



**Annual Report**  
of the  
**Independent Monitoring Board**  
at  
**Morton Hall Immigration Removal  
Centre**

for reporting Year  
(1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017)

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*Monitoring fairness and respect for people in custody*

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## **A: INTRODUCTION**

### **1. STATUTORY ROLE OF THE IMB**

The Prisons Act 1952 and the Immigration Asylum Act 1999 require every establishment and Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) to be monitored by an Independent Board (The Board) appointed by the Secretary of State from members of the community in which the establishment or centre is situated.

The Board is specifically charged to:

- (i) satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its establishment and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release;
- (ii) inform the Secretary of State, or any official to whom he has delegated authority, as it judges appropriate, any concern it has;
- (iii) report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the establishment has met standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in custody.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have right of access to every detainee and every part of the establishment and also to the establishment's records.

Board members are appointed by the Home Office. They are unpaid and independent of both Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the Home Office. Board members are the only independent presence in the Centre on a frequent basis.

### **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the findings of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) at Morton Hall IRC for the period between 01.01.17 and 31.12.17.

The evidence has been collated from observations made and recorded during the weekly rota visits, a scrutiny of available documents and data, informal conversations with detainees, applications submitted by detainees and formal/informal meetings with senior staff.

## **MAIN JUDGEMENTS**

### **(i) Are detainees treated fairly?**

The IMB regards Morton Hall as well run and efficiently operated; there is an ethos of ensuring fair treatment for all detainees. The Board recognises the efforts made by both the Senior Management Team (SMT) and other staff to bring this about. Detainees have access to a complaints procedure should they have concerns about shortcomings regarding their fair treatment. (4.1; 5.1; 5.2; 5.10; 8.7).

While the proportion of Time Served Foreign National Offenders (TSFNOs) has fallen marginally during 2017, it has remained at a high level, on occasions exceeding 50%. The IMB takes a view that the presence of large numbers of TSFNOs sometimes has a marked deleterious effect on the safety and welfare of more vulnerable detainees and therefore questions if such a diverse population ensures fair treatment for all. (4.5; 4.8).

### **(ii) Are detainees treated humanely?**

The Board considers Morton Hall to be an environment where every effort is made to treat detainees with humanity and dignity. (4.1; 8.3).

The IMB, however, has some concerns about the transfer of detainees at unreasonable times of day and the very limited notice sometimes given to detainees about their movements. (10.2; 10.3).

The Board is concerned about the difficulties that an uncertain and indefinite length of time in detention presents for the well-being of some detainees. (4.4)

The Board is pleased to report on the significant and successful efforts which have been made to enhance the delivery of mental health provision at Morton Hall. A high quality and dedicated service now is available. A peer review noted that patients are being treated with humanity and dignity. (8.2; 8.3; 10.8)

### **(iii) Are detainees well prepared for their removal or release?**

Detainees have access to a variety of education provision, workshops and courses, often leading to internal accreditation. The contractor makes a prodigious effort to ensure that detainees are made aware of these opportunities. During the academic year 2016/2017 some 89% attended an education induction session and 67% of these sought further details. 54% of the latter proceeded to undertake an activity. (5.2; 5.9; 9.2; 9.3; 9.4; 10.5; 10.6).

Since October 2017 the Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT) has provided welfare assistance and aims to meet with all detainees prior to their release. Their work is built on the provision formerly in place. LAT's expertise is mainly in prison settings. It therefore may take time for LAT to adjust the delivery of their service to the very different context of a detention centre. (10.7; 10.8).

The Board is concerned that on occasions detainees are released to no fixed abode. (8.10; 10.8).

The Board considers that the configuration of the reception/departure suite is not fit for purpose due to limitations in terms of space and privacy. Consequently, the departure process for detainees sometimes becomes more stressful than it might otherwise be. The number of detainees being discharged through this facility increased from 3734 in 2016 to 5188 in 2017. (5.8; 10.1).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

(i)The Board continues to question the suitability of an IRC environment for some detainees, especially those with significant mental health conditions. It feels that such detainees should be accommodated in a more appropriate setting. (4.3; 4.8; 8.5).

