

ISSUES FOR THE GOVERNOR re IMB REPORT 2014-2015

- Review whether the requirement that prisoners who are awarded cellular confinement should also have their bedding withdrawn during the day. Consideration needs to be given as to whether this is a necessary punishment and a deterrent.

Governor's Response:

It is important that there is a difference between cellular confinement and other reasons for being in Segregation. Cellular confinement is a punishment. It is for a maximum of 3 days.

The Governor will inspect the cells to see how cold they can be and review following this.

- The way in which the data on 'E Wing Population' and all 'Adjudications' are compiled and presented would benefit from a review to ensure that the data is accurate and consistent.

Governor's Response:

If there is anything not understood we will happily review it and explain.

- Review the punishments available for drug offences within the prison. With the forthcoming amendments to the Custody Act and appointment of an Independent Adjudicator awards of extra days require serious consideration.

Governor's Response:

The Custody Act amendments allow for the introduction of an Independent Adjudicator. However, the awards available will need to be included in a future review of the Custody Rules.

- To keep under review the possibility of reintroducing Voluntary Drug Testing.

Governor's Response:

To keep under review. The Head Nurse will review as part of the Harm Reduction Strategy.

- Continue the training offered to Officers in gathering evidence and producing reports for adjudications.

Governor's Response:

This will remain as part of our training programme.

- Given that the ban on smoking will not be modified, ensure that Officers are fastidious in applying prison rules equally to all prisoners, the objective being to increase the deterrent value of the present policy and reduce the use of harmful substances and practices when smoking. This would involve Officers taking a more proactive role in circulating on the accommodation wings and less time sitting at the dais.

Governor's Response:

There will be a re-launch of the Smoke Free Policy now that the prison has received a report from Cumbria University. As part of the Harm Reduction Strategy two pathways will be developed – one supportive and one punitive.

As part of the punitive pathway, staff will be expected to take a consistent approach to detecting smoking.

- Urgent consideration should be given, and time made available, for the holding of table top exercises in relation to the variety of serious incidents which may take place in and around the prison.

Governor's Response:

This will be undertaken as part of the ongoing Contingency Plans Work Stream and the IMB will be invited to attend.

- Record and monitor the number of offences by each individual prisoner.

Consider whether there is a need to seek further powers for governor adjudications especially in regard to offences which put a physical or mental risk on Officers and other prisoners.

Governor's Response:

All offences are already recorded on PIMS.

Additional adjudication awards for Governors were included in the proposed amendments to the Custody Rules but cannot be implemented unless/until the Custody Act is amended to allow it.

Offences are also monitored at Resettlement Meetings.

- To consider upgrading the glass sterilisers on the wings to dishwashers or the removal of the same and the introduction of manual cleaning of prisoners' personal eating utensils.

Governor's Response:

It has been clarified they are dishwashers not sterilisers.

Prisoners seem to prefer to wash their own eating utensils.

- To consider methods of improving maintenance and repair of washing machines both on and off the wings.

Governor's Response:

When a fault report is received, the subsequent work order is given high priority status. Most repairs are carried out by Works Department staff as there are no commercial businesses operating on the Island who are recognised agents authorised to carry out work on JLA machines. JLA have tried to find interested parties based on Island who would act as an authorised service agent for them but unfortunately this did not come to fruition. To bring a JLA service engineer over from the UK for a 1 day visit can cost up to £1,500.00 by the time travel costs, accommodation etc have been factored in. Further days attendances accrue additional costs of approximately £650.00 per day.

However, as faults have occurred more recently with the machines, works staff have become more knowledgeable in repairing them and therefore are getting the machines back into service a lot quicker.

There are plenty of machines installed throughout the prison and if a machine becomes inoperable, particularly on one of the wings, then the Central Laundry has proven it can quite adequately cope with the extra demand.

- Consideration may be given to the ways of stopping the pooling of water in showers.

Governor's Response:

The problems usually occur when large numbers of prisoners use the showers after the gym which increases the incidence of standing water.

We are aware that there is very little 'fall' on the shower floors between the door threshold and the drain. This is viewed as a construction issue. However, the architects and contractor confirmed it is within the desired tolerances. We will purchase suitable tools to improve the situation.

- A variation of visiting times by the Duty Governor to the kitchen may enable a wider sample of food tasting to be achieved.

Governor's Response:

The Duty Governor will look to vary the visiting times.

- The wearing of correct serverly clothing and appropriate general personal hygiene practices at serveries needs to be consistently monitored and enforced by Officers. This also includes prisoners changing out of their serverly clothing when not performing serverly activities.

We raised this issue in our last report and continue to do so after visits to the prison. We were assured that the Residential Manager was to be made aware of the shortcomings, but we have evidenced that standards fall well below what should be expected.

Governor's Response:

The Servery Workers Compact was amended to state prisoners were only allowed to wear their servery clothing at meal times. Managerial checks have been put in place to ensure servery workers wear the correct clothing.

