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INDEPENDENT MONITORING PANEL- ANNUAL REPORT 2016



APRIL 2017

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

In starting my third foreword as the Chair Person of the Independent Monitoring Panel (IMP), I again wish to acknowledge my fellow volunteers who sit on the Independent Monitoring Panel. In 2015, the Panel experienced a number of changes with three resignations and five new appointments taking place throughout the calendar year.

The newer members of the Panel have settled into the role seamlessly and have brought with them a breadth of experience as well as a fresh outlook to the role and a wonderful enthusiasm. The role of an IMP member can be challenging, however Members have continued to conduct themselves in a professional and committed manner, both qualities which, as Chair Person of the Panel, I do not fail to appreciate.

The role of the Independent Monitoring Panel is to provide independent oversight of the day to day operation of the prison as well as protecting the well-being of prisoners and prison staff alike. In this regard, the Panel continues to view the Guernsey Prison, its facilities and its staff to be a testament to this Island.

Year on year, the Guernsey Prison continues to develop and refine itself from its physical security and facilities to the employment opportunities and educational curriculum that are made available. All of the developments within the prison are undertaken with a particular focus on the overall vision of the Guernsey Prison. The vision of the Guernsey Prison states "*We ensure public protection and commit to reduce re-offending*".

The 2016 calendar year brought with it a busy schedule of both physical upgrades to the Guernsey Prison building and grounds as well as the introduction of a number of new initiatives and revised structures relating to the general running of the Prison.

Prison staff continued to work towards securing the requisite funding in order to upgrade the perimeter fence; the Committee for Home Affairs approved the necessary technological aspects of the project with a view to commencing the upgrades in 2017. In addition to the perimeter fence, the Guernsey Prison also replaced one of its two greenhouses which was coming to the end of its use as well as undertaking development of new female accommodation within the Prison.

As well as physical upgrades, the Guernsey Prison is consistently reviewing the way in which it delivers its educational programme and the opportunities available in relation to employment. In 2016, the Guernsey Prison introduced a revised structure which focusses on tailoring employment, learning and skills opportunities to support prisoners in their successful rehabilitation upon release as opposed to an arbitrary approach. The Panel recognises the excellent work done in order to develop the Prison into place of diversity which offers wide range of opportunity to staff and prisoners alike.

The Panel applauds the Guernsey Prison for its commitment to continually improving what is already a fantastic service and a testament to the Island.

Wendy Meade

INTRODUCTION

The Guernsey Prison Service serves the public by keeping in custody those legally committed to its care. Its duty is to look after them with decency and to help them lead law-abiding lives in custody and after release. The Prison holds a diverse population, including those sentenced and on remand, men and women, young offenders and juvenile and vulnerable prisoners.

The Independent Monitoring Panel is constituted under the Prison (Guernsey) Ordinance 2013 ("the Ordinance") as an independent body made up of members of the public to make unannounced visits to Guernsey Prison. Members provide independent oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Prison and prison conditions, monitor the administration of the prison, the treatment of prisoners and whether the statutory objectives of the prison system are being met, and serve to protect the well-being of prisoners. In addition to this, the Independent Monitoring Panel also looks to oversee the general well-being of the members of staff who are employed by the Guernsey Prison.

The core functions of the Panel include:

- I. Undertaking a monthly unannounced visit of the Prison premises (two Members in attendance for each visit);
- II. Individual responses to prisoner requested visits;
- III. Visits to prisoners who have been admitted to the Segregation Care and Progress Unit (SCAPU);
- IV. Bi-Monthly IMP meetings;
- V. Attendance as observers at various Prison meetings.

The Ordinance requires the Panel to prepare an annual report at the end of each calendar year, which must include the following:-

(a) a summary of the Panel's activities, including the number of –

- I. Complaints or requests received from prisoners, and
- II. Inquiries conducted by Panel members,

broken down by the topics to which they relate (e.g. food, temporary release licence, privileges, use of force) and compared to statistics from previous years,

(b) Anonymous examples of prisoner's complaints and results of the Panel's inquiries into those, including recommendations made and responses received from the Governor or the Department,

(c) the Panel's observations in relation to:-

- I. the state of the prison premises,
- II. the administration of the prison,
- III. its observations on the treatment of prisoners

(d) any advice or recommendations the Panel sees fit to make.