(ii)The increased availability of drugs, in spite of the constant vigilance of staff at the Centre and other initiatives to control supply, remains a major problem at Morton Hall. The Board takes a view that there is a strong case for more resources to be made available to address this matter. (4.6; 4.7; 7.5; 8.1; 8.5).

(iii)Facilities management, with a responsibility for stores, works and general maintenance, is contracted out to Amey plc. Appreciable delays in attending to routine repairs can mean that some areas remain in a state of disrepair for long periods.

Additionally, detainees frequently report the poor conditions of shower and toilet facilities on the accommodation units. (7.1; 7.9).

The IMB would like to see more urgent attention given to these matters.

### **MAJOR ISSUES OUTSTANDING FROM THE LAST REPORT**

(i)The availability and supply of drugs continues to be a concern. The Board has no doubts about the efforts and enterprise of the staff in trying to combat this problem, supported by some national initiatives, but remains concerned that resources are still inadequate. (4.6; 4.7; 7.5; 8.1; 8.8).

(ii)The Board continues to have reservations about the quality of service provided by TASCOR regarding arrangements for the transfer of detainees. TASCOR does not always adhere to advised collection times (10.2;10.3).

(iii)The large number of TSFNOs present at Morton Hall remains of concern. The Board considers that detainees in this category sometimes undermine the welfare and safety of other detainees. (4.6).

### **3: DESCRIPTION OF ESTABLISHMENT**

Morton Hall is an IRC located to the south west of Lincoln. It is managed on behalf of the Home Office by HMPPS. It has an operational capacity of 392 detainees. The Home Office Immigration Manager and staff are located on site.

The Centre occupies a large geographic area having residential units and a range of other facilities. Residential accommodation is single occupancy; it comprises two double storey units and three smaller single storey units. Additionally, there is a two storey induction unit.

Healthcare is commissioned by NHS East Midlands; it is provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust. Catering services are delivered by HMPPS. Education/training is provided by Lincoln College and Facilities Management by Amey plc.

Detainees and their families are offered comprehensive welfare support by the Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT); this provision commenced in October 2017.

## **B: EVIDENCE**

### **4: SAFETY<sup>1</sup>**

4.1. The IMB takes a view that the culture at Morton Hall is one where the safety, welfare and dignity of detainees is considered to be of paramount importance. This is evidenced in the rota reports and subsequent discussions at Board meetings. The Centre management's strategic plan for 2017, rightly, in the opinion of the IMB, stipulated that a key priority was 'safety.'

4.2 Despite this IMB remains concerned about the occurrence of detainee on detainee violence. However, the Board particularly welcomes the decrease in the number of threats to/assaults on staff during 2017 (33 in 2016; 29 in 2017) but there has been a small number of serious assaults on staff.

4.3 Occasionally, Morton Hall receives detainees who are particularly difficult, demanding, volatile and disruptive. The presence and behaviour of such detainees have been witnessed by IMB members during rota visits. They can command a prodigious amount of staff resources and their behaviour is often to the detriment of other detainees. The IMB is firmly of the view that such detainees are not suitable for placements in IRCs and should be accommodated in another setting.

4.4 The IMB recognises that the average length of stay at Morton Hall has fallen from 4 weeks to 2 weeks during 2017. However, the Board remains concerned about the difficulties that an uncertain and indefinite length of time in detention presents for the well-being of some detainees. Moreover, detainees perceive Home Office procedures to be particularly laboured; complications regarding deportation procedures sometimes add to their level of exasperation. On a number of occasions detainees have reported that their resultant frustration has had an adverse impact on their state of mental health.

4.5 The average proportion of TSFNOs at Morton Hall has fallen marginally during 2017. Nonetheless, during the year it has remained well in excess of 40% and on occasions exceeded 50%. The IMB considers these figures to be too high and that the presence of large numbers of TSFNOs has a marked deleterious effect on the safety and welfare of other detainees. Moreover, it places an appreciable pressure on staff.