- To consider if the lip at the entrance to the cell for the disabled can be removed or mitigated. The Board has evidenced that the lip has made it difficult to negotiate a wheelchair without assistance.

Governor's Response:

It is within the approved specification:

- **Threshold strips were measured and found to be below 15mm.**
 - **Cell door threshold cannot be removed as it forms part of the cell door framework. Also, to mitigate it, consideration would need to be given to not creating a 'trip' hazard.**
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- To follow up on the possible resolution of non-available and/or intermittent availability of TV channels.

Governor's Response:

Routinely prisoners have access to 20 channels. If they are enhanced they have access to 44 in total.

However, there is no transmitter on the island so reception is only as good as the atmospheric conditions allow on any given day i.e. the odd channel will drop off during a downpour. The north of the Island has more access to Freeview channels than the south.

Also, an annual review is carried out through the Prisoners' Council.

- The management of the Operational Support Group (OSG's) is an area that the Board feels has been somewhat neglected. The Visitors' Centre is rarely, if ever, visited by Senior Officers or members of the Senior Management Team, and there are a lack of clear policies for the OSG's to follow. When a new policy is written there is little consultation with the Group who could offer valuable experience of administrating various systems.

OSG's often feel they are viewed as being of lesser importance than others, when in fact they are a vital cog in the smooth running of prison systems. We expected a review of the procedures by the Manager following last year's report but this has not been evidenced.

Governor's Response:

The OSGs now state they feel properly supported. Senior Officers visit regularly.

The Visits Centre is now visited more regularly by Senior Managers.

- Long term issues of understaffing in the Physical Education (P.E.) Department are of concern to the Board. While the goodwill of the P.E. staff has enabled the Department to continue to operate relatively effectively, the Officers cannot be expected to work so many hours indefinitely. Should any other sickness/injury befall a P.E. Officer the consequences for P.E. provision would be severe, which would be extremely detrimental to the physical and mental wellbeing of prisoners.

Governor's Response:

The work of the P.E.I. Group was recently re-profiled and the correct number of staff deployed. There has been a significant period of time when the group has been subject to members being on periods of long term sickness; no profile can account for such abnormalities.

Three P.E.Is have all had periods of long term sickness for valid reasons during this period. It has been the goodwill of staff and Line Managers from other Departments that maintained a comprehensive programme for prisoners. Even when the gym was closed one day per week, standard prisoners could access 3 sessions of gym/week and enhanced prisoners would get it every day the gym was open plus evenings (football).

- The Board recognises the increase in early and regular structured involvement with prisoners by Personal Officers that has been brought about by the Induction & Discharge Wing processes. It hopes for further progress in formalisation of the role, and more emphasis to be placed on this pivotal responsibility.

Probation and Resettlement Teams both need underlying support from every Officer to ensure prisoners feel they have staged goals and objectives especially those prisoners with longer sentences.

Governor's Response:

Personal Officers are invited to Resettlement Reviews and also training.

We are reviewing the Custody Plans and as part of that Personal Officers will be required to submit formal reports to the Resettlement Team if they are unable to attend the review.

- Any possible restrictions on a prisoner due to their security status should be clarified early to avoid dispiriting refusals to the Work Board or Isle of Man College applications.

Governor's Response:

It is made very clear to prisoners about work they can apply for. They can apply for all work at the security level they are currently at, or one level above only. Prisoners are informed about this and discussion takes place during Resettlement Reviews.

- Officers carrying out assessment interviews, particularly on reception prisoners would benefit from initial mental health training in risk assessment and risk management which should be regularly reviewed.

Governor's Response:

Mental Health Awareness training has been delivered on previous Training Days and a Mental Health Nurse delivered training to 25 staff on Personality Disorder and other mental health conditions in June and July Training Days 2015.

Healthcare Nurses conduct their own assessments on new receptions before they go to the Induction Wing and have a facility to share any relevant and important information with staff.

The introduction of the Supported Living Plan will help with this process.

- Prisoners would benefit from routine sight and hearing testing. At present this is done only when a problem is identified.

Governor's Response:

Patients can request sight and hearing tests which will be accommodated. Unless clinically indicated, routine sight/hearing tests are not available to the greater community and the introduction of routine tests would, therefore, create disparity between service provision in and outside of the prison.

- In preparation for the appointment of an Independent Adjudicator (Custody (Amendment) Bill 2015), consideration needs to be urgently given to sound proofing the Adjudication Room on E Wing.

Governor's Response:

This will be considered as part of the Capital Programme.

- Consider greater use of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) to enable prisoners to work outside and progress towards rehabilitation.

Governor's Response:

The paperwork and risk assessment are being reviewed. ROTL is a balance of benefit and risk as well as victim/community response. We will consider greater use where appropriate.

- The request system operated within the Mobile Library Service.

Governor's Response:

Continues and is the first place to source book requests.

.....**ROBERT McCOLM** - Prison Governor & Head of Probation

.....Date