SUMMARY OF THE PANEL'S OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS

Throughout the 2016 calendar year, the Panel was generally satisfied with the state of prison premises during their visits and this evidently contributed to what had been a calm and peaceful atmosphere within the Prison. There were re-occurring issues raised by Prisoners throughout the calendar year; however the majority of these issues were resolved as the Guernsey Prison continued to undergo refurbishment and routine maintenance in order to improve the living conditions for prisoners and working conditions for officers.

The 2015 IMP Annual Report referenced concerns that had previously been raised with regards to the general temperature of the Prison, which was reported as being either too hot or too cold depending on the time of the year. The Panel noted that, in 2015, the Guernsey Prison updated its boiler heating and expansion systems which resulted in a reduction in the number of complaints regarding the ambient temperature. However, the Panel noted that a theme of complaints had arisen throughout 2016 in relation to the fluctuating temperature within the prison as well as complaints regarding ventilation. The Panel was pleased to learn in the latter part of 2016 that a sum of capital had been allocated to address the ongoing heating and ventilation issues that were being raised and Members hoped that these issues would not be experienced in 2017.

In the 2015 Annual Report, the Panel also had cause to raise concern with regards to complaints being made in relation to minor skin irritation that, at the time, was reportedly being experienced by a small portion of inmates. The Panel noted that reported skin irritations had continued into the 2016 calendar year and seemed to have begun affecting a larger section of the prison populace. Members acknowledged that the origin of the skin irritation had allegedly been caused by the water system, however this had been thoroughly inspected and there was no explanation for the skin eruptions in relation to the water system within the prison. The Prison Healthcare team had suggested that the possible lifestyle changes/detoxification programmes were a likely cause; the Panel hopes that the problems with skin irritations desist or are reinvestigated by the Prison.

The Panel also noted from the previous IMP report that there had been dissatisfaction amongst prisoners in relation to the condition of the showers and the frequency of flooding incidents. Members noted that the slow draining showers were once again raised by prisoners in the early stages of the 2016 calendar year; however it was acknowledged that the Prison drainage had been identified as a specific area to address within the backlog maintenance project that was conducted in 2016. The Panel is pleased to see no further complaints regarding the Prison drainage towards the end of 2016. The Panel has otherwise been satisfied with the general state of the Guernsey Prison.

The Panel continues to be impressed by the learning and skills initiatives undertaken by the Guernsey Prison and the resulting opportunities provided for its population of inmates. In support of the main educational curriculum, the Guernsey Prison employs tutors through the Creative Learning in Prison (CLIP) charity which provides a raft of

additional education opportunities for prisoners. The Guernsey Prison again submitted a number of entries into the Koestler awards initiative for arts and crafts. Seven of the Prison's seventeen entries gained a Koestler award including one Gold, one Silver and two pieces that were selected to be exhibited at London's Royal Festival Hall.

In addition to the learning and skills opportunities offered, prisoners continue to have a vast array of vocational opportunities available including work in the kitchen, carpentry workshop and the horticultural site. The Panel has noted consistently positive comments within the visitors log book within the kitchen and Members also acknowledged that the replacement greenhouse has been instrumental in allowing the continuation of employment and vocational training on the horticultural site as well as providing a cost effective option for catering.

The Guernsey Prison continued to see low numbers in terms of the prison population throughout 2016. The Prison's Certified Normal Accommodation (CAN) is 130; however the Prison's maximum operational capacity is 139. The average prison population for the 2016 calendar year was 89 with the highest number reaching 103 and the lowest recorded at 79. The Panel was pleased to note the peaceful atmosphere that was experienced throughout the year and the continued positive interactions between staff and prisoners alike which resulted in positive experiences during the Panel's visits.

