

# HMP LONG LARTIN

Annual Report of the  
Independent  
Monitoring  
Board

01.02.10 / 31.01.11

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## **1. STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 require every prison and IRC to be monitored by an independent Board appointed by the Home Secretary from members of the community in which the prison or centre is situated.

The Board is charged specifically 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 he has delegated authority 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.

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### **3. Description of the Prison**

HMP Long Lartin is a dispersal prison within the High Security Estate. It is situated in the Vale of Evesham.

Long Lartin was opened in 1971 as a Category C establishment and upgraded to receive dispersal prisoners in May 1973. Since then successive programmes of investment have renovated and adapted the original premises. The first substantial extension to the prison was a new house block and Segregation Unit; these were opened 10 years ago.

Further work has since been completed. Two of the original six wings have been replaced by new accommodation. This was occupied from June 2009 onwards. In the medium term, there are plans in draft for two more house blocks to be built. These would stand on the sports field, which is now disused. If these plans come to fruition, Long Lartin will be holding close to 1000 dispersal prisoners. This is territory as yet un-charted.

During the year under review Long Lartin has operated with a CNA of 622. These men will normally be in Categories A or B, with a small number drawn from High Risk Category A. From time to time there are provisional Category A prisoners held on remand before trials in the South West. A discrete unit accommodates some unconvicted men who are held pending arrangements for their deportation. They are deemed to be Category A or High Risk Category A.

Responsibility for healthcare lies with the Worcestershire Primary Care Trust. The Education contract is with the Manchester College. Provisions and canteen are provided by DHL Booker

## 4. Executive Summary

This report covers the period 1st February 2010 until 31st January 2011. It is presented in the standardised national format.

### 1. Matters for the Minister

- 1.1. Issues arising from the increasing number of elderly prisoners 5.1.3/4/5/6
- 1.2. Time delay between death in custody and resultant inquest. 5.4.7
- 1.3. Detainee policy 6.5

### 2. Matters for the Director

- 2.1. Mental Health issues and consequent effects 5.3.8/5.5.4
- 2.2. Transport of wheelchair bound Cat A prisoners 5.3.10
- 2.3. Transfers out of the High Security Estate 6.15.2/3

### 3. Matters for the prison

- 3.1. Censors staffing/late mail 6.1.2
- 3.2. Rates of pay policy covering workshops and EDU 5.2.2/6.17

## **5. Areas upon which the Board is required to report**

### **5.1. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

5.1.1. There was a period of four months between December 2009 and March 2010 where no meetings were held and subsequent ones were poorly attended. However, the new Governor ensured, early in the summer, that regular meetings took place and that he expected them to be well attended. It was felt that not all staff were fulfilling, or perhaps were not even aware of their responsibilities and that diversity was the sole responsibility of the diversity team. However this is now being addressed, which is resulting in improved participation at Diversity Race Equality Action Team (DREAT) meetings (since renamed Equality Action Team). The programme "Challenge it – Change it" is being rolled out to all prison staff and the Board hopes that this will change attitudes for the better.

5.1.2. At the end of the reporting year 60% of prisoners had declared themselves as White British with BME at 39.7%. Thirty different nationalities have been registered, with 87.4% as from UK and 15.28% or 84 prisoners declared as foreign nationals.

5.1.3. Working from within the Diversity Team the Equalities Officer holds a clinic on a different wing each day. In this way she manages to monitor and deal with issues as they arise. With 129 prisoners now over the age of 50 the Board is concerned that their needs are not being adequately met. There appears to be a lack of specialist accommodation, especially in view of the fact that a number of these elderly men are also disabled in some way. They are being housed with much younger men and are inevitably a target for bullying and intimidation. As a group they are

disinclined to complain preferring to keep their heads down and get on with their sentence. Similar concerns were expressed in last year's report.

