



HMP Wellingborough Independent Monitoring Board

Annual Report – June 2010 – May 2011

CONTENTS

1. Contents	2
2. Statutory role of the IMB	3
3. Description of the prison	4
4. Executive summary	5
5. Report on key areas	11
Diversity	11
Education, training & purposeful activity	13
Healthcare & Mental Health	14
Care and Separation Unit (CSU)	15
Prisoner care (formerly safer custody)	16
6. Other areas of the regime	18
Adjudications	18
Applications	19
Chaplaincy	21
Physical education - gym	21
Health & Safety	21
Induction	21
Kitchen	22
Life sentenced prisoners and IPP	22
Offender Management, resettlement, preparation for release	23
Physical Environment (Estates)	24
Security & Drugs	24
Visits	25
7. The work of the IMB	26
8. Glossary of terms and abbreviations	29

SECTION 2

STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB

2.1 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 Justice Minister from members of the community in which the prison or IRC is situated. 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 Justice Minister, or any official to whom he has delegated authority as it judges appropriate, any concern it has.
- (3) **report annually to the Justice Minister on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.**

2.2 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.

2.3 The members of the Wellingborough board as at end May 2011, are:

Rebecca Crane	Enid Goodman
Tara Daley (left August 2010)	Sandra Jones (left May 2011)
Michael Dodson (Vice-Chair)	Tony Knivett (chair)
Kevin Fouhy	Jim Rouse
Kathleen George	Pam Waker
[8 monitors (board complement 13)]	

This board is committed to monitor HMP Wellingborough to ensure that it is run as a healthy prison and that everybody is treated with fairness and justice.

SECTION 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRISON

- 3.1 Opened in 1963 as a Borstal, Wellingborough was a Young Offenders institution until 1990 when it became a training prison. It is currently a category C prison for male adults serving 18 months and above. The operational capacity has been 646 and certified normal accommodation, 636. In May the process had begun for reducing the numbers in order to refurbish the older wings and the operational capacity is currently 588.
- 3.2 The accommodation is a mix of old style buildings and some which are more recently built. A major refurbishment programme has continued. This and a fire which closed one wing for a time resulted in a temporary reduction in numbers overall but this has recently risen again. Four of the nine wings are relatively modern and the kitchen and education centre are modern.
- 3.3 Much of the catchment area includes the London courts. At any one time around half of the prison population is from minority ethnic groups. This year those prisoners coming from London prisons increased – the two main prisons are Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville.
- 3.4 The number of Indeterminate Sentence Prisoners (IPP) has remained steady at around 123 since July last year. Lifer numbers reduced to around 53 some time before this. Allocations come from local prisons so Wellingborough does not normally receive Lifers. IPPs do come on allocation if they meet the criteria for Category C conditions, however the numbers appear to have levelled out.

SECTION 4

4 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The setting

- 4.1 HMP Wellingborough has been in continuous development for over three years. During this reporting period, the prison was withdrawn from the bid process which had been an ever present issue for eighteen months. The bid process was a double edged sword. It resulted in some inertia, a lot of unease and anxiety amongst some staff and some staff finding other jobs. But working toward a prison which could win the bid also provided an opportunity for the prison to take a change of direction to the kind of regime required by the ministry of justice. And one which would be assessed as performing well.
- 4.2 In this period, the prison went from a level two performing prison to a level three. A security audit scored 85% - 90% which is rated as amber/green – very good.
- 4.3 Also in this period a culture change continued, one where the thrust of the organization would be about meeting the new objective of reducing reconviction and concentrating on the activities which might make that happen such as resettlement, purposeful activity, employment training and education, time out of cell, and staff actively engaging with prisoners in day to day settings.
- 4.4 The benefits of changes particularly in relation to resettlement have not been fully seen yet, but the prison is more settled, staff more optimistic and in better shape for the next big change – that of change of number one governor.
- 4.5 B wing is still standing empty following the fire which represents a disappointing loss of accommodation at a time when prison places are needed nationally. All enforcement notices have now been lifted and all other wings are fully occupied and meeting standards.

National issues – comments for the minister

Targets, measurement and effectiveness

- 4.6 Last year it was noted that there were targets for forty-two (42) SLA key performance indicators. The national move toward a focus on outcomes was welcomed because the current measurement tools were largely process oriented – a mix of inputs (many), outputs and outcomes (few). The prison now has thirty – three (33) key performance targets¹, plus

¹ KPT

twenty seven (27) management information targets. Encouragingly, the latter are output and outcome focused but the KPTs have inputs and outputs – for example - water consumption alongside resettlement/ employment.

4.7 Nonetheless, some of the targets which matter have been increased and that is welcomed. Both resettlement/ employment and education now stand at 15%. Both these targets and time unlocked (9.5 hours) and purposeful activity (25.5 hours) will need to be raised if a training prison such as Wellingborough is to be successful in making a significant contribution to national objectives to reduce reoffending.

4.8 It is still hoped that the NOMS performance and analysis group² review will be able to condense the range of measures and mix of inputs, outputs and outcomes into a band of a few critical outcome indicators significant to the achievement of the real outcomes – protection of the public, value for money and reducing reoffending.

4.9 There still is no clarity about how reoffending is to be measured. The Parliamentary justice committee seem to point the way to a reconviction measure, but to be meaningful it would have to monitor those leaving prison, identify from which prisons and it would have to be much more timely than at present. The selective cohort/ cross-sectional, small sample approach used to assess probation reconviction performance for instance, is largely discredited. It may never be possible to gain sufficient direct access to the national police computer for this purpose, but without such access, it will always be possible to discredit reconviction outcome measures. This is a serious issue for the IMB since one of the key responsibilities of Boards is to monitor arrangements for resettlement and reducing reoffending.

