



**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR  
HMP LINCOLN**

**01 February 2010  
To  
31 January 2011**

# **1 STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

1.1 The Prisons 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.

1.2 The Board is specifically charged to:

1. 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.
2. Inform promptly the Secretary of State or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
3. 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 custody.

1.3 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 INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR HMP LINCOLN**

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### **3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON**

3.1 HMP Lincoln was mainly built in Victorian times. It is a Category B Local and Remand Prison for men, but during 2010 work has started in developing one of the residential wings as a Community Prison for men .

3.2 The Prison has four large residential wings, two small wings, only one of which is in use, a Chapel, a Reception area, Visits Hall, a Gymnasium, an antiquated Gate house, a workshop block and a number of temporary buildings.

3.3 The number of prisoners over the reporting period has been between 554 - 663. HMP Lincoln's Certified Normal Accommodation is 431 and its operational capacity is 729.

3.4 The average length of stay by a prisoner is 27 days.

3.5 The Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust provides General Healthcare; the Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust provides Mental Healthcare; Education is provided by Lincoln College; and most training by internal prison staff. The Samaritans train Listeners, the Salvation Army offer Pastoral Care, Alcoholics Anonymous hold group meetings and Prison Visitors visit some prisoners.

### **4 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **(a) Particular Issues Requiring a Response**

##### **(i) Policy Matters**

###### Time Expired Detainees

4.1 The Board wishes to draw the attention of the Minister to the unacceptable delay in repatriating foreign nationals who have served their sentence and for whom prison accommodation is inappropriate. (Pg 7, para 5.30-5.33).

##### **(ii) Operational Matters**

###### Mental Healthcare Referrals

4.2 The Board is concerned to report that non-urgent mental healthcare referrals are taking too long. (Pg 6, para 5.21).

###### Heating

4.3 The Board wishes to register concerns over the inadequate heating provision within the prison from November 2010 to January 2011. (Pg 9, para 6.9).

###### Mandatory Drug Testing

4.4 Targets have not been met. (Pg 9, para 6.8).

**(b) Other issues of concern or excellence**

- (i) The King's Fund award for Healthcare. (Pgs 5-6, para 5.18)
- (ii) Drug Dog gains National Award. (Pg 9, para 6.6).
- (iii) The refurbishment of the Visits Hall. (Pg 8, para 6.5).
- (iv) The Community Prison. (Pg 8, para 6.1).

**(c) Overall Judgement**

4.5 The Board recognises positive progress in a much improved relationship between staff and prisoners. Prisoner numbers have been below operational capacity, reducing overcrowding, making movements easier and leading to a much more stable community.

**5 COMPULSORY REPORTING AREAS**

**(i) Diversity**

5.1 All areas of Diversity are covered by the Diversity Team. Meetings are held regularly and include a prisoner representative and a member of the Board. The Board regrets the loss of the dedicated Foreign National Liaison Officer who gave good support to those awaiting deportation. The Discipline Office have now taken on his duties.

5.2 The average percentage of Black, Minority and Ethnic prisoners at Lincoln was 19.32% of the total population. Foreign Nationals averaged 81 in number, during the reporting period and spent an average of 107 days after their sentence was served awaiting deportation. There were 56 Racist Incident Reports of which 30 were proven. This is almost double the number from last year. The subject of these complaints ranged from graffiti to verbal assaults and abuse. All racist incidents are now verified externally by the Diversity Manager at Lincoln University and the Board is satisfied that matters have been dealt with appropriately.

5.3 Big Word, the translation facility, was used on 184 occasions with Lithuanian being the most frequently used language. Foreign National prisoners help each other with day to day language problems and the various pictorial sticker signs, used throughout the prison, prove useful. Wing notice boards are constantly updated in a range of languages.

5.4 The prison has been without the full time Muslim Cleric since September 2010 but has had the services of a visiting Imam. The Chaplaincy provide Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Roman Catholic and Protestant services and support all religions.

5.5 The Diversity Team ran a Black History Month in October celebrating different ethnic backgrounds and their cultures. In December an anti racist poster competition was held. Events are publicised in the prison publication 'Jail Mail'.

5.6 The needs of physically disabled prisoners are accommodated within the budget available. The Healthcare Centre has retained its High Dependency Cell.