- 5.1.4. This situation can cause stress and the Board feels that the elderly and disabled need better and easier access to Health Care. A number of these men will also have mental health problems. With very little to occupy them the Board also feels that specialist workshops would greatly benefit this increasingly large group of men. More regular gym or physical activity sessions should also be a positive move.
- 5.1.5. The Board feels that more thought could be given to improving the lives of this section of the population. Canteen sheets and notice board information could be printed in larger type, and practical warmer clothing provided for the winter months.
- 5.1.6. The Board notes with interest that the prison is drawing together a comprehensive policy that will guide its work with the increasing population of elderly prisoners. This is a timely development and its implementation will be reported upon next year.

## 5.2. LEARNING & SKILLS

- 5.2.1. A Board representative met with the Education and Skills manager three times during the year. It would seem that this department of the prison is working quite well and the staff mainly happy with the working arrangements.
- 5.2.2. The main problem in the department is the low numbers of prisoners in education. The reason given for this is that prisoners earn more money in the workshops than in education. Education and Skills management is concerned about classroom attendances. They want to advertise education amongst prisoners and let them know how it can fit in with their sentence planning. They are also considering a pay review of prisoners attending education.
- 5.2.3. Another issue is that staff working particularly with prisoners doing GCSE maths and English are finding it hard to fit in extra lessons because of termination of education hours for prison reasons.
- 5.2.4. There is an overdue national review concerned with learning in offender institutions. We do not know what effect this will have on HMP Long Lartin.
- 5.2.5. The prison is due a spot OFSTED review shortly.
- 5.2.6. Some of the prisoners' paintings and a paper model of a bonsai tree are being entered for the annual Koestler Award. A number of pieces of writing have also been entered by the prison's writer in residence.

## 5.3. HEALTHCARE

- 5.3.1. The Healthcare Unit consistently presents as an extremely clean, well run facility which is well used by prisoners in the prison. Staff are very skilled in dealing with difficult and on occasions aggressive prisoners who challenge the appropriateness of their treatments.
- 5.3.2. The Unit caters on occasions for patients waiting for forensic psychiatric beds and as a consequence these patients can be in Healthcare for some considerable time. The national waiting list of seven months (PCT statistic) creates particular delays which cause further distress to patients due to the uncertainty of when a move might take place.
- 5.3.3. Discussions with nursing staff reveal their concern for those prisoners who demonstrate intellectual difficulties and who, in the wider context of the prison, are offered little additional help to cope. The Board would welcome a more structured approach to the needs of these prisoners.
- 5.3.4. It is an ongoing challenge to the medical staff to be presented with a demand for medication to address pain, which results in a large prescription of opiate derived medications to prisoners. This undoubtedly is the reason for a trade in prescribed drugs among prisoners, particularly on the wings catering for vulnerable prisoners. This results in debts and further issues caused by these debts. The matter is of concern to the prison and it has the potential for particularly harmful consequences to prisoners who are in receipt of substitute prescribed medication for addictions and who are then able to access additional opiates illicitly from within the prison.
- 5.3.5. The development of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (I.D.T.S.) continues rather more slowly than envisaged or expected. However a date of August 2011 is currently promised as a completion date for the facilities. Currently some patients have been unhappy about signing the compact but work continues to promote the initiative among the prison population.

5.3.6. Various initiatives have taken place to ensure the smooth running of the service to prisoners and to alleviate some of the problems previously faced by staff. The introduction of treatment hatches on the wings has resulted in fewer patients for individual nurses to medicate and a noticeable reduction in the intimidation of nursing staff by prisoners. Several teething troubles have now been rectified and the system is generally considered an improvement and there have been particular efforts to address the concern prisoners have had about confidentiality. It remains at the time of writing this report, for the planned treatment hatch in the Segregation Unit to be installed. For those prisoners in receipt of “ In possession “ medication who were formerly faced with a delay from time to time, the appointment of a Pharmacy Technician, who is now in post, has improved that situation considerably. The introduction of medication being dispensed on the wings has made a significant improvement in reducing time lost getting mainstream and VP's to work.

5.3.7. The process for the collection of “In Possession” medication is currently under review. The Security Department is now regularly informed of changes in medication prescribed to prisoners which further helps in identifying potential misuses of medication.