4.6 The supply and use of drugs continues to be a major problem at Morton Hall. Spice remains the drug of choice; cannabis also is prevalent. The IMB readily acknowledges the high level of attention given to this matter. It commends the focus on the weekly drug tasking meetings, headed by a member of the Senior Management Team. There is evidence that these meetings have been successful in identifying organisers and users; additionally, they have proved effective in disrupting the activities of the perpetrators. A strong message

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<sup>1</sup> All data in this section comes from Morton Hall IRC Residence and Safety Team.

is delivered to all detainees that the Centre will continue to operate at a zero tolerance level of all drugs.

4.7 The introduction of substance misuse practitioners has been a notable success. This is confirmed by the number of detainees who voluntarily attend the weekly open surgeries and their subsequent complimentary observations on the nature and quality of this service.

4.8 Morton Hall has a significant number of vulnerable adults within its population. They sometimes feel uneasy and occasionally intimidated within such a diverse community. Therefore the IMB applauds the plan to open an assisted living unit and care suite by late summer 2018.

4.9 Body worn cameras were introduced during 2017. Observations by and discussions with both staff and detainees indicate that this initiative has been broadly welcomed. They have proved useful not least in acting as a deterrent, having an advantage over CCTV in that they record conversations. The IMB considers that the employment of these cameras has helped to improve levels of safety, fairness and trust. Importantly, not only do they capture problematic behaviour by detainees, they also can demonstrate positive behaviour by staff during incidents.

4.10 The IMB regards the use of Assessment, Care in Detention Teamwork documents (ACDTs) as critical for the safety and welfare of some detainees. 307 ACDTs were opened in 2017 as opposed to 304 in 2016. The IMB notes the vigilance of the management team in monitoring the quality and consistency of these documents and addressing some identified shortcomings. The IMB urges that, wherever possible, particular attention be given to the full inclusion of next of kin details; for many detainees being separated from family and friends is one of the most painful consequences of detention.

4.11 Members of the IMB attend ACDT reviews whenever possible but this has been on relatively few occasions during 2017. While understanding that the logistics of arranging reviews are often challenging for operational reasons, the IMB would welcome working more closely with staff to enable members to attend more frequently.

## **5: EQUALITY (AND FAIRNESS)<sup>2</sup>**

5.1 The IMB believes the quarterly DEAT meetings (Detainee, Staff Diversity and Equality Action Team) continue to provide an effective forum for identifying issues relevant to protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act in all areas of activity in the Centre. These meetings provide an opportunity to identify inequality and trends; they initiate measures to address potential exclusion and fairness.

5.2 Considerable effort is made to ensure equal access to various activities and services, including access to purposeful activities, healthcare and education, as well as the use of

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<sup>2</sup> All data in this section comes from Morton Hall IRC Diversity & Equality Team quarterly reports.

other services such as internet provision and the library. For example, during 2017 consultation took place to establish why Pakistani detainees are under-represented in purposeful activities whereas Polish detainees are over-represented.

5.3 The Centre houses a very diverse population. In the third quarter of 2017, for example, there were 77 different nationalities represented at Morton Hall. The largest numbers were from Poland (12% of all detainees), Pakistan (10%), India (7%), Bangladesh (5%), Iraq (5%) and Lithuania (5%). The ethnic mix of the Centre was Asian (31%), White (30%) and a diverse range of other ethnicities including Black, Black African and Black Caribbean (17%) and Arab (7%). Ethnicity data was missing or not stated for 10% of the source database.

5.4 There was a near balance between those of Muslim faith and those of Christian faith; together these two religions accounted for around 80% of the Centre population. The only other single significant faith group was those of the Sikh faith, comprising 5% of the Centre's population in the third quarter of 2017. A multi-faith centre provides facilities for all faiths and there is a full-time Muslim chaplain and a Christian chaplain. Chaplaincy support for Christians was more limited than usual during 2017 owing to difficulties recruiting a new chaplain. All religious festivals are celebrated; the only exceptions during 2017 were the Jain, Bahai and Jewish festivals as there were no detainees in the Centre within these faiths at the time.

