



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
HMP LINCOLN**

**01 February 2011
To
31 January 2012**

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 also incorporates a male community prison.

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, a new Academy and a number of temporary buildings.

3.3 The average number of prisoners over the reporting period has been 644, 88% of the operational capacity. HMP Lincoln's Certified Normal Accommodation is 417 and its operational capacity is 729.

3.4 The average length of stay by a prisoner is 41 days.

3.5 The Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust provides General and Mental Healthcare; The Lincolnshire Action Trust provide resettlement, 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 Again, 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. (Page 4 para 5.2).

Procurement

4.2 The Board is concerned by Prison Service Central Procurement, a system designed to save public money, which appears to be wasting it. (Page 9 paras 6.15-6.18).

Mental Healthcare Referrals

4.3 The Board is concerned to report that it takes 14 days to get a prisoner moved after sectioning. (Page 6 para 5.18).

Prisoners' Pay and Canteen

4.4 The Board wishes to highlight the fact that prisoner's pay and canteen items are not standardised within the prison estate. (Page 10 para 6.27).

(ii) Operational Matters

Heating

4.5 The Board wishes to register concerns over the inadequate heating provision within a part of the prison from November 2010 to January 2012 (Page 10 para 6.20).

Maintenance and Repairs

4.6 The Board is made increasingly aware of the lack of responsibility shown for signing off work carried out by outside contractors/suppliers and, when equipment subsequently does not perform to its specification there is apparently no redress to the supplier.

4.7 The time taken to repair and replace items is unacceptable (Page 10 para 6.26).

Mandatory Drug Testing

4.7 The targets for tests and number of positive results for the period were met. (Pg 9, para 6.8). There were on average 29 adjudications for drug related offences per month during the reporting period.

(b) Other issues of concern or excellence

- (i) The Mental health team (Page 6, para 5.18).
- (ii) The Community Prison (Page 8, para 6.1).
- (iii) Central Procurement (Page 9, 6.15).
- (iv) Building, Suppliers and Works department (Page 10, 6.19).

(c) Overall Judgement

The Board recognises the very positive progress being made in becoming a Community Prison. Prisoner numbers are steadily increasing but remain below Operational Capacity. The Board are most concerned about Foreign National prisoners who having completed their sentences continue to be held under Immigration Warrants.

5 COMPULSORY REPORTING AREAS

(i) Diversity

5.1 All areas of Diversity are covered by the Diversity Team. Meetings are held regularly, but less often than last year, and include a prisoner representative and a member of the Board.

5.2 The Board regrets the loss of the dedicated Foreign National Liaison Officer who gave good support to those awaiting deportation. Over the reporting year, he has been sorely missed by both prisoners and staff and the Board has been receiving an increased number of applications from Foreign Nationals. The Discipline Office have responsibility

for Foreign Nationals but their time is limited and they cannot respond in the same way as a dedicated officer. Foreign Nationals averaged 77 in number, during the reporting period, 10% of the total prison population. The number rose from 42 in April 2011 to over 100 from November 2011 to January 2012. A monthly average of 16 Time Expired Foreign National prisoners have been held at HMP Lincoln awaiting deportation, with instances of prisoners still being held although they are over a year past their sentence expiry date. With the funding for only 16 UK Border Agency Visits last year, roughly one every three weeks, prisoners felt unsupported when issued with a warrant for their further detention just prior to release.

5.3 The average percentage of Black, Minority and Ethnic prisoners at Lincoln has doubled since last year to 27.9% of the total population. There were 60 Discrimination Incident Reports, 80% of which were for verbal abuse. All incidents were treated very seriously and explored by the Equalities Manager and suitable action taken.

5.4 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.

5.5 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.

5.6 The Diversity Team held a very successful Diversity Day to which outside agencies were invited. A steel band performed and ethnic foods were served. Events are publicised in the prison publication 'Jail Mail'.

5.7 The needs of physically disabled prisoners are accommodated within the budget available. The Healthcare Centre has retained its High Dependency Cell. The older prisoners are housed in ground floor cells on the same wing. A social room was provided for them to meet in during the day time but this was not well attended.

5.8 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

5.9 On arrival each prisoner is assessed and provided with an Individual Learning Plan to meet his needs.

5.10 On rota visits the Board were impressed by the quiet purposeful activity taking place within the education class rooms.