5.3.8. Training of staff in mental health related issues has included the staff from the Segregation Unit receiving training in aspects of Mental Health as related to the prison population. Further training for all staff in issues relating to Learning Difficulties and Autistic Spectrum Disorders would be welcomed by the Board.

5.3.9. The introduction of identity cards for those in receipt of medication is currently being looked into. This has the potential of helping nurses in the administration of drugs and of minimising further possible misuse.

5.3.10. Transport of Cat A prisoners who are confined to a wheelchair presents some difficulties and ideal arrangements cannot be employed as the Cat. A. vehicles currently in use are not able to accommodate these prisoners in

transit. Efforts are being made to source such a vehicle but at present such a facility is not available ; this needs a speedy resolution.

5.3.11. Previous reports have noted the difficulty in accessing an optician, a problem further exacerbated by the presence of an ageing prison population at Long Lartin. However, we are assured that this issue is now currently in hand and it is hoped an improvement will very soon be achieved.

5.3.12. The Healthcare Department operates in an extremely professional manner at all times and its strong links as a P.C.T provision within Worcester Health Authority are evident and who are at all times seen to be extremely sympathetic to the needs of this valuable and respected service within the prison.

## **5.4. SAFER PRISONS AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION**

- 5.4.1. Applications to the Board from prisoners and their families complaining of bullying, and forced radicalisation into the Muslim Religion continues to be a problem on mainstream wings at Long Lartin and the Board intends to continue to monitor this area closely.
- 5.4.2. ACCT (Assessment, Care in Custody, and Teamwork) document entries have improved during the reporting year but the lack of trained assessors in Safer Custody remains a problem.
- 5.4.3. From November 2010 the Samaritans have offered to train the staff to raise awareness of the Listeners' role within the establishment.
- 5.4.4. In autumn 2010 a prisoner support group was set up and is run by the Chaplaincy.
- 5.4.5. Training for staff in dealing with anti bullying processes in relation to prisoners with mental health issues has been raised with Ashworth Hospital and it is hoped this will be provided in 2011.
- 5.4.6. The number of open ACCT forms remains disproportionately high in the Segregation Unit.
- 5.4.7. The Board is concerned about the seemingly inordinate length of time it takes an inquest to occur following a death in custody. The chance for lessons to be learned and consequent improvements made is thus weakened.
- 5.4.8. Violence Reduction Forums have taken place regularly on VP wings and mainstream wings. At the time of reporting there were 17 listeners trained by the Samaritans.
- 5.4.9. In the reporting period there were two deaths in custody both due to natural causes.

## 5.5. SEGREGATION UNIT

5.5.1. This large unit's work is complicated by the divergent needs of the 25 to 30 prisoners usually accommodated there. They include dangerous and disturbed as well as deficient, fearful men, many of whom cope poorly in this environment. This reporting year has been no exception.

Approximately 35% to 40% of the men are held under Rule 45 (Good Order or Discipline), and most of the remainder under Rule 45 (Own Interest). Additionally there have been (usually) two centrally controlled Rule 46 prisoners.

5.5.2. There have been strenuous efforts to encourage long-stay segregated prisoners back into normal accommodation here or in other establishments throughout the year. These have been fairly successful but the supply of newly segregated men and men transferred from the segregation units of other establishments has kept the overall numbers high.

5.5.3. Weekly Rule 45 boards are held with approximately half of the prisoners invited to attend each week. The Boards have been for the most part run effectively with the relevant facts before them despite the withdrawal of secretarial assistance during the year. The IMB continues to maintain its own record of decisions.

5.5.4. It is worth recording that the unit manages sympathetically and well some of the most challenging and demanding men in the prison system. Nevertheless, one cannot help but be struck by the incidence of segregated prisoners whose mental health is an issue or to reflect on the appropriateness of segregation for such men. Some such prisoners are stuck in a cycle in which they cannot cope on normal location. They repeatedly return to segregation. The Ombudsman has been suggesting that the prison service might attempt to make suitable provision for chronically mentally ill prisoners 'in-house', as the situation has persisted for many years. A number of cells have been put to use in one of the vulnerable prisoner wings to ease men back into normal location. This has met with some success.