5.7 Prisoners appear happy to ask for help with any literacy problems from fellow prisoners or staff. The Library provides access to information and fiction, and Learning and Skills will assist prisoners who wish to pursue academic qualifications. To the Board's knowledge no prisoner has been denied access to any regime or facility through disability.

(ii) Learning and Skills

5.8 Providers of Learning and skills at HMP Lincoln face a number of obstacles. The average length of stay for each prisoner is 5 weeks. Many arrive with low educational attainment and the demand for courses exceeds the spaces available. The team at Lincoln have worked hard to overcome these difficulties and continue to do so.

5.9 On arrival each prisoner is assessed and an Individual Learning Plan is developed. The teaching staff, working with Lincoln College, the Skills Funding Agency and other bodies are developing Unit Accreditation enabling individuals to take courses appropriate to their needs allowing them to achieve outcomes during their stay in prison.

5.10 A new incentive pay policy is being drawn up so the prisoners have a chance to work towards the goals they need and towards key areas such as sentence planning and behaviour management.

5.11 The opening of the PICTA (Prisoners Information Communication Technology Awareness) workshop has provided 28 new training places but more are needed. Funding has been secured for a new two storey workshop but building has not yet commenced. The department hopes that a more stable population in the Community Prison will enable it to run extended courses, for example in Business Studies, to Levels 1,2 and 3.

5.12 The kitchen and laundry continue to offer prisoners good training opportunities for work at the end of their sentences. The department is allocated funding for its work and the courses offered match the funding. With more funding, courses could be expanded. The Board would like to see more teaching of practical skills of benefit to prisoners in the work place.

5.13 The Board is confident that the strong foundations established last year have been consolidated and believes that increasing numbers of prisoners will benefit from the work of the department.

(iii) Healthcare and Mental Health

5.14 The Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust is responsible for providing general Health Care Services.

5.16 A member of general Healthcare staff sees all prisoners within 24 hours of reception.

5.17 During this reporting year, provision has been made for prisoners to remain on the Residential Wings in preference, as previously, to being transferred to the Healthcare wing for care. Now each Wing has a dedicated general Healthcare staff team to support the needs of the prisoners.

5.18 The Healthcare Wing provides facilities for prisoners attending clinic appointments.

This year the Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust staff, working alongside the Prison Staff, have been successful in securing an award from The Kings Fund to enable the facilities to be further developed to provide a more professional healthcare environment, making it fit for purpose. The total additional investment is £35,000, of which The Kings Fund has provided £20,000, and the Lincolnshire Partnership Trust £15,000. Working together with the prison service, the work should be completed in 2011.

5.19 The Board has been greatly encouraged by the work of the general Healthcare Staff in achieving this substantial award and the improvement in the delivery of care to the Prisoners.

**Treatment Time for Prisoners:**

<u>Speciality</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Waiting Time.</u>	
<b>Dental</b>	2 Clinics per week	Urgent Non-urgent	1 week 20 weeks
<b>Optician</b>	1 clinic 3 weekly	Urgent Non-urgent	3 weeks 15 weeks
<b>Genito - Urinary</b>	1 day per week	Urgent Non-urgent	1 week 3 weeks
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	1 day per week	Maximum wait	4 weeks

5.20 The Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust is responsible for providing Mental Healthcare Services. Some difficulties in providing the service have occurred due to staff shortages, but additional staff have now been recruited.

5.21 There is a named Mental Healthcare worker for each residential wing, and prisoners who are referred urgently to the Mental Healthcare Team are seen within 4 hours. However, members of the Board are concerned that the target of non-urgent referrals being given a face-to-face assessment within 5 days is not being achieved, and can take up to 10 days which is due to staff shortages and the apparent lack of appropriate examination rooms. The Kings Fund award, plus additional investment made by The Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust and Prison Service to develop the clinical rooms in the Healthcare centre, will benefit the Mental Healthcare service, and this target should be achieved in the future.

5.22 Prisoners have the opportunity to put in an application to see a member of Healthcare, and a Healthcare complaint procedure is available if they are not satisfied with the service provided.

(iv) Safer Custody

5.23 Staff make considerable efforts to ensure prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm are identified and their care is appropriately recorded in the Assessment Care in Custody Treatment documentation (ACCT). During 2010, 334 ACCT documents were opened which was a significant decrease in comparison to the 400 in 2009.