5.11 With the average length of stay of a prisoner at HMP Lincoln being 41 days the department developed the system of Unit Accreditation enabling prisoners to gain qualifications in small stages. The department has improved its focus on learning and skills for employability, and appointed a tutor responsible for overseeing this. 94% of those entered for a qualification were successful and the target for work related skills was exceeded.

5.12 AQA accreditation is available in all areas of the prison including hairdressing, the library, kitchen, laundry, gardening, cleaning, waste management, and PICTA. The person in charge of this accreditation is doing an excellent job and has significantly increased the entry and achievement of prisoners.

5.13 Two workshops make tracksuits, though it is often difficult for instructors to find the time for AQA accreditation. This is also true of the kitchen where AQA and NVQ food hygiene and health and safety courses can be followed. The Laundry exceeded its target for SATRA awards. This qualification, when 5 parts are achieved, can enable prisoners to train other prisoners or other people. The Charity Shop makes labels and nets, embroiders logos, packs parcels, classifies books and does all manner of odd jobs.

5.14 The Board were hoping to report the opening of the new academy in October 2011. Lincolnshire Action trust moved in then, but due to problems with floors, furniture, equipment and alarms, no learning or skills began there until January 2012. The three new workshops within the Academy have led to more advanced employability subjects, with painting and decorating, carpentry and finishing skills on offer. These are run in partnership with the building firm, Gelders, who already employ an ex-prisoner who began an apprenticeship with them while still in prison. Eligible for release on temporary licence at the time and as a part of the Community Prison initiative, the serving prisoner became the first to begin an apprenticeship in such circumstances and the Board hope to see more prisoners do likewise.

5.15 Within the Academy, the new BISC (British Institute of Cleaning Science) workshop floor has had to be replaced as it was unsuitable for purpose. This has now been rectified but outside the period of this report. A computer room will deliver business studies to a high level and the accounts needed for self employment. The new kitchen will teach life skills. There are two class rooms and a boardroom.

5.16 There is some concern that the staffing levels could reduce the results achieved this year. However, the Board commends the significant progress achieved in Learning and Skills and looks forward to, when the new academy is fully functional, all prisoners being gainfully employed in work, skills or education and achieving the appropriate qualifications.

(iii) Healthcare

5.17 The Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust provides healthcare in the prison. The Head of Healthcare manages the General and Mental Healthcare as well as the Drug treatment service. Each team currently works separately, however the Healthcare Manager is aiming to ensure that all 3 teams work more collaboratively to provide a more holistic care service. This initiative is welcomed.

5.18 The Mental Health Team have made a real difference to the time it takes to move a mentally ill prisoner to a secure hospital. They have speedily identified and moved prisoners to the appropriate care, finding 6 placements in 5 weeks on one occasion for which they received the team of the month award. They still dislike the 14 days it takes to move a sectioned prisoner, but actively pursue the placement of other prisoners which is dependent on funding and available beds.

5.19 Members of the IMB have been disappointed that the project to refurbish the waiting

areas within the Healthcare Department to provide a more appropriate environment in the last year has not been finished as expected. The structural changes, which were funded by The Kings Fund, have been completed, and will prove beneficial, but a considerable amount of work has yet to be completed by the Prison Works department to enable the waiting areas to become fully functional. It is hoped the refurbishment of the Department will be completed during 2012.

(iv) Safer Custody

5.20 The Safer Prisons Committee meets monthly. It is a collection of representatives from prisoners and prison and health departments who submit reports and data relevant to the care of the prisoner population.

5.21 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 2011, 378 ACCT documents were opened which was slightly up on the 334 in 2010.

5.22 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 225 2011, again slightly up on the previous year.

5.23 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.

5.24 There were no deaths in custody during 2011. However, there are 2 inquests pending.

(v) Segregation

5.25 This wing is not fit for purpose. The Board eagerly awaits the completion of the new segregation unit in autumn 2012. Segregation is staffed by a team of highly dedicated officers who pursue a robust policy to ensure that no prisoner stays longer than necessary. All records and authorisations are properly kept and up to date.

5.26 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 9 times for 6 prisoners; two of whom were detained overnight with other periods ranging from 20 minutes to 5 hours 55 minutes. All uses of the special accommodation were monitored by the Board.