## **6. Areas upon which the Board chooses to report**

### **6.1. CENSORS**

6.1.1. The complaint about prisoners' mail arriving days' late is ongoing. The main reason for the delay that the Censors' staff give is shortage of personnel to deal with the amount of prisoners' mail arriving in the prison. There should be six staff on per shift during the day but very often there are only four. The rest are deployed elsewhere in secure areas of the prison.

6.1.2. The second reason for the delay is that staff deal with complaints that come from the prisoners on the wings before opening and censoring the incoming mail.

Our concern about this issue is that if prisoners continue to receive their mail late then over a period of time this could detrimentally affect their morale with consequences for their behaviour.

6.1.3. As a Board we need to continue to monitor Censors closely.

## 6.2. CHAPLAINCY

6.2.1. A team of 17 Chaplains, some part-time, minister to the needs of some 620 prisoners. At the time of this report there were seven Muslim Chaplains, (the head of Chaplaincy himself being a Muslim) one Church of England, one Roman Catholic and one Free Church Chaplain. The rest of the team cover the Sikh, Buddhist, Pagan, Hindu, Jewish, Mormon and Jehovah's Witness faiths.

6.2.2. The Chaplaincy faces a number of challenges in the coming months with the difficulties of balancing needs and resources. During the last years the Chaplaincy has provided services for the prisons over and above their religious functions but the future of some of these projects must be in doubt due to financial restrictions. Changes in personnel within the Chaplaincy will have a profound effect on its activities.

6.2.3. At the end of the reporting year, of the religious persuasion within the prison

25.6% are Muslim

24.5% are Church of England

17.4% nil religion

13.66% Roman Catholic

5.37% are Buddhist

6.2.4. The Muslim population in the prison continues to be the largest religious minority.

### **6.3. CHILDREN AND FAMILY FORUM**

- 6.3.1. This strong and positive group incorporates the visitors centre and those functions which foster and support communications between prisoners and their families.
- 6.3.2. A vital part of their work is family time, formerly family visits. During the last year additional family time has given access to those on the support wings who fit the criteria. Although the take up from the support wings had initially been slow there is now an increasing demand for this contact, and as a result it has been decided to accommodate mainstream prisoners in the Visits Hall on every future occasion with those from the support wings joining with their partners and families in the High Risk Room. These visits will be increased during the coming months. This will mean an increased opportunity on a family visit for both the mainstream and support wings. However there are many considerations here, including staff and volunteer numbers in addition to security issues.
- 6.3.3. Under the umbrella of this forum sit a number of activities relating to families. These include a relationship course of Bereavement Care. Also included is the Book Share with Story Book Dads and the card making group. The latter now runs with the two groups with an accreditation at the end of the course.
- 6.3.4. A redecoration project is currently in progress in the Visits Centre with the play area being upgraded and returned to its original site. The introduction of a uniformed member of staff has provided a reassuring presence for visitors and also for the volunteer staff who often have to deal with frustrated and weary visitors. Volunteers are hard to recruit and both they and the play leaders are fully stretched at times. The Board is full of praise for the demanding role they fulfil.

## **6.4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- 6.4.1. Two part time community engagement officers are currently employed by the prison. Their task reaches into all parts of the establishment with their main aim to bridge the gap between the prison and the community. To this end they seek to bring the outside effectively into the prison and to support the voluntary agencies who work in the prison.
- 6.4.2. With reduced funding, resources will become even scarcer and at the present time upwards of a dozen agencies are supported by this small department. Some provide practical resources which enable purposeful activities which would not otherwise be possible; other agencies provide professional advice and support which is beneficial to the prisoners, the prison, and to the community. The Community Engagement Offices can raise awareness of unmet needs within prison and act as a point of reference to both staff and agencies when difficulties arise.
- 6.4.3. The Board sees the great strength of this work as bringing a fresh approach to working with prisoners.

