

**An unannounced follow-up inspection of Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre commends centre managers for progress since the last inspection, but criticises 'unacceptable' movements of detainees in transit and the supervision of detainees at risk of harm.**

Anne Owers, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report, said that many recommendations from the previous inspection report had been implemented.

The report notes:

- Improved staff supervision of detainees, which had increased safety;
- Good staff-detainee relationships;
- Greater support for vulnerable and anxious detainees, with a dedicated reception team and a 16-strong welfare support team;
- Greater involvement of on-site immigration staff, though they had difficulty in communicating with, and getting timely action from, external caseworkers.

However, the report raises serious concerns about the movement and transportation of detainees, which was outside the centre's control.

Anne Owers said:

"We reviewed the escort records of a fifth of detainees. Five had had journeys of over 18 hours before reaching the centre, with overnight stops at airports; one had been in transit for nearly 36 hours. Others had had lengthy journeys, sometimes at night. Many had been in over four different places of detention. These movements around the detention estate, and the wholly unacceptable lengths of time spent in transit, inevitably increase detainees' vulnerability and action should be taken to monitor and significantly reduce them."

The report also expresses concern about the management of detainees at risk of self-harm within the centre, the absence

of care plans, and the procedures in the isolation unit, where detainees at risk of self-harm could not be observed through the doors. This had already resulted in a near-fatality.

Anne Owers concluded:

"Many of the problems experienced at Campsfield require action by agencies outside the centre. It is encouraging that centre staff and managers have made some progress since the last inspection; though there are further measures they can take to enhance the safety of those in their care."

**Notes to editors:**

1. Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre holds immigration detainees.
2. Inspectorate reports and releases are available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/justice/prisons/inspprisons>.
3. For an electronic copy of the report please email [kirsty.doig2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.doig2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or call 020 7273 4605.