Rehabilitation and reduced reoffending

4.10 There is evidence that efforts are being made to improve transfers between establishments so that prisoners can access the course required. But the situation remains poor. The number of moves some prisoners have to make to do the courses stipulated by the sentence plan, remains an obstacle to resettlement. Practical arrangements for transfer are still an issue but there have been improvements.

4.11 For efforts toward resettlement, rehabilitation and reduced reconviction, to be effective, courses have to be more accessible. The current situation particularly disadvantages IPP³ prisoners who need to have attended a range of groups to improve their parole prospects. It remains unjust for offenders to be imprisoned for public protection when the resources to help them reduce their threat to the public are not

² PIAG doing a cost benefit review of all data collection

³ Indeterminate sentence public protection

available or readily accessible and they will invariably serve longer than envisaged⁴ when sentenced.

- 4.12 Implementation of the proposals contained in the green paper introduced in December⁵ would have gone a long way to alleviating the problems caused by IPP. The resulting Bill, however, is less purposeful and so far as IPP is concerned, from the point of view of those monitoring the consequences of the legislation, there seems little to support the continuation of IPP.
- 4.13 There is evidence that delays in the parole process, commented upon last year have been addressed and reduced and this is welcomed.
- 4.14 There is also evidence that efforts are being made to speed up the process of allocating places in category D prisons for those who have been successfully awarded category D status. This too is welcomed. But it remains an issue. The delay in allocation particularly affects IPP prisoners. See page 22.
- 4.15 At Wellingborough, a very imaginative approach has been adopted – a wing has been divided, creating a mini wing with as close to a D category regime as can be achieved in a C category prison. So efforts are made to prepare prisoners for Category D conditions.
- 4.16 The reaction of prisoners to a more open regime underpins the view of monitors here, that progress toward effective rehabilitation generally, requires a radical assessment of how to balance security with the need for prisoners to take more responsibility for themselves and their conduct. So much can be learned from HMP Grendon Underwood⁶.

The management of drugs

- 4.17 In this report last year frustration was expressed at the way in which prisons such as Wellingborough are held accountable by elements of the media and the judiciary for the harm which is done by a problem, which can only have a holistic, structural, *national* solution. The minister noted in his response that: UK drug laws cannot be expected to eliminate drug use". And this remains manifestly true. Particularly in the light of the minister's statement that the government has no intention of licensing any currently controlled drug.
- 4.18 While steps are taken nationally, to address the issue such as the Drugs Bill, proposed reforms are criticized for "holding no prospect of addressing the real issues of drug abuse and related offending in the UK". Meantime, staff at Wellingborough continue to make every effort to reduce the problem. The toll that this takes on prison security, prisoner safety,

⁴ Over 40% of IPP prisoners serve more than their tariff

⁵ The Green Paper, 'Breaking the Cycle Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders',

⁶ HMP Grendon Underwood has provided a therapeutic community approach for 50 years.

staff safety and the business of resettlement and rehabilitation generally, is evident on a daily basis to the IMB.

4.19 There is criticism in Parliament of the expense of the methadone/ Buprenorphine programmes in prisons. The number of prisoners on programmes has doubled since 2007. There is little evidence that increased numbers are released, free of drug use. This report last year commented: *“The IMB needs to be assured that everybody receiving methadone⁷ is also receiving purposeful input aimed at reduction and eventual cessation of the drug habit.”* So one of the IMB thematic reviews this year was an in depth look at the health care provision⁸, partly to look at the methadone programme. Unlike some programmes which are apparently maintenance only regimes not focused on abstinence, there is a strict policy of methadone reduction at HMP Wellingborough which is managed by the Doctor and the CARATs team. In 2010/11 35 prisoners completed the methadone programme. There are currently around 40 prisoners on the programme. Every prisoner on heroin replacement is subject to a reducing dose and associated support programmes. The IMB will continue to focus on this and on aspects of violence in the prison associated with drug taking more widely and changes in prisoner culture.

The bid process

4.20 During this period a decision was taken that HMP Wellingborough would remain in the public sector. And while consideration for closure is an ever present threat to all prisons it appears to be much less likely that Wellingborough will be closed.

4.21 Wellingborough was able to rise to the challenge of the bid process, and to put together an improved model for running the prison to more effective service level agreements. And performance improved, staff morale was maintained and at times improved. And as the IMB can confirm during all this change and upheaval and at a time of considerable challenge to assumptions about resourcing and established practice, prisoner welfare was not a casualty and justice was maintained.

4.22 Much of all of this was as a direct result of the leadership of the current number one governor. He got good people around him. He never lost faith that the vision would be achieved. He was honest and straightforward with staff and took them along with him.

Local issues

Specific matters

Complaints, applications

4.23 For the past two years this report has commented on the difficulties encountered by prisoners using the prison complaints system. The

⁷ On the integrated drug treatment system - IDTS

⁸ The Management of Drugs – A Thematic Scrutiny April 2011

modified processes referred to last year have now had time to bed in. The IMB receives monthly reports. There is evidence to suggest that the improvements have been successful. Complaints at Wellingborough are very closely monitored. Prisoners come from other prisons with low expectations but there is evidence to suggest that things here are different. There are still instances where prisoners are not told, face to face the result of the complaint and instances where the personal officer scheme could be more effective, but delays have been reduced and there is a proper data trail.

Visits hall

4.24 For some time, the facilities and arrangements for families have been unsatisfactory. It is unacceptable that facilities for families are unfit and the IMB will be calling on the governor to ensure that improvements are made. See 6.30 for detail.

Resettlement and employment

4.25 This year has seen a fresh impetus, which was needed, in arrangements for resettlement. In particular, there has been an improvement in work placements which now stands at 590 and means that the majority of prisoners have work opportunities. IMB monitors will give attention this coming year to the nature of the work, particularly in the workshops.