## **6.5. DETAINEE UNIT**

- 6.5.1. For the third successive year the Board records its concern over the situation of the handful of men who are held in the Detainee Unit. Their circumstances are highly unusual. None of the prisoners have been convicted or charged; they are being held pending the outcome of their appeals against proceedings to extradite or deport. At the time of reporting their accumulated periods of detention amount to over fifty years.
- 6.5.2. Since December 2008 the detainees - as they are all termed - have been held in a highly secure unit, sealed off from the remainder of the prison population. Within its confines there certainly have been efforts to ameliorate their situation. There is a kitchen, a small gym, a computer room and even opportunities for growing tomatoes and a range of herbs. Specialist staff visit from time to time and the detainees appear to have a cooperative relationship with the officers who run the unit. All of this is acknowledged by the Board.
- 6.5.3. What none of this does - or can do - is address the central feature of the detainees' situation: their isolation. Nor is that isolation the price that is being paid for achievement of some other goal: isolation, albeit sweetened by a range of amenities, is the purpose of this regime. Two years and more in such conditions is an extraordinarily long time. The Board has viewed it with deepening unease. The detainees themselves took the decision to isolate them to Judicial Review. The essence of a very lengthy judgement appears, in the lay perception of the Board, to be that a Governor's ability to assess and respond to his local situation should be protected and supported.
- 6.5.4. The Board has repeatedly been assured that the risks involved in allowing these men to mix with the rest of the population are unacceptably high. It naturally treats this argument with a good deal of respect, recognising that in a dispersal prison the stakes can be very high. Yet the prison manages the risks presented by almost all of its prisoners without recourse to lengthy periods of isolation. In that respect it has a fine record

going back over many years. When men are isolated, it is never indefinite and is subject to frequent reassessment.

6.5.5. In the absence of a close knowledge of the risks which generate such concern, the Board falls back on the more general tests of decency and humanity. Despite the efforts of staff on the ground, the regime that was instituted in December 2008 fails both of these tests. If any other small group is subject to a comparable degree of locally sanctioned exclusion, the Board at Long Lartin would be most interested to learn of it and of the checks and balances to which it is subject.

## **6.6. FOREIGN NATIONALS**

- 6.6.1. Repatriation applications are still taking a long time to be dealt with.
- 6.6.2. Pay phone – problems with cashing in their privilege VO for phone credit.
- 6.6.3. Foreign National mail continues to take a long time to reach prisoners due to translation problems. Likewise, cash for Foreign Nationals needing to be converted into sterling exhibits similar extensive delays.
- 6.6.4. Irish Nationals have complained about the lack of Irish publications available.
- 6.6.5. Board Agency, UKBA, visits Long Lartin every other month and holds surgeries on the wings. In total there are 103 prisoners who have been referred to UKBA. This includes 2 detainees and 4 extradition cases.
- 6.6.6. There are 44 different nationalities with Jamaicans being the highest population with 17.

## **6.7. GYM**

- 6.7.1. The gym currently has a 65% take-up by prisoners and is expanding its range of activities – keeping up with some new exercise trends, with the introduction of spin classes, for example, and also looking to more directly meet the needs of a gradually increasing population of older prisoners through the introduction of a bowls class on the astro-turf.
- 6.7.2. The gym runs various courses such as a PE course and a Working in the Fitness Industry course. One additional positive outcome of these courses is that some prisoners are now helping to create individual gym programmes for other prisoners using the gym.