5.5 In cases where sexual orientation was known, the vast majority of detainees were recorded as heterosexual. Records for the third quarter of 2017 show 67% of the Centre's population as heterosexual, 1% as bisexual and 1% as gay. There was no recorded data for 23% of detainees; 8% did not disclose their sexual orientation. The IMB was pleased to note a number of initiatives during 2017 to promote and raise awareness of LGBT equality, including meetings with peer group supporters. Such initiatives play an important role in an environment in which some detainees can be hostile and intolerant to those of different sexual orientation.

5.6 Consultations are held to gather views and make adjustments as the balance of the population changes. During 2017, consultations were held on the choices between spicy and non-spicy food following the increase in the number of detainees from eastern Europe. In general, these detainees expressed a preference for non-spicy food.

5.7 A 'cultural kitchen', (a separate kitchen where detainees are able to cook their own food and celebrate their own cuisine), is available. However, the use of this has dwindled during 2017, in part owing to an adjusted staffing regime limiting its availability. In the first half of the year the kitchen was used not much more than once a week (29 times) but in the third quarter it was used just twice. The IMB is concerned that it appears to have fallen into relative disuse.

5.8 The open, dispersed, low rise layout at Morton Hall means it is particularly important that residents with mobility impairments or other disabilities that could impair mobility or endanger emergency evacuation, are identified on arrival and supported appropriately during their stay. During 2017 senior management identified a need to agree best practice for identifying disabilities on reception. The reception area at Morton Hall is small; there is a need for confidentiality at this stage of the process to minimise non-disclosure.

5.9 The IMB considers that the Centre's programme of community events and invitations to external organisations to engage in activities with detainees is extremely valuable.

5.10 JUST Lincolnshire is a local charitable organisation with specialist expertise in championing equality and tackling discrimination. The IMB considers that this is very positive collaboration.

5.11 The IMB at Morton Hall has an explicitly stated commitment to diversity and equality. At the end of 2017 there were nine members; five women and four men. One member comes from a BME background. Efforts are being made to ensure recruitment for new board members reaches all parts of the local community.

## **6: REMOVAL FROM ASSOCIATION AND TEMPORARY CONFINEMENT<sup>3</sup>**

6.1 During 2017 there has been an increase of some 25% over 2016 of rule 40 being applied.

6.2 Rule 40 was applied to 285 detainees prior to departure. The IMB is satisfied that the application of rule 40 in these circumstances enables the safer transfer of detainees from the Centre and this benefit outweighs the need to have a short period of segregation.

6.3 There has been a modest increase in the use of rule 42 during 2017 (13 in 2016; 18 in 2017).

6.4 On occasions during 2017 rule 40 was used to manage a small number of detainees with mental health conditions, especially if such detainees were judged to be a risk to themselves or others. While the IMB remains concerned about the lack of alternative suitable provision and the length of time it normally takes to source the same, it is noted that two detainees with mental health conditions were transferred within 5 weeks towards the end of 2017 (see 8.5).

6.5 During 2017 4 detainees were held in the CSU (Care and Separation Unit) for more than 14 days.

6.6 The CSU facilities are basic but adequate; they comprise single rooms. Detainees have access to an exercise area and shower. They have the freedom to walk around the unit and

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<sup>3</sup> All data in this section comes from Morton Hall IRC Residence and Safety Team.

use a room with comfortable seating. Detainees are able to make telephone calls to family, friends and legal advisers. The IMB commends the professional and humane approach of the staff in the CSU; they sometimes operate under very challenging conditions.

6.7 The Board is normally promptly advised of new admissions to the CSU; should detainees be located there after 10.00 pm, members are contacted the following day.

6.8 The IMB is able to speak freely with detainees held under rules 40/42. Whenever possible, members attend reviews when on rota duty. They inspect documentation and add observations in the log following these meetings. During 2017 the IMB was content that documents were properly completed.

## **7: RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

7.1 All accommodation units offer an association room, kitchenette with basic appliances and laundry. Larger units have en-suite facilities; in the smaller units they are communal. Each unit/landing employs a detainee cleaner who has supervised access to cleaning materials. Professional cleaning services are occasionally out-sourced. The IMB remains concerned about the overall poor condition of the showers and toilets; this matter is frequently reported by detainees to the IMB. In general, the Board takes a view that some areas remain in a state of disrepair for too long.