5.24 Members of the Safer Prison Committee monitor, review and discuss incidents of violent, anti-social or bullying behaviour, as well as incidents of self-harm, of which there were 169 during 2010.

5.25 Lincoln Samaritans provide regular training sessions to enable some prisoners to fulfil the role as a 'Listener'. If a Listener is not provided the Samaritans telephone service is freely available to prisoners.

5.26 There were no deaths in custody during 2010, but inquests into 2 deaths which occurred in 2009 have yet to be completed.

(v) Segregation

5.27 This wing is antiquated and in great need of refurbishment but has continued to function well. A high degree of professionalism has been exhibited by the dedicated officers serving there who show extensive care and compassion in their dealings with prisoners and the traumas that can arise from being located in the segregation wing. All records and authorisations are properly kept and up to date.

5.28 The wing consists of 12 cells which include a dirty protest cell, a safer gated cell, monitored by a camera, and one special accommodation cell. During this reporting period the special accommodation cell has been used for 5 prisoners, each for less than 3 hours and the Board has monitored its use.

5.29 The Board is informed within 24 hours of any prisoner being moved into segregation and members can speak freely with those prisoners at any time. All prisoners held under rule 45, Good Order Or Discipline (GOOD) are initially reviewed after 72 hours and Board members attend these reviews. Further reviews can take place at intervals of 14 days (at the most) which are also attended by Board members. The requisite specialists are in attendance and the Board are satisfied that the prisoner is given every opportunity to see or hear any evidence and is always given the opportunity to attend his review. 87 GOOD Boards were attended by the Board.

5.30 During this reporting year, the Board was concerned over the detention of one particular prisoner who was held in the segregation wing for just over three months, mainly in the dirty protest cell. This prisoner's sentence had expired and he was being held in custody on an Immigration Holding Document pending deportation.

5.31 His behaviour was bizarre and his lack of personal hygiene made it impossible for him to be held on normal location. Big Word, the translation facility, was used when appropriate but day to day language difficulties were apparent. With all these problems the Board considered that his continued confinement in segregation was neither humane nor just and raised their concerns with the Governor.

5.32 The Governor, also concerned, subsequently passed the problem to both the Area Manager and the Director of Offender Management. Eventually, the Board wrote on 01 November to the Minister for Immigration and on 16 November to the Minister for Prisons. The Board received an answer on 04 December from the Minister for Immigration explaining the problems surrounding the deportation of prisoners and reporting that he had passed the Board's concerns to the United Kingdom Borders Agency. The prisoner was eventually deported in mid December. The Board strongly urges that prisoners facing

deportation at the end of their sentences should be dealt with in a more timely manner. 107 days is the average number of days Time Expired prisoners have been held in HMP Lincoln during the reporting period.

5.33 Last year the Board highlighted the case of another prisoner, also detained in poor conditions in the Segregation unit for many weeks, who needed an outside agency to effect his removal from HMP Lincoln. The Board urges the minister to increase co-operation with outside agencies to minimise these unacceptable delays.

## **6 OTHER REPORTING AREAS**

### The Community Prison

6.1 Preparations are well underway to operate a community prison model on one of the four wings at HMP Lincoln. This will accommodate up to 200 offenders who are from the Lincolnshire area. The model is in line with the National Reducing Re-offending Action Plan. It is believed that by assisting prisoners to secure accommodation, seek employment training or education and maintain family ties this will help rehabilitation back into the community and reduce the risk of re-offending and returning to prison. Already, within the period of this report, one prisoner has secured Release on Temporary Licence and started to work outside the prison. The Board fully supports the idea of a Community Prison which assists those who are serving a sentence of a year or less to forge strong links with the outside community and therefore reduce the risk of re-offending.

### Reception

6.2 The difficulties caused by the unsuitability of the reception facilities at HMP Lincoln have been the subject of previous annual reports. The hard work and the skills of the staff in reception have ensured that this vital area of the prison has been run in a humane and effective manner. The plans for an upgrade are now at the tendering stage and, once completed, the facilities should be fit for purpose in the years ahead.

6.3 Over the past year the staff have worked efficiently and the problems associated with the late arrival of prisoners has diminished.