UPDATE FROM 2015 RECOMMENDATIONS

Panel Awareness

Within the 2015 Annual Report, the Panel remained of the view that there was significant room for increased awareness of the IMP both within and outside of the Prison. The Panel is pleased to report the positive steps that have been taken in addressing this recommendation.

In terms of raising the profile of the Panel within the Prison, Members are grateful for the opportunity to begin attending the Prisoner Induction Meetings in 2016. This has provided Members with the chance to liaise with new prisoners and advise them of the role that the IMP has to play within the Prison regime; over time, the Panel's attendance at the prisoner induction meetings should serve to increase the knowledge of the Panel amongst inmates. As Chair Person, I am also grateful of the opportunity to liaise with newly recruited Prison Officers to explain the role of the IMP.

In terms of raising the IMP's public profile, the Panel has undertaken some work with the local media which coincided with the advertisement for the recruitment of new IMP Members.

Communication between the IMP, the Prison and Prisoners

In the previous IMP Annual Report, the Panel acknowledged the importance of ensuring positive communication between IMP Members and prisoners/officers from the prison. The Panel notes that concerns have previously been raised by prisoners in relation to the consistency in receiving tangible outcomes from the issues have been raised with the IMP.

The Panel acknowledges that an easy solution to a problem is not readily available in every circumstance. However Members acknowledged that, in these circumstances, appropriate mechanisms needed to be in place in order to ensure that sufficient feedback is delivered to prisoners in a timely manner; the information should advise, where appropriate, ongoing discussions with officers of the Guernsey Prison.

As a result, the Panel has adopted mechanisms for providing feedback to prisoners in relation to the issues raised including any outcomes and an explanation should a suitable outcome not be available; this has included sharing IMP reports with prisoners and providing feedback face-to-face.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Body Worn Camera Training

The Panel noted that the use of Body Worn Cameras was trialled by the Guernsey Prison in 2016 with a view to being permanently introduced in 2017; the IMP anticipates the possibility of future queries by prisoners in relation to the use of Body Worn Cameras. In the past, the Panel has benefitted enormously from attending various live procedures carried out by Prison staff, for example training on the correct use of force. Therefore, the IMP has considered that it would be beneficial to receive training in relation to the use of the Body Worn Cameras to ensure that Members are aware of its capabilities and the type of situations in which it will be used.

Guernsey Prison within the Wider Context of Government

In December 2016, the Panel was grateful of the opportunity to meet with the Committee for Home Affairs to discuss the Guernsey Prison, the role of the IMP and the current context of the IMP and Prison within Home Affairs and the States of Guernsey. The Panel is grateful of the support offered by the Committee as well as the support offered by officers of Home Affairs. Members consider the information provided to be invaluable and would welcome regular updates from Home Affairs in relation to key events impacting upon the Guernsey Prison, which in turn, impact the role of the Independent Monitoring Panel.

Improved Recreational Facilities

Members noted that the prisoner recreational area had seemingly been neglected and so there was a general lack of facilities available to prisoners. IMP Members have noted that the baize on the Pool table is particularly worn, the dart board appears to be missing and the television is not operational.

Members acknowledged that the prisoners who utilise the recreational area took overall responsibility for the facilities within. However, the Panel considered that an investment in recreational facilities could have a positive effect on the everyday atmosphere within the Guernsey Prison. In terms of maintenance of the recreational area, the Panel considered that this could be incorporated into a prisoner's position of employment within the Prison.

Please write to the Chairperson of Independent Monitoring Panel c/o Sir Charles Frossard House if further information is required in relation to any matter contained within the Report.