Laundry

4.26 There are no longer facilities for prisoners to do their own laundry. Both the prison complaints system and IMB applications have for some time picked up complaints about the laundry system. Despite noted improvements, laundry can still be sent back to the wrong person or mixed up. It is not acceptable for a prisoner to see his missing clothes being worn by another prisoner only to be told that nothing can be done.

4.27 Each prisoner signs a disclaimer when located, removing responsibility for lost clothing from the prison – this is a national arrangement. However this is not a reason for tolerating missing laundry and a review of the system aimed at reducing this problem has taken place. As a result a new tagging system is to be implemented later this year.

Concluding comments

General matters

4.28 There have been signal improvements at Wellingborough. Most particularly in the last year. This is evidenced by improved performance against indicators and many improved processes. This has occurred at a strategic level and at an operational level. And staff are to be congratulated for this.

4.29 It is no part of the IMB role to be involved in planning. The IMB monitors practice, processes and the *deployment* of planning. On the

basis of a knowledge of the prison and of national imperatives, it is the duty of the IMB to identify some of the issues which seem to be important to the prison and to the IMB, in the coming reporting year and those which may become a focus of monitoring. At Wellingborough these include:

- ❑ the arrival of a new number one governor
- ❑ the MQPL⁹ which is done every two years is due this year and staff/prisoner relations was an issue last time
- ❑ liP¹⁰ – renewal is due and changes have taken place since the last one particularly in staffing arrangements
- ❑ culture – a great deal has been achieved in changing the focus of staff involvement with prisoners from one of safe containment to one of contributing to a reduction in reoffending. It remains a challenge to see that staff at every level are actively engaged with prisoners on a day to day basis in a positive way
- ❑ time out of cell, purposeful activity, preparation for employment and non offending on release
- ❑ the issue of violence and bullying in relation to prisoner culture and the drug situation.

⁹ MQPL – Managing the Quality of Prison Life as assessed by prisoner perception survey

¹⁰ liP – Investors in People – assessment for a Quality award in people management

SECTION 5

REPORT ON KEY AREAS

DIVERSITY

5.1 At Wellingborough the revised Diversity and Race Equality action plan introduced last reporting period has enjoyed a very productive twelve months.

5.2 There has been a slight increase in the number of race incident report forms throughout the year against prisoners and slightly fewer against officers.

2010-11

	Month	Prisoner on Staff	Prisoner on Prisoner	Staff on Prisoner	TOTAL
RIRF	Sep-10	3		2	5
RIRF	Oct-10	1			1
RIRF	Nov-10	2		1	3
RIRF	Dec-10				0
RIRF	Jan-11	5			5
RIRF	Feb-11	3	1		4
RIRF	Mar-11	3			3
RIRF	Apr-11	1			1
RIRF	May-11				0
					22

Events to promote Diversity and Equality

5.3 **The County Wide Travellers Unit** delivered a training session. The main focus was awareness and the provision for healthcare, local authorities, and police.

5.4 **Big Pink Heart** - young actors on a mission to raise awareness about positive social behaviour and encourage respect in order to help create and nurture a civil society. They visited the prison and spent a considerable amount of time developing skills through prison workshops with the inmates and ultimately staged a small production which was a huge success all round. It is hoped that they will return and have a follow up session later in 2011.

5.5 **The Anne Frank Trust exhibition** was another significant event staged from 7th - 18th March 2011. The Exhibition tells the story about the life of Anne Frank and the history of the Holocaust; its purpose was to educate about the dangers of racism, prejudice and discrimination in Britain today and to help challenge patterns of criminal behaviour by encouraging

respect for self and others, individual responsibility, communication skills and empathetic thinking. After a brief film about the short life of Anne Frank, visitors were guided through the displays by a group of Wellingborough prisoners who received guide training by the Trust's staff prior to the event.

5.6 During the two week period 513 people visited the exhibition; they included prisoners, staff, staff families, friends, schools, colleges and local organisations. At the same time as this event there was a creative writing workshop with a guest poet and writer Leah Thorne, a captivating and emotional talk by Freddie Knoller, holocaust survivor and author of 'Living with the Enemy' , and a Free 2 Choose debate with invited guests:

5.7 A **Challenge it - Change it**, prisoner/staff group training session was run for the third time and was received extremely well by both prisoners and staff.

Consolidate Action Plan and Impact Assessments

5.8 Currently there are minimal outstanding Regional Diversity Priorities on the Action Plan. These are as follows:

- Equality Strategy
- Intercultural competency review
- Needs Analysis for prisoners.

5.9 These items are ongoing and receiving constant attention by the appropriate staff.

5.10 Results are pending on the outstanding Impact Assessments on Adjudications and two new Impact Assessments on areas of concern (Property / Cash and CSU) are scheduled. Issues of concern are chosen on a quarterly basis.

KPT update

5.11 There are no issues with the KPT figures for this reporting period.

5.12 The Diversity Liaison Officer has been doing some work with older prisoners. RNID has given support and done some good work and there will be free TVs for prisoners over 65.

5.13 Overall the Diversity Team have performed well throughout the reporting period and are to be congratulated on their achievements and ongoing programme in this very important area.

Race equality

5.14 This is now an established part of the diversity programme, known as DREAT¹¹. Monthly meetings analyse racial and associated incidents. Figures relating to RIRF¹² are low and within target. The DREAT team feel that there is a need to impact assess the increased number of London prisoners to the establishment and how they affect various issues i.e. ROTL, ethnicity.

Foreign national prisoners

5.15 There are 109 foreign nationals in the establishment. There are 12 prisoners held on an IS91¹³ warrant. Only 2 warrants relate to last year as most prisoners are deported within an acceptable period of time. There was some damage by prisoners in the waiting area following a visit by UKBA however this appears to have been an isolated incident.

5.16 The foreign national population is made up of 56 nationalities. The largest representations are Nigeria and Somalia and then Jamaica.

The board and diversity

5.17 This is an area which the IMB continues to monitor closely. The new team are to be congratulated for the diversity, race and equality initiatives they have introduced.