## 6.8. KITCHEN

- 6.8.1. The prison kitchen continues to meet the diverse range of requirements of the prison population and works to provide for a range of nutritional and cultural needs, doing so through provision of five meal choices for each main meal.
- 6.8.2. The kitchen has undergone personnel changes during the reporting year with the appointment of a new civilian manager and the re-deployment of the kitchen SO; the Board acknowledges the excellent work of the outgoing SO who oversaw a difficult period of budgetary change, seeking to maintain high standards whilst having to accommodate the need for savings to be made. The Board also acknowledges the ongoing high standard of work from all of the kitchen team, something that is reflected in the standard of the food and also the positive feedback from prisoners who work in the kitchens.
- 6.8.3. The current budget is £1.97 per man per day (i.e. for the three meals). There are at present 62 people on special diet (due to food allergies, for specific health reasons, etc). The budget also needs to assimilate extra costs incurred due to specialist diets and the increased cost of meals during periods of religious observance such as Ramadan.
- 6.8.4. The Board is disappointed that NVQ courses are currently not running, due to a lack of outside funding. With increasing focus being put upon the value of vocational courses in prison such training is of considerable value, even if prisoners need to continue courses elsewhere as they progress through the prison system.
- 6.8.5. A recent Long Lartin catering department satisfaction survey had only 21% of prisoners respond – although overall responses were more positive than negative. The Board also notes that it receives very few applications or complaints relating to catering issues.

## **6.9. LIBRARY**

- 6.9.1. The library has extended its service to provide for a wide range of needs during the reporting year with a variety of groups being held there. These include writing and reading groups; discussion and social groups; support for the over 65's and also provision for the support wings. The average attendance is an impressive 500 people per week.
- 6.9.2. The library also liaises with the family centre about family bookshare, where prisoners read books that their children are also reading, thus enabling them to have a current shared experience to discuss. Staff were also involved in the national big bookshare where books were given away free for national book night.
- 6.9.3. When discussion groups are observed in the library participants are always clearly engaged in the activity in a purposeful manner. The library environment has inviting displays and posters that further add to its feeling of accessibility.

## **6.10. MAPPA**

6.10.1. There have been major changes within the Interdepartmental Risk Management Team at Long Lartin with a new head of Offender Management appointed, and the previous incumbent retiring from Probation and as Public Protection Manager. There is significant information sharing with the Security Department and as in any area where two departments have varying agendas using common data, managing this needs careful and sensitive hands.

## **6.11. OFFENDER MANAGEMENT**

6.11.1. Sentence Planning and Programmes. In its report last year The Board expressed concern about the lack of courses, particularly the Cognitive Self Change Programme (CSCP), being available for prisoners in A, B, C and D wings. These wings house mainly vulnerable prisoners. CSCP takes between 12 and 18 months and is aimed at high risk offenders. There is a big waiting list which has expanded in the last six months. We are pleased to report that considerable efforts have been made during the year to rectify this situation and that CSCP courses will start for vulnerable prisoners this May 2011. Six additional staff facilitators have been recruited who are being trained in post.

6.11.2. During the year it has become frequent practice to divert staff in Sentence Planning to other duties within the prison. Although we accept that some flexibility of deployment is inevitable in a prison we trust that this will be kept to a minimum.

## **6.12. POLICE LIAISON OFFICER.**

6.12.1. Issues have been raised with many departments concerning the lack of consistent PLO presence within Long Lartin. Due to the nature of the establishment and the type of prisoner it houses there is regular need for a PLO at short notice immediately following incidents and allegations. Prisoners are frequently segregated for many weeks awaiting the results of police investigation only to be released into normal location with an "insufficient evidence" tag.

6.12.2. The Board very much appreciate that the present PLO is in demand as a member of the Police force as much outside as inside Long Lartin. For some time Long Lartin was assigned 2 PLO's and this gave much needed cover

6.12.3. The Board is concerned that Long Lartin prisoners and staff would benefit from a greater police presence enabling quicker response to requests relating to incidents and interviews.

