



Department of Home Affairs

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JOINT RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS TO THE APRIL 2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECURE CARE HOME INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD

Thank you for your Board's report for April 2022. We are grateful to you and your colleagues for your work in capturing these issues and your observations from your visits to Cronk Sollysh at White Hoe. Below are responses to the points raised in the Board's report.

With three new Members of the Board the Department of Home Affairs has introduced a number of measures regarding the governance and training programme of new members including regular meetings with officers from both Departments. We hope that if there is any area which you feel needs further support you will raise this with us to ensure you are confident in your important roles.

We greatly appreciate the role played by members of the Secure Care Home Independent Monitoring Board and are grateful for your enthusiasm and diligence in ensuring our young people feel safe and supported whilst in Cronk Sollysh.

Minister for Health & Social Care

Minister for Justice & Home Affairs

ISSUES RAISED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT 2022:

Issue: BUILDING – the building – is old and quite dated. Members will pursue the discussion with CS staff in upcoming visits to fully understand the impact of the building condition on employees and detainees. The last weekly action log stated that a request had been made for a condition survey of the building to be undertaken with a view to seeking replacement carpets, bathrooms and painting.

Action: SCIMB to formally request from DHSC an update on the state of the building and plans to upgrade/refurbish the facilities as soon as possible.

Response: The building is quite dated, DHSC have requested that DOI come to the setting and complete a full condition survey of the building with a view to an ongoing maintenance programme. The bathrooms, windows and carpets are key issues that DHSC continue to escalate to DOI. This has now been reported to the Assistant Director of Children and Families Social Work and to a manager at the Estates Department, as well as to the commissioning service as there has been a continued lack of response from the DOI/Estates Department.

Issue: STAFFING - There are three vacancies at present. Members will discuss this in forthcoming visits.

Action: SCIMB to monitor staffing levels and to raise concerns if this is impacting on the care of the young people.

Response: Current staffing compliment can safely manage the current cohort. Recruitment has been difficult across all services, however there will be another specific advert to go out for secure staff before the end of July, the job descriptions are in the process of being reviewed. The contingency plan that is in place is appropriate to manage the needs of the service and if there was a need we do have specific agency staff that we can call upon as well as staff across the service that have worked in secure facilities previously.

Issue: EDUCATION FOR DETAINEES – the long-term resident has stated to IMB members that he would like to attend college. The IMB would like to understand how decision are made about this request and where responsibility lies for providing the education i.e. at IoM College.

Action: SCIMB would like a formal response from DHSC regarding the policy of provision of education at IOM College for residents

Response: The provision for education at the Isle of Man College for secure residents, would be based on an application process and a risk assessment, to determine the risk of attendance if any. Alongside this there would be a transition plan in place to ensure that all eventualities are covered. There is no responsibility to provide education at this level as it is post 16 years and through choice rather than statute. The secure setting will always support the young people to make application and secure authorisation for a temporary licence to attend.

Issue: TRAINING FOR MEMBERS – so far, the board has raised general legislation around custody, parole (as we understand we may be involved in parole decisions) and safeguarding.

Action: Department of Home Affairs to be requested to provide formal training plan and training for members.

Response: Since the appointment of three new members to the SCIMB, the Department has reviewed the provision of training to all Committees. A programme of training is underway which includes visits to the prison with the Chair of the Prison Independent Monitoring Board, in addition to this a training session on Safeguarding, Equality Training, Records Management and Anti-Bribery has been arranged with LEAD at the end of May and a meeting has been set up for the DHA Data Protection Officer to discuss responsibilities under GDPR. Also IT functionality training will take place when new arrangements for records management is in place. The Chair of the SCIMB is also to undertake Charing Skills Training with IOM Government later in the year. The Department

welcomes further feedback following the delivery of this training on any further areas that may be required.