5.18 The Wellingborough board continues to be committed to ensuring fairness in all dealings with prisoners, staff and fellow board members.

5.19 The board seeks to recruit from the widest possible range of age, gender, social, cultural, racial and religious background. It is a regret that efforts to recruit from the local minority ethnic community have been less than successful. But at the end of this period, the IMB has four men and four women: A magistrate and former nurse, a judge and young Mother, a recently retired town mayor, a psychiatric nursing manager, an administrator, a retired jeweller, an ex social worker and an ex probation officer. The age range is 35 – 75yrs.

EDUCATION, TRAINING & PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

Education

5.20 The virtual campus is a joint initiative between the prison and education which since August 1st 2009, has been run by Milton Keynes College together with Lincoln College. At time of writing, the electronics are still awaited before computers and software can be installed. The cabling room

¹¹ DREAT = Diversity, Race and Equality Team

¹² RIRF = Racial Incident Report Forms

¹³ IS 91 - used by the Home Office to hold a prisoner beyond the release date

has not been completed but is scheduled for mid October. All equipment including furniture is on site and will be installed as soon as the electrical supplies are installed.

- 5.21 The education department continues to be run by the manager who has many forward thinking ideas and there is a steady increase in prisoners taking classes. Obstacles are steadily overcome. One such at present is the absence of a dedicated computer for prisoners to take the GOLLA exam, which is done online, to complete the city and guilds paper. The IMB has been informed that once broadband has been installed the computer will be provided.
- 5.22 As with many prisons, some staff at Wellingborough are keen that all things made in art, pottery, carpentry and engineering could be sold onto staff and public to give prisoners pride and satisfaction in their work. This is an issue which has been highlighted on a number of occasions and the IMB will monitor progress in 2011/2012.
- 5.23 A new manager, in post for the last two and a half months, has created more workplaces in the prison, ensuring that the capacity of the currently facilities is maximised, and that vacant places are filled. There are 590 prisoner places for purposeful activity but there have been up to 80 unemployed prisoners which means that opportunities are not being taken up. There is a commitment to increasing purposeful activity for prisoners and a new system of allocation to work is being planned. All prisoners will be allocated a work placement during induction aimed at ensuring that all work spaces are filled and there is full employment.
- 5.24 There have been workshops where for various reasons prisoners are not able to work fully when they are there or where prisoners are frustrated when they have no real work to do. The IMB appreciates that these instances are not usual and steps are made to keep it to a minimum but it is most important that prisoners are fully employed with proper tasks when they are working. The prospect of a new workshop this year is welcomed.

The library

- 5.25 Northamptonshire Library Service continue to provide a good service. Newspapers are provided together with a selection of magazines and periodicals. Reference books and audio tapes are available. The library provides a limited amount of work for two orderlies. The facility is well stocked, used and appreciated by many.

HEALTHCARE and MENTAL HEALTH

- 5.26 Healthcare services at HMP Wellingborough are managed by a leading independent provider: Care UK. This contract is out for tender for contract award for April 2012. Mental health care is provided by Northamptonshire Mental Health Foundation Trust.

- 5.27 The health care team comprises: 1 Healthcare Manager, 5 nurses and 2 healthcare assistants. Services include the attendance of one GP., one dentist and also a variety of external specialist nurses who assist with running of specific clinics throughout the week, such as Hepatitis C clinic, a well-man clinic, diabetes clinic, asthma clinic and a smoking cessation clinic. Counseling and psychological support is arranged by the Chaplain.
- 5.28 There is an initial health screening for every prisoner within two hours of their admission to the prison and there is an additional more lengthy screening at a later date. The dentist holds clinics for two full days a week. There are also slots for emergency appointments. Prisoners requiring hospital outpatient or inpatient care are taken to Kettering General Hospital or Northampton General Hospital.
- 5.29 Since September 2009 Wellingborough has had an Integrated Drug Treatment System.
- 5.30 Attendance of prisoners at the healthcare unit has much improved. In 2008 30% of appointments were not attended - the DNA rate for June 2011 is now 9.6%. Although prisoners are given appointment reminder slips when making an appointment some prisoners would prefer to have a further slip delivered to their cell two or three days before their appointment.
- 5.31 A patient user forum was commenced this year which is very successful. Patient satisfaction surveys are regularly undertaken and findings compared against similar establishments.

Mental Health Facilities

- 5.32 Prisoners with mental health issues have sufficient professional care and support whilst at HMP Wellingborough - those that cannot be treated in the prison are transferred to a more suitable facility. The patient has to wait until a suitable place is found in their own Health Authority - which can take some time.
- 5.33 The IMB continue to monitor this situation.

THE CARE and SEPARATION UNIT (CSU).

- 5.34 The unit underwent a name change during the current year and has a new governor in charge.
- 5.35 This year has been unusually eventful and has experienced periods of very disturbed and disruptive prisoners. This has at times resulted in furniture and cells being very badly damaged and more seriously, prison officers being assaulted and in the worst case, hospitalised.

- 5.36 Throughout these periods the IMB monitored the events and can report that the members of staff involved in the unit have at all times reacted in a professional manner and treated the perpetrators with dignity and respect under very difficult circumstances. The apparent increase in disruptive prisoners in the CSU, can be attributed to the change in prisoner population and the policy of not making the CSU a route for transfer. Prisoners in the CSU have been managed appropriately and either relocated back into the establishment or moved as Category B. So only when there is clear evidence of security issues or unresolvable issues of own protection are they transferred.
- 5.37 The quality of the trained staff employed in this demanding unit is very high and they are worthy of special recognition.
- 5.38 It was highlighted in the 2008/2009 IMB Annual Report that there were areas for improvement in the unit policy and there have been occasions when prisoners have not been set specific and individual targets. Despite efforts to relocate within 30 days there have been instances where prisoners remain in the unit for more than 30 days and not all have had properly prepared care / management plans.
- 5.39 The IMB will continue to monitor progress during the next reporting period in particular in respect of the regular monthly SMARG meetings and its protocol. These meetings are held spasmodically which makes it very difficult to monitor the unit fully. It is recognised that the relevant PSO and subsequent PSIs describe the role of SMARG as fairly flexible and subject to interpretation. Nonetheless, the reservations about this expressed in the last annual report remain.
- 5.40 This has been a very difficult year for this unit and it has been subject to immense pressure to which it has on the whole risen to its challenge and operates as a well run unit with first class staff and governance.

