staff being deployed elsewhere and procedural changes required for security purposes. The long wait for letters has been a frequent complaint arising in Applications to the IMB. Prisoners report that they wait up to three weeks for letters that have been delivered to the prison, which in one case meant a missed court appearance.

7.4.6 The organisation Storybook Dads is based at Dartmoor and those prisoners engaging with the activity of recording stories for their children and grandchildren speak highly of the service. As well as recording stories to be sent out on CDs, there are a number of creative items – personalised growth charts, Christmas baubles and photograph frames. Services like these are to be encouraged.

7.5 Resettlement planning

7.5.1 HMP Dartmoor is not a resettlement prison and does not receive a separate budget for resettlement activities. Like previous years, limited funds have been found by prison and staff to try and assist prisoners but more money is needed to help administer resettlement. This continues to be of concern to the Board given that 95 prisoners were released directly from the prison back into the community over the reporting year. Although this is a welcome decrease of some 20% on the previous year, the limited funds have a negative impact on the assistance that can be given.

7.5.2 There have been two ‘Job fairs’ held in the prison over the past 12 months. Board members observed both and were pleased to see the wide variety of employers offering roles for prisoners due for release. It is to be hoped that more employers needing skills taught in the prison can attend such events in future.

7.5.3 Discharge Boards take place over the course of the year and the IMB Board has been impressed with the work of staff in helping prisoners prepare for release: ensuring they have accommodation, the right paperwork, a bank account set up if needed and other issues sorted to help people leaving the prison and, hopefully, help in reducing the rate of re-offending. As well as prison staff the work of Clinks in this area is acknowledged too. It is disappointing that CFO3’s (a charity that helps prisoners prepare for leaving custody) valuable support will soon be lost.

7.5.4 Last year, the Board was concerned that too many Category D prisoners faced a long wait to be transferred to a facility designated as appropriate in their sentence plans. This year, the majority of available national prison space has been in Category D prisons and priority has been given to filling these spaces, given the pressure on overall space. Transfers have normally taken place within a couple of weeks of confirmation of Category D status. The situation has slowed down recently due to slightly less accessibility, but the waiting time remains at around three weeks. This change is welcomed, but we will continue to monitor this situation.

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	14
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	13
Total number of visits to the establishment	498

Applications to the IMB

Code	Subject	Previous reporting year	Current reporting year
A	Accommodation, including laundry, clothing, ablutions	5	40
B	Discipline, including adjudications, incentives scheme, sanctions	14	6
C	Equality	5	13
D	Purposeful activity, including education, work, training, time out of cell	31	27
E1	Letters, visits, telephones, public protection, restrictions	34	28
E2	Finance, including pay, private monies, spends	8	9
F	Food and kitchens	3	6
G	Health, including physical, mental, social care	29	26
H1	Property within the establishment	11	19
H2	Property during transfer or in another facility	19	18
H3	Canteen, facility list, catalogues	3	2
I	Sentence management, including HDC, ROTL, parole, release dates, re-categorisation	12	16
J	Staff/prisoner concerns, including bullying	40	57
K	Transfers	9	4
L	Miscellaneous	0	0
	Total number of applications	223	271



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at imb@justice.gov.uk