APPENDIX 1- STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Monthly Visits- Number of complaints/ comments by theme

Theme	Number of complaints	Number of comments
Access to Offending Behaviour Work	4	
Bullying	4	
Showers/Drainage	4	
Temperature	4	
Incentives & Earned Privileges (IEP) Status	3	1
Skin Irritation	3	1
Cost of E-Cigarettes	3	
Extractor Fans/Ventilation	3	
Employment	2	1
Clothes	2	
Prior information for escorts out of the prison/wing re-organisation etc	2	
Complaints Procedure	1	
Detoxification Programme	1	
Money for Canteen	1	
Wing Cleanliness		2
Number of Staff		1

Requested Visits by theme

Theme	Number
Incentives & Earned Privileges (IEP) Status	6
Adjudications/Warnings	6
Access to Offending Behaviour Work	4
Bullying	3
Detoxification Programme	2
Moving Wing	2
Parole	2
Prisoner Money	2
Healthcare	1
Attendance of Carol Service	1
Cabin Visit	1
Support Following Release	1

SCAPU (Segregation Care and Protection Unit) Visits

SCAPU is a segregation unit used to hold prisoners separately from the main prisoner population for varying reasons. The ethos of the Unit is to identify individual prisoner needs and wherever practicable to meet those needs with a view to encouraging individual progress so that the prisoner can safely be returned to mainstream residential accommodation.

Number of SCAPU visits	6
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Breakdown of Visits by day of week

Day	Number
Monday	4
Tuesday	8
Wednesday	15
Thursday	10
Friday	6
Saturday	5
Sunday	1

Breakdown by time of day at start of visit (where known)

Day	Number
8am – 12 noon	14
12 noon – 5pm	25
5pm – 9pm	4
Unknown	6

Length of visit (where known)

Day	Number
Less than an hour	13
Between 1 and 2 hours	16
Over 2 hours	9
Unknown	11

APPENDIX 2- ANONYMOUS

In providing anonymous examples of the queries received by the Panel, the Panel is mindful of the difficulties within a small prison population such as Guernsey in ensuring that confidentiality really is maintained. Conscious that it may be possible to identify individual prisoners by virtue of the circumstances even in the absence of names, the examples below have purposively been written in such a way so to preserve the confidentiality of those seeking the Panel's assistance, but providing an illustration of the themes addressed in prisoners' concerns.

Access to Specialist Offending Behaviour Intervention

The Panel is aware of the extensive offending behaviour courses and programmes that are offered to prisoners in Guernsey in order to assist with their successful reintegration back into the community. The Panel considers the rehabilitative measures offered by the Guernsey Prison to be of an excellent standard. The Panel has however received comments in relation to the difficulty in accessing specialist offending behaviour support and has noted concerns that have been raised regarding the impact that the interruptions to specialist offending behaviour work has had on some of the inmates' rehabilitation.

The Panel has raised these concerns with officers of the Guernsey Prison and is aware that specialist training is offered to prisoners on a monthly basis through the commission of an off-Island professional. The Panel understands the frustrations that can be experienced by inmates in relation to the frequency of specialist support; however the Panel is also conscious of the limitations that can sometimes be experienced when living within a small island community and this can be seen through the difficulty in offering specialist support to prisoners. Despite these difficulties, the Panel is pleased to see that the Guernsey Prison continues to offer diverse offending behaviour programmes to assist all prisoners with their successful reintegration into the wider community.

Cost of E-Cigarettes

In the 2016 calendar year, the Panel received a theme of complaints from prisoners in relation to the cost of E-Cigarettes within the Guernsey Prison which was reportedly higher than the cost of E-Cigarettes within other Prisons. The Panel acknowledges that the Guernsey Prison introduced a total smoking ban in 2013 to reduce the effect of passive smoking on prisoners and staff, and Members consider the introduction of this ban to have been a total success.

The introduction of E-Cigarettes allows prisoners to manage their addiction to Nicotine in a safer way. The Panel understands the issues and concerns raised by Prisoners in relation to the cost of E-Cigarettes which should reflect their retail price and the prices within other Prisons; officers of the Guernsey Prison advised that the cost of E-Cigarettes was due to be reduced and therefore it is hoped that this will reduce the number of comments and concerns raised in this regard. Furthermore, the IMP remains fully supportive of the Prison's smoke free initiative.