PRISONER CARE/ SAFER CUSTODY

- 5.41 Prisoner care and the safety of prisoners in custody has remained a high priority. Working closely with security personnel, those responsible for safer custody have begun an initiative to pinpoint the areas in which most violence occurs, i.e. landings, cells, corridors and showers. Each wing now has violence reduction representatives so prisoners who are subject to bullying and intimidation are not seen talking to staff. Small printed violence reduction notes are also available for prisoners to report either being bullied or as a witness to any bullying which are put into the complaints box then dealt with by safer custody personnel.

5.42 The figures for this period show a decrease in assault incidents and an increase in self harm.

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Death in custody	1	1	0
Serious assaults - prisoner	4	6	9
Serious assaults - other	0	0	0
Assault incidents	84	101	63
Sexual assaults	0	1	0
Self harm incidents	100	106	153

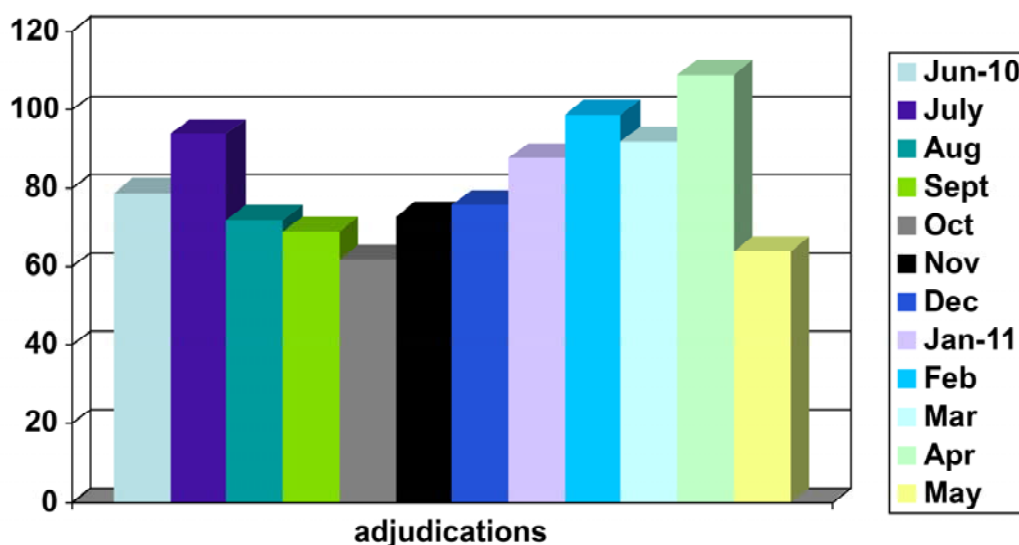
5.43 Nonetheless, right toward the end of this reporting period there is some trend evidence of an upturn in the risk of gang/ drug related violence. And in recent months there is evidence of an increase in more organised assault and more serious assault. The perceived changes in the type of prisoner admitted to Wellingborough and the areas from which they are increasingly drawn, has already been noted in this report. It remains to be said that this will be a main area for IMB monitoring in the next reporting period. If the facts bear out the concern, it will become a subject for an IMB thematic scrutiny.

SECTION 6

OTHER AREAS OF THE PRISON REGIME

ADJUDICATIONS

6.1 The IMB monitors adjudications This table shows the reporting period:



The total adjudications by year are shown in the table below:

2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
1120	1056	1310	1030	934	977

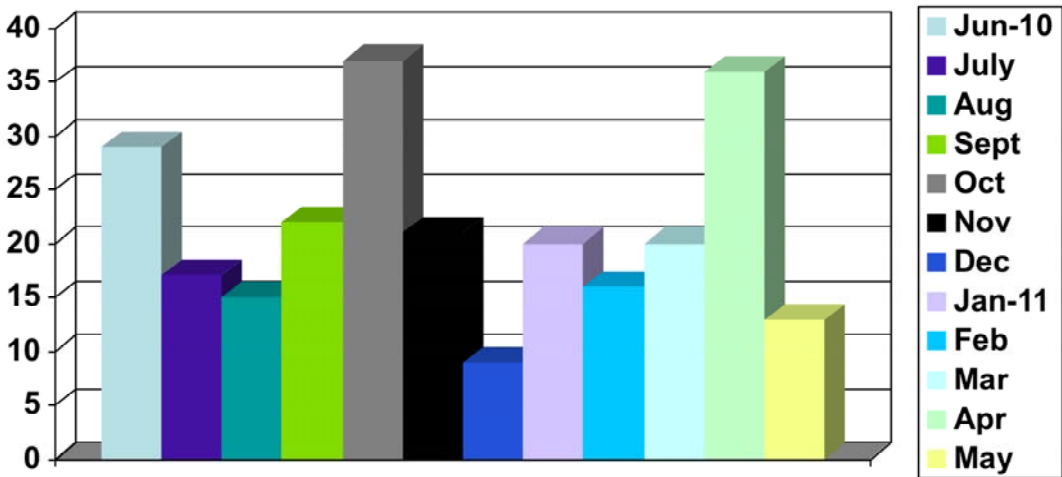
The most committed offences are shown in the table below:

Most committed offences	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Possession of unauthorised item	370	349	321	364
Disobeying a lawful order	402	224	211	165
MDT failure			107	120

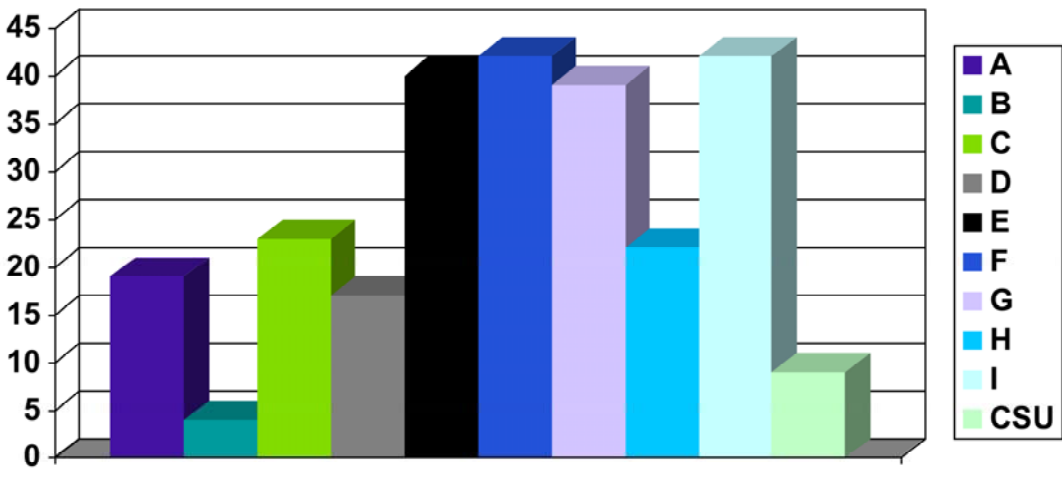
APPLICATIONS TO SEE THE IMB

6.2 The IMB received 258 applications, a substantial decrease from the 357 applications the previous year – previous year to that - 239.

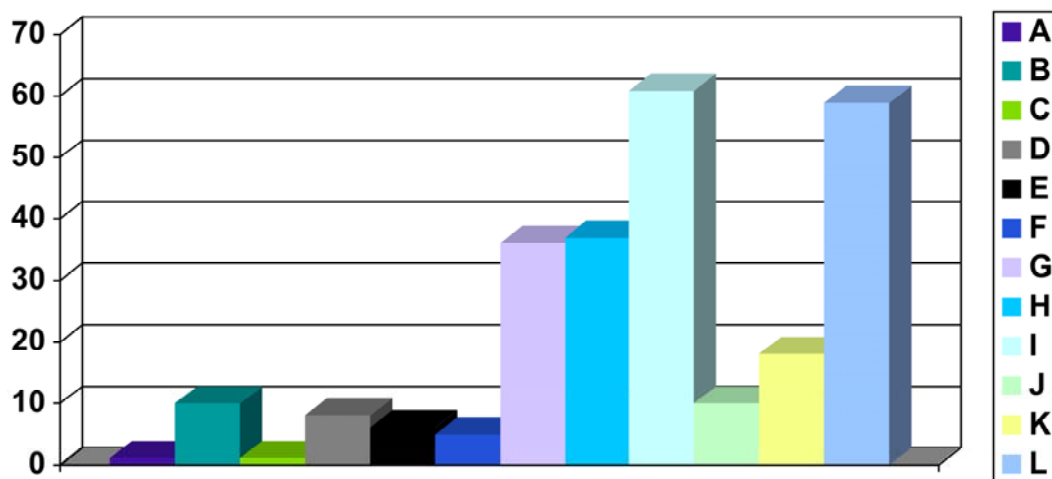
Applications



Applications by wing



Applications by subject



Applications by subject		
A	Accommodation	1
B	Adjudications	10
C	Diversity related (inc race)	1
D	Education/employment/training	8
E	Family/visits	6
F	Food/kitchen related	5
G	Health related	36
H	Property	37
I	Sentence related (sentence planning)	61
J	Staff/prisoner related (complaint against staff)	10
K	Transfers (prison move)	18
L	Miscellaneous (other)	59

Commentary:

6.3 Fewer applications to see the IMB this year may partly be explained by a period of fewer prisoners. Also overall, staff performance has improved and this includes the prison complaints process which reduces applications to the IMB. It may just be that the efforts by board members to publicise the fact that monitors do not do the work of staff, have been successful. Members at Wellingborough strive to bring prisoner issues to the notice of staff so that they can be resolved by professionals.

6.4 Applications which are health related are high which is due to the methadone programme and the influx of London prisoners who object to being on a reduction regime.

6.5 The applications process at Wellingborough is not just about the individual but about improvements in prison processes – the processes and systems whose deficiencies have contributed to the application from the prisoner in the first place.

CHAPLAINCY

6.6 Following two years without an Anglican Chaplain, an appointment was made and the Rev. Samuel Njoyimondo joined the team in early February 2011. This is a welcome help to the Iman who had been managing the Chaplaincy with occasional help from other faith leaders. The Chaplaincy Centre provides an office base for the team as well as a Multi Faith Room which is used for all faiths to meet and to worship.

6.7 The Chapel which is situated in the main building is quiet and serene and has regular use from a diverse range of faiths.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

6.8. This department is run in a purposeful and well planned way. There is an enthusiastic and well qualified team who create a good and stable environment. There has been no breach of security in the last four years.

6.9 The department continues to work closely with healthcare and exercise referrals are now up to eight a week. There are joint initiatives with healthcare and the kitchens, the latest being a 'men's health week' Other courses that are run include gym instructor training, level one introductory certificate in fitness instructing, British weight lifters association introduction into resistance training, introduction to first aid training and training in diet and nutrition. These courses are important as they increase the chances of employment on release

6.10 Staff have coped with budget changes commendably. Two staff lost in the previous year have not been replaced, leaving five staff to deliver physical education to the prison. Evening sessions have been reduced from three to two. The department SO has taken over other jobs and is no longer based on site.

