

INDEPENDENT MONITORING PANEL

Guernsey Prison

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

If further information is required in relation to any matter contained within this Report please write to the Chair of Independent Monitoring Panel via email to HomeAffairs@gov.gg or via letter to Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie, St Peter Port, GY1 1FH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY THE CHAIRPERSON

It is my pleasure to be able to present this 2022 Report. I took up the role Chairperson just prior to the presentation of the last Report and it's been a steep learning curve since then. I have had to get up to speed and learn about the Prison estate and the role the IMP plays within it so that I am able to best support the Panel members and ensure that relationships between members and the Prison's management are strengthened.

2022 has been a year where we have seen an increase in confidence to travel and this has meant that there have been occasions where the Panel has had to postpone its meetings. However, I reassure readers that the Panel members are committed to their roles, and we hope that these challenges are now behind us as we can look forward to undertaking our roles with enthusiasm.

As always, the Panel are indebted to the Prison's staff. 2022 has seen widespread recruitment difficulties and this has affected the Prison too. The current staff contingent's professionalism, patience and courtesy always ensures that our visits are informative, and we observe the excellent rapport they have with the prisoners which is invaluable in the rehabilitation process and in caring for some of the most complex and vulnerable people in Guernsey.

I would like to recognise and thank my fellow Panel members for their time and efforts, their good humour and continued commitment to this Panel and those it serves. We have struggled with various communications problems because of a change in the ways we access our shared documents, which has caused much frustration, but we look forward to a year of progress in this regard.

Andie Fuller

Chair of the Independent Monitoring Panel

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STATUTORY FUNCTION

The Guernsey Prison Service keeps 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 of men and women, young offenders, juveniles and vulnerable prisoners, including those sentenced and on remand.

The Independent Monitoring Panel (the Panel) is constituted under the Prison (Guernsey) Ordinance 2013 (“the Ordinance”) as a body made up of members of the public. It is charged with providing independent oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Prison and Prison conditions, monitoring the administration of the Prison, the treatment of prisoners and whether the statutory objectives of the Prison system are being met. The Panel also oversees the general well-being of staff who are employed by the Guernsey Prison.

To enable the Panel to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to every prisoner, every part of the prison and to the Prison’s records. Members:

- undertake a monthly unannounced visit of the Prison premises;
- visit prisoners personally at their request;
- visit prisoners who have been admitted to the Segregation Care and Progress Unit (SCAPU);
- attend, as observers, routine prison meetings; and
- attend bi-monthly Panel meetings.

The Ordinance requires the Panel to prepare an annual report at the end of each calendar year, which must include its findings, observations, recommendations and statistical information.

THE PANEL'S OBSERVATIONS IN 2022

The following arises from observations made on unannounced visits, visits requested by prisoners, contact with staff, attendance at Prison meetings and discussions with Prison management in 2022. It is noted that the general atmosphere at the Prison has been positive and we have observed prisoners working well alongside prison officers and other support staff. Prisoners appear to gain confidence through engaging in education and employment which is encouraging not only to us as Panel members but also to the community, as releasing rehabilitated prisoners is an important aim.

There were no 'lockdowns' in Guernsey Prison in 2022. The Prison management team have managed any outbreaks within the population accordingly via isolation. There was only one occasion in 2022 when members of the Panel did not enter the prison on arrival, due to the timing of a requested visit coinciding with a breakout of infections and the population was being tested at that time. The prisoners who had requested the visit were also confirmed positive and the requests were dealt with in a different way.

The Prison Estate

Despite securing funding for various initiatives including the refurbishment of the J-Wing showers, the Prison has experienced problems in securing qualified contractors to carry out works. It is disappointing that we have continued to hear complaints about these areas. However there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel and it is hoped that 2023 will bring about the commencement of successful projects.

Please refer to the Prison Annual Report for more information about their achievements in this area.

Healthcare

A new healthcare team, delivering primary care, has been put together in 2022 under new management, and this has had a huge impact on the prison. Prisoners' physical health and general wellbeing needs are met well. However, it remains our view that the prison is not equipped to provide for prisoners with serious long-term mental health issues.

Education

The Education Department is also under new management and has gone from strength to strength. The level of classroom support offered to prisoners appears to be good and there is a great variety of course and classes on offer. We understand that prisoners are signposted to where and how they can access education when they leave and this is very positive, though we are not aware of the numbers of people who take up these opportunities post-custody.