## **6.13. PRISONER'S CONSULTATION GROUP**

- 6.13.1. This active and participative group has been reformulated during recent months. The feeling was that it was not functioning as a consultation committee should, but as a forum to which members were bringing more subjective issues. It was decided that wing issues should first be attempted to be resolved in regular meetings on the wing, and only brought to the P.C.G. if not resolved.
- 6.13.2. Two sub groups have been formed, one to deal with reception issues and the other with problems relating to the canteen. Both groups operate outside the main meeting. This has freed the Consultative group to look at the broader issues within the prison and to concentrate on listening to the views of the wing reps, whilst disseminating information back to them.
- 6.13.3. The committee has met regularly throughout the year, sometimes attended by the Governors, always chaired by the residential Governors with good representation from key areas of the prison.
- 6.13.4. The Board feels that there should be greater recognition of the good work done by the wing representatives. This is a task that can be difficult and challenging.

## **6.14. PSYCHOLOGY**

6.14.1. The Board understands that additional training will be sought during 2011 to enable better risk assessment of sex offenders, particularly those in denial. In addition, more attention will be addressed at offering services for prisoners with learning disabilities and difficulties. The Board welcomes these initiatives

## **6.15. TRANSFERS**

- 6.15.1. The Transfer Board considers applications to transfer to other establishments. The primary consideration is as always the public safety. Nevertheless, the Transfer Board has been consistent in its care for the best interests of prisoners where this does not conflict with this public interest. There has been a trend in which factors outside the control of the prison has adversely affected transfers of suitable prisoners out of the High Security Estate.
- 6.15.2. The high population of prisoners in Cat B establishments which would be the normal line of progression for high security prisoners has meant that there has been difficulty finding placements. This can be exacerbated by some establishments refusing to accept prisoners. The result can be many months of delay and frustration for prisoners who have made rehabilitative progress and whose conduct no longer necessitates the rigours or expense of a high security environment.
- 6.15.3. Part of this issue seems to arise from the practice of starting high tariff prisoners (who would normally start their sentence in the high security estate) in a mainstream prison, so blocking places for those needing a progressive move out of HSE.
- 6.15.4. Despite the continued strenuous efforts made at HMP Long Lartin to transfer prisoners progressively the situation has not improved in the reporting year.

## **6.16. VISITS**

- 6.16.1. The Board continues to receive complaints concerning delays in prisoners and visitors being united in the Visits Hall. We acknowledge that with three different regimes to operate this can be a problem and that the Governor and his staff have made great efforts to improve this difficult situation.
- 6.16.2. The abolition of visits on a Monday and the cessation of all day visits have proved unpopular with some prisoners and visitors.
- 6.16.3. The Board is pleased to note that a redecoration programme in the Visits Hall is now in progress with new carpets and furniture about to be fitted. It is also interesting to note that art work done by prisoners is now on display on the walls of the Visits Hall, and which has been very well received.

## **6.17. WORKSHOPS**

6.17.1. The Board understands that prisoners involved in light assembly work are restricted in the maximum they can earn on a piecework basis. Those who want to work may have filled their allocation in terms of maximum permitted earnings in less than the time allocated for purposeful activity. While the Board acknowledges that this amount is controlled by a finite budget, this does not seem conducive to engaging prisoners in potentially rehabilitative work. As this work is contracted in from the outside, is the prison not paid more, for more work done, or is the available work limited?

## **7. THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

7.1.1. This report results from a good deal of Board time and legwork both within Long Lartin and elsewhere. However, a slightly more formal and robust approach to taking applications during the last year has resulted in significantly reduced open applications with concomitant saving in visits to the prison. Board members registered just 694 visits to the prison over the year under review compared with 1025 in the previous year.

7.1.2. The Board has lost three experienced members during the year, and gained fresh insight with the recruitment of three further members who took up their duties early in 2011. Training these members to the required standard will be a significant drain on the Board's resources.

Richard West  
Chair

Appendix 1– Board Statistics

	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2008/9</b>
Recommended complement of Board members	18	18	17
Numbers of Board members at the start of the reporting period	14	17	15
Number of Board members at the end of the reporting period	14	14	17
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	3	1	2
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	3	4	0
Number of attendances at meetings other than Board meetings	23	27	28
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	694	1025	999
Total number of open applications received	358	590	582
Total number of confidential access applications received	55	77	39
Total number of segregation reviews held	52	52	52
Total number of segregation reviews attended	52	52	52