HEALTH & SAFETY

6.11 The strategic review was completed and work has continues to address the safety issues. See [\(Estates\)](#).

INDUCTION

6.12 Arrangements for induction were interrupted by accommodation problems at one point and the process of induction has been under

development. The IMB contribution has varied. The IMB contribution and more refined measures for the monitoring induction will be on the IMB agenda for the next reporting period.

KITCHEN

- 6.13 The kitchen suffered some pressure in the previous reporting period due to sub standard equipment and many breakdowns. The situation has much improved in the intervening period with a number of replacements and a commitment to renew poor flooring.
- 6.14 The standard of food is consistently good and complaints relating to food are rare. While the controversial PSI 44/2010 may not always be achieved to the letter, much of the spirit of that instruction is exceeded at Wellingborough. Certainly the requirement that “cultural, nutritional and diversity needs” are met, is done with great imagination and prisoners do have menu choices. The possibility of producing the prison’s own food and dispensing with brought in processed items is being pursued. There is a wish to open the unused gardens and grow vegetables and herbs.
- 6.15 A Focus Group has been set up to look at the daily menus and to try to come up with more imaginative dishes. The manager aims for more consistent staffing. This may be helped if the long talked about NVQ course were introduced, interviews for a person qualified to run such a course are imminent.
- 6.16 Generally, notwithstanding the problems and the allowance per head, the kitchen continues to provide remarkable value. The dedication and hard work of the management team and staff is to be commended.

LIFE SENTENCED AND IPP¹⁴ PRISONERS

- 6.17 The Indeterminate Sentence Manual which allows for lifers and IPP prisoners to be managed together, is now fully implemented. These prisoners are each allocated an offender manager, offender supervisor and a case manager. The population remains relatively static at about 125 prisoners with the proportions usually half and half¹⁵. With the help of improved processes, the prison is completing parole reports on time (currently running at 80% of target) but prisoners are still waiting for parole hearings. Last year the prison ran two CALM courses for 20 prisoners.
- 6.18 Lifers and those subject to IPP are now dispersed throughout the prison and there is no longer a lifer’s wing.

¹⁴ IPP Indeterminate sentence for public protection

¹⁵ The cap on lifers was removed by PSI 36/10

- 6.19 There are different processes for recategorisation, and then transfer, of determinate and indeterminate sentenced prisoners. Determinate sentence prisoners are recategorised according to time scales laid down in PSO 900 and Category D transfers are allocated and arranged by PMU¹⁶. The fire at HMP Ford and the closure of Latchmere House, caused significant issues for the Category D estate in balancing the needs of both types of prisoner and this greatly reduced the allocations made available to Wellingborough.
- 6.20 ISPs moves are agreed by the sending establishment to ensure that it is appropriate in terms of parole board recommendations and/or resettlement needs and are then subject to ever increasing waiting lists which are actually against the principles of PSI 36/10 but are in evidence at all open prisons. This is a constant concern to staff at Wellingborough and a risk due to the number of pre-action letters received. A very positive relationship with North Sea Camp, has enabled Wellingborough to continue to transfer ISP Category D prisoners regularly. There are currently 11 ISPs with Secretary of State approval, 8 of whom have a confirmed allocation.
- 6.21 The problem is moving the prisoners on to Category D prisons. There is a continuing non availability of spaces to transfer prisoners. There are currently 11 ISP who have been approved by the Secretary of State for a move – until recently it was 22, of these 8 have allocated places. There is now an average of 8 weeks wait – until recently it was 22 weeks. In some instances however, there is a waiting list to read dossiers and an 8 month waiting list if accepted. The prison is focused on this problem and has monthly meetings to review the matter. Some prisons will only take prisoners if they are resettling locally, some have very long waiting lists with no places available until 2012 or they conduct their own review of the suitability of a prisoner even though the Secretary of State has approved the move. The governor in charge of ISPs has raised the matter with the prison minister and the DDC. On a positive note there are a lot of recommendations for category D which indicates that prisoners are doing well in the prison. And there is evidence that this prison is doing all it can to keep abreast of the problem and ease the bottleneck wherever possible.

OFFENDER MANAGEMENT.

- 6.22 The prison has iterated its commitment to resettlement with the management restructuring. However, the position of resettlement coordinator was not filled when the previous coordinator was temporarily promoted. Also, while the prison provided two CALM courses last year, there is no evidence of plans to continue these courses. Cognitive Skills Booster is being run this year in response to demand for the course, two courses are planned in the year. As it is linked to ETS, which is no long facilitated, it is unlikely to run next year. Victim Awareness is not run as an accredited programme however offender supervisors will be providing a

¹⁶ PMU – Prison Management Unit in NOMS

1:1 provision for in cell work to those with an identified need from November 2011.

- 6.23 NACRO now have prisoners working as peer advisors. NACRO employs someone one day per week to provide debt advice. Efforts to arrange for a local bank to provide bank accounts for prisoners, unsuccessful for a long time, have finally been successful. Provision has been secured through Lloyds TSB for prisoners whose release is imminent. There is also a new extra NACRO employee focused on the Education, Training and Employment pathway. Many of the problems they encounter are national with lack of employment opportunities which they attribute to the recession and government funding having been withdrawn from education and training projects.
- 6.24 The Reach project, which works with prisoners at high risk of reoffending, has been running for just over a year and has funding until 2014. The Reach worker works with about 6 prisoners each month. She coordinates the work being done to build links with local businesses. A number of links have been made and prisoners are using RoTI to do voluntary work. It is hoped that RoTI could also be used for training courses. Reach has the advantage that it has funding to pay for courses for prisoners.
- 6.25 However, many of the links with outside agencies and businesses are local but the prison now serves London. Therefore, the lack of contacts in London hampers the ability of the prison to assist prisoners upon release.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (Estates)

- 6.26 Previous reports noted that the poor repair of the original wings A-E, made them not fit for purpose. The poor condition of a significant part of the estate was one reason given for withdrawal of HMP Wellingborough from the bidding process. It remains an issue but improvements have, and are, taking place and while B wing is still closed, all enforcement notices have been lifted.