Offender Management

We were pleased to have met with the Manager of the Offender Management Unit (OMU) where we learnt more about how prisoners engage in work to address their offending behaviour, the targets they have set and how they are supported to resettle into the community on release. Resettlement remains a challenge for the Prison and for the community. The Prison is reliant on outside agencies and charities such as Caring for Ex-Offenders to secure accommodation for some of the most vulnerable people.

Regime changes - visits

The Prison has responded to the needs of the visitors changing the Prison's Regime visiting times. In January the Prison moved its visit times to earlier in the day (16:15 to 17:00) when more officers were available on shift. In June, the visit times moved to the early evening session (17:45-18:30) to accommodate those visitors who might work until 17:00.

The Panel was pleased to see that the prison was responding visitors' needs. It is not always possible to please everyone, and the prison requires additional staff to accommodate visits. We have observed the way the visits are managed, and we see good organisation and security in place. It is always a delight to see the prisoners engage with their families in a positive way. The visiting space was also redecorated which has really changed the atmosphere.

Regime changes – activities

The Panel noted several concerns raised by the female population about equality of access to activities and work placements. The Prison responded to the concerns raised introducing shared work placements and reviewing exercise allocations. Females can now opt to work alongside the adult male population in various work areas including in Horticulture, the Kitchen and on Site. The female population also engage in education classes alongside the male population and the Panel have observed that there have been few issues arising from this contact.

States IT Systems

Panel members have experienced significant issues accessing their email using Outlook Web Access (OWA) and shared file system (Extranet). The States has recently introduced Cloud facilities via outlook.com however some panel members have not been able to access these accounts, making recording and reporting findings resulting from visits inefficient. The Panel would welcome assistance to better enable access, the central IT fault reporting systems are not accommodating for our needs.

MEMBERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION OF THE PANEL IN 2022

The Panel welcomes applications for membership and in 2022 we were pleased to have Ms Lucy Cave appointed by Committee for Home Affairs. Ms Cave brings with her a wealth of experience in matters of diversity, and we hope she will be able to provide the Panel with much needed experience.

Members of the Independent Monitoring Panel in 2022 were:

Heather Mauger

Denis Le Marchant-White (resigned at time of publication)

Jane Rowlinson

Andie Fuller (appointed as Chairperson in 2022)

Alfia Dance

Nigel Bartlett

Marc Cohen

Sue Henney (resigned at time of publication)

Kelly Prevel (resigned in 2022)

Lucy Cave (appointed in 2022)

APPENDIX 1 - STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

1. Total number of visits

Type of visit	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Unannounced	9+	7***	10**	12	12	12	12
Requested Visits	10	7	22	35	18	20	38
SCAPU*	14	4	7	33	15	12	6

+ due to members availability visits were not conducted in April, July and September 2022.

*** due to increasing concerns in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Panel did not conduct unannounced visits in January, February, March, November and December 2021.

** due to the unprecedented circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic the Panel did not conduct visits in April, May and June 2020.

* the Segregation, Care and Progress Unit (SCAPU) is used to hold prisoners separately from the main population. There are a number of reasons for a prisoner to be segregated. Generally, the reason for separation is that they present an increased risk to themselves, to staff, or to the rest of the population and cannot be managed effectively on a normal wing. SCAPU in Guernsey Prison is not used as a punishment, although may be used for a period of cooling off should a prisoner be presenting aggressive behaviour. The ethos of the SCAPU within Guernsey Prison is that of individually focused care. The intention is to support individuals so that they can safely be returned to mainstream accommodation.

The Panel's role is to ensure that the decision to separate a prisoner, and the experience of separation for that prisoner, is governed by principles of fairness and decency. Separation should never be prolonged, or indefinite, and care should be taken to ensure that an individual's mental health is not adversely affected by the separation. To this end the Panel are immediately requested to visit when an individual has been placed in SCAPU.