5.27 The Board is informed immediately 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 is satisfied that prisoners are given every opportunity to see or hear any evidence and are always given the opportunity to attend their reviews. 93 GOOD Boards were attended by the Board.

5.28 The Board remains concerned that prisoners with serious mental health issues who are unfit for normal location have to be held in segregation until they can be removed to an appropriate outside mental health facility. One prisoner was placed in the special accommodation cell four times during a period of three days for his own safety and that of the staff. He had a serious mental health problem which was only resolved when he was transferred to an outside mental health hospital. The Board report that his move was achieved far more quickly than other prisoners with similar problems in previous years because of the work of the HMP Lincoln's Mental Health Team.

6. OTHER REPORTING AREAS

(i) Community Prison

6.1 Work has been undertaken on a number of projects throughout the year to develop the concept of a Community prison, having a multidisciplinary approach working with the Probation Integrated Offender Management system, and Community groups to reduce re-offending.

6.2 The Prison currently has two prisoners on temporary licence who work on the farm and gardens, with one also working at Lincoln City Football Club.

(ii) City Farm Project

6.3 Situated outside the prison walls the City Farm project aimed at Community relations and prisoner training is a really innovative project that will be opened to the public. Poly tunnels will provide plants and vegetables for sale to the general public. It is intended that ROTL (Released on Temporary Licence) prisoners and Community payback prisoners will work on the Farm and the objective is for the project to become self financing. It is also planned that livestock will be introduced to the Farm which will include alpaca, wallabies, micro pigs, goats, chickens, rabbits etc. Bee hives have already been installed for the production of honey. Also it is hoped that a rescued birds of prey section will be included. Prisoners from North Sea Camp have also been working at Lincoln to help develop the project.

6.4 The National Westminster Bank has enabled serving prisoners to have a basic Bank Account on their release. This has proved extremely beneficial and to date 111 prisoners have benefited from this initiative.

6.5 Work has also been undertaken with the "Health Planet" group, where prisoners work on sorting second hand books, which are then resold in Charity Shops. Without this work, the books would have gone into landfill sites.

6.6 A number of pre release events have been held within the prison for prisoners 6-8 weeks prior to their release. The topics included Healthcare, Drug and Alcohol advice, Housing and the Probation Service information.

6.7 During 2011 Gelder Construction offered the first serving prisoner in the country an apprenticeship. This was a significant development, the management and staff at HMP Lincoln have demonstrated tireless commitment and enthusiasm to ensure that in partnership with Gelder Construction the workshops became operational and successful as soon as possible despite procurement issues. The courses to be made available to

prisoners include:

Painting and Decorating Diploma Level 1
Carpentry and Joinery Diploma level 1
Building Crafts (Finishing) Certificate Level 1.

6.8 Prisoners appear to be committed and enthusiastic to learn new skills, which should help them on their release.

6.9 Eleven prisoners commenced the first Painting and decorating course, which commenced in January 2012.

6.10 A weekly Drama Group has been introduced in conjunction with Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln.

6.11 To keep prisoners informed, a prison Magazine is now being compiled by prisoners and is distributed throughout the prison.

(iii) Resettlement

6.12 Resettlement provision at HMP Lincoln is provided by The Lincolnshire Action Trust. The services they offer are Employment, Training & Education for sentenced prisoners only; Accommodation; Child Support; Debt Advice; Accommodation and support services for Bail and Home Detention Curfew.

6.13 Performance targets for the year have been met in the area of Education (10% target - 10.02% achieved) and Accommodation (87.5% target - 92.09% achieved). The performance target for Employment of 36.94% was not achieved but, taking into account the current record unemployment figures for the general population, the 30.39% achieved was a reasonable result.

6.14 Over the past year the Resettlement team have relocated to the new Academy Building. Although teething problems were experienced in respect of the relocation these issues have been resolved and the Resettlement team have integrated very well into the Academy and are working effectively with other agencies and are well positioned to improve the service to prisoners in 2012.

(iv) Central Procurement

6.15 The Board are concerned by the cost of central procurement of equipment and the delay in the arrival of the equipment after ordering.

6.16 The Board became aware of the high cost of equipment for the Academy when the builder providing training could have sourced tools at a fraction of the price and had them delivered within days of ordering. He was not allowed to do so.

