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**LINDHOLME IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE –  
SUPERFICIAL PROGRESS, BUT LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE**

Uncertainty over the future of Lindholme Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) seemed to be hampering progress, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection.

Lindholme IRC, adjacent to HMP Lindholme near Doncaster, is run by the Prison Service on behalf of the UK Border Agency (UKBA). At its last inspection, inspectors were concerned by a number of safety issues, a lack of emphasis on preparing detainees for release and the inability of the IRC to break away from the prison and carve out a separate and more appropriate identity for itself. This inspection has identified some superficial progress, but little substantive change.

Inspectors were concerned to find that:

- while detainees generally reported feeling safe, a large number of our previous recommendations had not been achieved;
- there was little bullying, but violence reduction systems remained weak and levels of night-time supervision were still too low;
- telephone translation remained under used;
- there were weaknesses in the arrangements to identify those who had been subject to torture;

- the general quality of accommodation remained poor, with improvements largely on hold pending a decision on expansion plans for the IRC;
- there had been little improvement in the preparation of detainees for release or removal; and
- there was still inadequate welfare officer provision and detainees still had no access to the internet or email.

However, inspectors were pleased to see that:

- security appeared proportionate, although the separation rooms remained inadequate;
- casework was well managed and legal advice was available;
- staff-detainee relationships were generally positive;
- health care services were generally good, but had to be provided in wholly inadequate facilities;
- time out of room and access to purposeful activity remained reasonable; and
- education had improved and good efforts had been made to maximise available activity resources.

Nick Hardwick said:

“Managers and staff at Lindholme IRC had made some initial inroads into the areas for improvement identified in our last inspection. However, uncertainty over the IRC’s future appeared not only to have prevented much needed investment in infrastructure but also hampered the bedding in of some of the changes that had been made. The IRC has a number of strengths upon which to build, but progress appears to be contingent upon clarification about its future – and, as we have frequently reported, a clear separation of the IRC from the adjacent prison and the shadow of prison culture.”

ENDS

**Notes to Editors:**

1. A copy of the report can be found on the HM Inspectorate of Prisons website from 10 May 2011 at [www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons](http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons)
2. HM Inspectorate of Prisons is an independent inspectorate, inspecting places of detention to report on conditions and treatment, and promote positive outcomes for those detained and the public.
3. This unannounced short follow-up inspection was carried out from 17-20 January 2011.
4. Lindholme Immigration Removal Centre accommodates adult male detainees and is run by the Prison Service on behalf of the UKBA. It is adjacent to HMP Lindholme.
5. Please contact Jane Parsons in HMI Prisons Press Office on 0207 035 2123 or 07880 787452 from 0915 to 1415 Monday to Friday if you would like more information or to request an interview with Nick Hardwick.