### Kitchen

6.4 The Board expresses concern that, despite last year's kitchen refurbishment, the floor was not upgraded and is well below the standard desired in such a facility. It is, also, nearly always wet because water and other spillages do not drain away. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Governing Governor many times over the reporting period.

### Visits

6.5 The Board welcomed the refurbishment of the Visits hall to a high standard with comfortable upholstered chairs. The noise level has been reduced by 50% making a much improved environment. The new kitchen, serving hot food and available to both visitors and staff, is proving very popular and is a valuable addition for those who may have travelled long distances.

## Drugs

6.6 The Drug Strategy Group, which includes outside agencies, assess the habits, needs and treatment of all prisoners at HMP Lincoln with a drug abuse problem. The Board are encouraged by the efforts of staff and the specially trained dogs to reduce illegal drug possession. The drug dog team, based at Lincoln, now work in a cluster group with North Sea Camp and Morton Hall prisons. One of the dogs, commendably, came third in the National Active Dog competition.

6.7 Disciplinary measures are taken against all drug offences and 13.8% of the total number of adjudications for offences against discipline were drug related. The Integrated Drug Treatment Scheme was introduced this year whereby prisoners, with a well established drug habit, can be maintained at a safe and controlled level of usage with a view to reducing their drug dependency.

6.8 During the period of this report the Voluntary Drug Testing targets were met in full. The Mandatory Drug Testing targets were again not met but it should be noted that in the last two months of this report there was a marked upturn in testing which should ensure that the target will be achieved by the end of March 2011 which marks the end of the prison's year. The Board feels that one reason for the targets not being met in the first part of this report was that staff detailed for the testing were frequently redeployed to other roles.

## Heating

6.9 Between November 2010 and January 2011 the temperature of many areas of the prison fell to an unacceptably low level. Prisoners and staff, on various wings at various times, were cold. A new boiler was being installed and heating provided by temporary units. However, the change over to the new boiler did not, initially, solve the problem but the Board was assured that all was well by the end of January.

## **7 THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD**

7.1 During the reporting year three new members have been serving their probation under the guidance of our training officer and the board are looking forward to sharing their work load with them. The commitment, teamwork and high morale of the Board continues.

7.2 Members of the Board visit areas of the prison each week. Good practice and concerns are noted and then reported in writing. The report is read by the Governor and discussed with him and all Board members at the monthly Board meeting. Here the Governor will agree to address our concerns and, if not resolved, the Board raises them with Managers or Ministers. (Pg 7, para 5.32).

7.3 Prisoners Application Clinics are held weekly. The Board is satisfied that, with the temporary problem of the collection of application forms having been speedily resolved, prisoners are seen within 7 days.

7.4 Members of the Board are allocated areas within the prison for their special attention to ensure that nothing is overlooked and to alert others to problems which need special monitoring. The Board attends some prison meetings, training days, special and seasonal events.

7.5 Well attended Board training evenings are held monthly.

7.6 The Board administers the Lincolnshire Discharged Prisoner's Welfare Charity and this year help was provided to a discharged prisoner who was thus able to renew his digger licence and regain employment in the building trade.

7.7 The IMB National Council and the IMB Secretariat continue to assist the Board in its work.

## **COMMITTEES ATTENDED BY THE BOARD**

Safer Prisons  
Prisoners Representatives  
Chaplaincy  
Energy  
Drugs Strategy  
Public Protection Monitoring  
Reducing Offending  
Security  
Segregation, Monitoring and Review Group  
Adjudication Standardisation  
Quality Improvement Group  
Regimes and Resettlement  
Diversity, Race, Equality and Action Team  
Trends

<b>BOARD STATISTICS</b>	
Recommended complement of Board Members	17
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	10
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	13
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	0
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	10
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	615
Total number of applications received	310
Total number of segregation reviews held	87
Total number of segregation reviews attended	87
Total number of rota visits	52

## APPLICATIONS CLINICS FEB 2010-JAN 2011

A	Accommodation	4
B	Adjudications	4
C	Diversity related	4
D	Education/employment/training	16
E	Family/visits	24
F	Food/kitchen related	5
G	Health related	29
H	Property	32
I	Sentence related	21
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee related	13
K	Transfers	39
L	Miscellaneous	45
	<b>Total number of applications</b>	<b>236</b>

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