SECURITY & DRUGS

- 6.27 In this reporting period two things stand out:
- 6.28 **Firstly** the arrangements for security were audited and were highly commended.
- 6.29 **Secondly**, the nature of the prisoner population changed with the concentration of prisoners from the two London prisons. This has changed the security agenda at Wellingborough somewhat since there are more groups of prisoners who know one another from their home area. There appear to be prisoners whose attitude to each other, often based on district, ethnicity and historical incidents is more likely to offer difficult situations for both staff and prisoners than was the case before.

June – May inc	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Detected throwovers	27	11	17	11
Contraband in visits hall	9	4	3	1
Drugs in Rule 39	8	6	1	1
Drugs in non rule 39	-	-	10	4

VISITS

Booking Visits.

6.30 The booking system is very busy due to the volume of emails and telephone bookings, staff regularly work their lunch breaks to try to alleviate the backlog. The visiting days are fully booked with staff reporting that the places fill very quickly up to a week prior to visit.

6.31 At the time of writing, despite efforts at improvement, there are still a number of unresolved issues regarding visits and the visits hall, including:

Pathway Centre

- absence of up to date forms for assistance with travel. They have been on order since November 2009
- recent arrangements to remedy the breakdown of the booking system (which appear to have been effective) will be monitored by the IMB.

Visits Hall

6.32 There have been a number of shortcomings in respect of equipment and general care and cleanliness. Steps are being taken to remedy some of these matters and this will be the subject of further IMB monitoring. For instance, plans are in place to ensure facilities are appropriate particularly in relation to welcoming – art work for the walls etc and cleanliness of the visits room. The IMB welcomes this and the fact that between the original draft of this report and the final version, these shortcomings were receiving attention.

SECTION 7

THE WORK OF THE IMB

7.1 The complement is thirteen. At the end of this period, the IMB had eight members with two scheduled to leave and three prospective members.

Monitoring

7.2 The change in ethos has continued - as stated last year - looking for the system deficiencies which cause the trainer shoes to go missing – not looking for the trainer shoes¹⁷. For about three years this IMB has endeavoured to perform a monitoring role rather than doing the work of staff. This includes a programme of comprehensive monitoring of key areas each year.

7.3 The current governor has supported this effort robustly and has done more than any governor before him to help raise the profile of the IMB and to enable the IMB to carry out its proper functions effectively.

7.4 Last year the Wellingborough IMB produced a formula funding model to prioritise and monitor spending against projection and as a result came in £100 under budget.

BOARD STATISTICS	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Recommended complement of board members	11	11	13.5	13.5	13	13
Number of board members at the start of the reporting period	10	10	10	10	9	10
Number of board members at the end of the reporting period	10	9	9	10	8	8
Number of new members joining within the reporting period		2	2	5	2	0
Number of members leaving within the reporting period		3	1	5	3	2
Number of attendances at meetings other than board meetings		46	61	56	59	46
Total number of		424	368	415	463	452

¹⁷ Approximate reference to statement by Stephen Shaw

BOARD STATISTICS	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
visits to the prison (including all meetings)						
Total number of applications received	304	288	223	239	357	258
Total number of segregation reviews held	79	99	101	102	100	99
Total number of segregation reviews attended	79	95	97	97	97	95
Visits to other prisons	2	1	1	0	2	1
Attendance at serious incident		3	5	3	4	5

NATURE OF APPLICATIONS					
CODE	SUBJECT	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
A	Accommodation	0	2	4	1
B	Adjudications	3	3	9	10
C	Diversity related (inc race)	3	6	6	1
D	Education/employment/training	1	13	22	8
E	Family/visits		12	17	6
F	Food/kitchen related	3	0	0	5
G	Health related	18	16	31	36
H	Property	55	43	68	37
I	Sentence related (sentence planning)	1	9	84	61
J	Staff/prisoner related (complaint against staff)		11	15	10
K	Transfers (prison move)	17	35	51	18
L	Miscellaneous (other)	122	89	50	59
Total number of applications		223	232	357	258

SEGREGATION	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Rule 45/49 – Own Protection & own interests	143	12	22	15
Rule 45/49 – Good Order or Discipline	191	109	89	109
Use of special cell	21	15	17	07
Use of care suite	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
Pending adjudications	Not available	Not available	98	Not available

ADJUDICATIONS	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Total number of adjudications	1310	1030	934	977

 **Tony Knivett, Chair, Wellingborough IMB**

SECTION 8 – Annex A**GLOSSARY OF TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS**

Abbreviation /term	Explanation	Other info
ACCT	Assessment, Care in Custody & Teamwork	
CARATS	Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice & Throughcare	
GOOD	Good Order & Discipline	
HDC	Home Detention Curfew	
IPP	Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection	Sentence to protect the public from dangerous criminals
KPT	Key Performance Target	
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection panel	
MDT	Mandatory Drug Testing	A key target indicator
NOMS	National Offender Management Service	Merger of Probation & Prison Services
OCA	Observation, classification & allocations	A reception task
OASys	Offender Assessment System	A tool used by Probation & Prisons to assess offenders (risk & needs)
OP	Own Protection	A reason for segregation is for the inmate's own protection
PASRO	Prison Addressing Substance Related Offending	
PCT	Primary Care Trust	
ROTL	Release on Temporary Licence	
SIR	Security Information Report	
SMARG	Segregation, monitoring and review group	
TPR	Team Performance Review	Annual reviews of IMB performance