6.17 The prison catering department would also benefit by being able to source products locally. The local suppliers would be more accessible and avoid difficulties with supply, quality and quantities and price. A faulty freezer has led to many problems of supply, cost and storage for months when it could have been replaced easily and cheaply within a week.

6.18 Though the Board accept that there may be good reasons for central procurement, they also abhor what appears to be the waste of public money and the loss to prisoners. Often the establishment waits weeks and months, to the detriment of prisoners, for items easily purchased at the local store.

(v) Building, Suppliers and Works Department

6.19 The use of the new Academy was delayed by three months because the snagging inspection failed to reveal unfinished and faulty work problems with the alarm system and that some floors were not suitable for the planned workshops. These problems, not identified along the building process or at its end, delayed the availability of increased training provision for prisoners. The Board believes that handover procedures must be tightened.

6.20 Last year the Board registered concerns over the inadequate heating provided within certain areas of the prison. The Board was assured that all problems would be resolved with the new system, installed in 2010, by the end of January 2011. One year later, at the beginning of January 2012 the heating problems still existed .

6.21 Throughout the year the inefficiency of the heating and water supply within the prison has been an issue which particularly affected E wing.

6.22 The system has frequently not been operating leading to unacceptable cold temperatures, particularly on the ground floor where older and handicapped prisoners are housed and showers were often cold. Due to ongoing problems with the newly installed system, concerns were shown by the HMP Lincoln site maintenance regarding their acceptance of the new system handover from the contractor in December 2011.

6.23 Despite HMP Lincoln concerns NOMS (National Offender Management Service) property insisted that they accept the system handover, this included the disconnection of temporary plant rooms despite recommendations from the Head of Site maintenance and the prison Governor that this should not happen.

6.24 The issues with BMS Systems were interface related i.e. the new system being connected to old iron pipes with the result of a lack of flushing, hot water system tripping, pumps seizing, pipes leaking etc. This situation impacted on every wing and indeed the main boilers. Core maintenance was also affected due to the maintenance team being diverted away from normal duties to concentrate on contractor system problems.

6.25 The Board deplores the delay in providing prisoners with adequate heating and hot water, especially the older prisoners housed on E Wing, and at the end of this reporting period are not convinced that the matter is yet resolved.

6.26 The works department frequently appears slow to address much needed maintenance. The kitchen floor upgrade mentioned as necessary in last year's report was eventually achieved, as far as it was possible, after many months of waiting.

(vi) Prisoner Pay and Canteen

6.27 Prisoners pay is not standardised throughout the prison estate and the Board

thought this strange as the price of canteen did not vary accordingly. They wondered why this was so. HMP Lincoln pay rates have been slightly below the national average.

6.28 The range of items available from the canteen list also varied from prison to prison and often caused disquiet when prisoners had to surrender articles permitted in other prisons.

(vii) Drugs

6.29 The targets for mandatory drug testing tests, and the number of positive results for the period, were met and indeed exceeded this year. There were on average 29 adjudications for drug related offences each month throughout the reporting period. Excellent work has been done by prison management and staff to reduce positive MDT rates from over 12% to less than 6% and with significant success in the arrest of visitors on suspicion of bringing drugs into the prison making Lincoln a safer and more decent prison.

7 THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

7.1 During the reporting year one new member began their probation under the guidance of our Board Development Officer. 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.

7.3 Prisoners Application Clinics are held weekly. 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 The Board administers the Lincolnshire Discharged Prisoner's Welfare Charity.

7.6 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
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
Health and Safety

BOARD STATISTICS	
Recommended complement of Board Members	17
Number of Board Members at the start of the reporting period	11
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	11
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	1
Number of members leaving within the reporting period	1
Total number of Board meetings during reporting period	12
Average number of attendances at Board meetings during reporting period	9.25
Total number of visits to the prison (including all meetings)	369
Total number of applications received	268
Total number of segregation reviews held	93
Total number of segregation reviews attended	93
Total number of rota visits	52

APPLICATIONS CLINICS FEB 2011-JAN 2012

A	Accommodation	2
B	Adjudications	5
C	Diversity related	2
D	Education/employment/training	8
E	Family/visits	35
F	Food/kitchen related	9
G	Health related	27
H	Property	61
I	Sentence related	28
J	Staff/prisoner/detainee related	6
K	Transfers	45
L	Miscellaneous	50
	Total number of applications	278

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