Monthly unannounced visits	2022		2021	
	Number of concerns raised by prisoners	Number of enquiries made by IMP	Number of concerns raised by prisoners	Number of enquiries made by IMP
A. Accommodation & Cells	7	6	1	1
B. Adjudications & Warnings / discipline				
C. Canteen	2	1	6	5
D. Association Time / Gym	5	5	3	3
E. Equality, Diversity & Discrimination				
F. Fabric or maintenance of the prison building	8	4	3	3
G. Smoking / Detoxification	3	3		
H. Healthcare	3			
I. Incentives & Earned Privileges (IEP) Status & Rules			1	
J. Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL)				
K. Food / Kitchen				
L. Cleanliness				
M. Money / Pay				
N. Bullying / Unfair treatment			2	2
O. Personal belongings or issues incl. personal officer issues	1	1		
P. Prison Information System (PIMS)				
Q. Parole				
R. Regime – Education / Employment	3	3	4	4
S. Sentence Planning – Access to courses				
T. Transfers				
U. Use of force				
V. Visits/Calls	2	2		
W. Reception into custody / Info				
X. Support post-release & resettlement				
Y. Misc. complaints	2	2		
Z. Prison management	1	1		

Requested visits / SCAPU by theme	2022		2021	
	Number of concerns raised by prisoners	Number of enquiries made by IMP	Number of concerns raised by prisoners	Number of enquiries made by IMP
A. Accommodation & Cells			1	1
B. Adjudications & Warnings / discipline	2	2		
C. Canteen	2	2	2	2
D. Association Time / Gym			1	1
E. Equality, Diversity & Discrimination	1	1		
F. Fabric or maintenance of the prison building			1	1
G. Smoking / Detoxification	2	2		
H. Healthcare	1	1		
I. Incentives & Earned Privileges (IEP) Status & Rules				
J. Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL)				
K. Food / Kitchen	1	1		
L. Cleanliness				
M. Money / Pay				
N. Bullying / Unfair treatment	2	2		
O. Personal belongings or issues	2	2		
P. Prison Information System (PIMS)				
Q. Parole				
R. Regime			3	3
S. Sentence Planning – Access to courses				
T. Transfer	1	1		
U. Use of force				
V. Visits/Calls	2	2	2	2
W. Reception into custody / Info				
X. Support post-release & resettlement				
Y. Misc. complaints			1	
Z. No concerns raised			1*	

*Welfare check

APPENDIX 2 - ANONYMOUS EXAMPLES OF PRISONERS' CONCERNS

Confidentiality prevents the Panel from providing specific details of individual concerns raised. Even brief summaries could potentially risk identifying the prisoner; therefore, we have outlined some of the more general concerns that have been raised by more than one prisoner throughout the year.

1. Canteen goods ordering issues

Prisoners are able to order limited items from the Prison Canteen. Prisoners highlighted numerous concerns to the Panel regarding various issues including the items available to purchase, the timeliness of receipt of items ordered and quality of the goods received. Responses to our enquiries were satisfactory and we will continue to make relevant enquiries as concerns are raised with us.

2. Skin conditions & data issues

The Panel made enquiries in 2022 following various complaints from prisoners (which we also reported in the 2021 Annual Report), in relation to skin conditions and the quality / testing and treatment of the water at the Prison. The Panel requested (non-personal) medical data from the Healthcare team however, due to the lack of digital records the records had to be manually reviewed which was time consuming and inconvenient for healthcare staff.

The records, which were manually collated, revealed that at that time in April 2022, a total of 17 prisoners (the total population at the time was 80) were prescribed emollients or moisturising creams, which was approximately 1 in 5 of the population. Long term antibiotics had been prescribed to 4 prisoners for various diagnoses which equated to approx. 5% of the population. It was reported that Jersey Prison's population had a similar number of creams prescribed though the exact data was not revealed. It was also noted by that the UK healthcare teams reported a plethora of dry skin and folliculitis problems across the prison populations however, no specific data was revealed. The Panel continues to monitor the situation.

3. Access to locally prescribed 'medicinal' cannabis in Guernsey Prison

Following some prisoner enquiries, the Panel consider that it may be of benefit to report on this issue further to the Governor's media release on 1st September 2022, which set out that whilst certain prescribed medicinal cannabis products were available in Guernsey these products were not authorised for use by prisoners at Guernsey Prison.

The Panel has received enquiries from prisoners about not being able to access their prescriptions in the prison. The Panel has made enquiries and notes that cannabis products remain Schedule 2 controlled substances and therefore the Governor has the power under the Prison Ordinance to prohibit or refuse these products into the prison.