7.2 There are two residential managers with separate responsibilities for safety and services. They frequently inspect the residential units.

7.3 Two residential units have constant watch rooms.

7.4 Vandalism remains a major concern both within the residential units and more widely across the Centre. Smashed windows are a frequent occurrence; equipment, including televisions and fax machines, is often damaged and normally replaced. Despite CCTV footage and intelligence regarding those detainees responsible, subsequent sanctions are limited.

7.5 The supply and use of drugs remains of concern. The IMB recognises the proactive approach of management and the vigilance of staff.

7.6 Notice boards and racks containing forms for various applications are sometimes cluttered and untidy, making it difficult for detainees to access the information they seek. Language sometimes is a barrier with written communications, although this is addressed whenever possible. Oral translation services are widely available and effectively employed.

7.7 Each month a Detainee Representative Group (DRG) meeting is chaired by a residential manager and attended by both detainees and other staff. An IMB member attends if the meeting coincides with a rota visit.

7.8 The catering department is well managed and operated. Despite the disparate ethnic groups, menus are varied and designed to accommodate different tastes and diets. Complaints about food are relatively few; the comments book is infrequently used. Portions are generous and there is a relaxed attitude towards food being taken away from the dining hall for consumption on the units. There is a separate 'cultural kitchen' which enables different ethnic groups to prepare their own food.

7.9 The IMB has had concerns during 2017 about the failure to promptly address the breakdown of kitchen equipment. A walk-in fridge was out of service for many months.

## **8: HEALTHCARE**

8.1 Healthcare delivery and mental health provision at Morton Hall has responded to particular areas of increased concern during 2017, namely mental health issues around individuals in detention and substance misuse. It has adapted to the identified needs by (i)reducing the number of GPs attending from 3 to 2 (ii)enhancing mental health provision with the employment of a full time mental health nurse (iii)increasing staffing to include two substance misuse practitioners.

8.2 Despite pressure on limited staffing resources, the mental health team has been recognised in a recent Quality Network For Prison Mental Health Services (QNPMHS) Peer Review (published June 2017) as offering high quality and dedicated service, achieving a score of 89% of standards fully met, where the highest score throughout was 90%.

8.3 The Peer Review summarised the views of service staff, patients and the peer review team about the service's strengths and weaknesses. It was noted that 'the patients spoken with were complimentary of the mental health service and reported being treated with dignity and respect'. They described the team as possessing 'excellent communication skills.'

8.4 An area for development identified in the Peer Review was for healthcare staff to work with the patient group to find the best ways of bringing relevant information in the 22 different languages displayed in the healthcare premises to the wider notice of detainees within the Centre.

8.5 A particular concern to the IMB in the past has been the length of time it took to transfer a detainee suffering a mental health condition for suitable treatment. In 2017, the last two detainees in such circumstances were transferred within 5 weeks, being favourably comparable with or better than similar services offered in the community.

8.6 In addition to the peer review external evaluation of healthcare, there are other internal initiatives which complement the clinical practice both to disseminate information and to gauge user satisfaction as well as identify concerns, namely: (i)a service user survey is conducted twice a year and a custom report published for each period (ii)between surveys a 'Smiley Faces' feedback form is made available for patients to rate the service (iii)a

healthcare newsletter was started in 2017 providing basic information about the integrated healthcare services on site and highlighting particular health and well-being issues. Readers are invited to submit contributions - artwork, poems, opinions, anonymously or identified, as per their wishes.

8.7 One measure of how the healthcare service is perceived by detainees is through the complaints and concerns process. This, along with information about how matters have been resolved, are published by the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust as part of a monthly report for Morton Hall Healthcare Management. In 2017 there were 9 months during which there were no complaints and only 1 in each of the 3 remaining months. During the same period 10 concerns were raised, all of which appear to have been resolved to the patients' satisfaction.

8.8 Well Being Days have been held during the latter half of 2017. All the pathways, primary care, mental health and substance misuse are covered at these events.

8.9 During 2017 there was a particular focus across the IDE on vulnerable individuals. There seem to be particular challenges around non-clinician workers deciding at what level a vulnerable individual is categorised. Adversely, this practice may create a heightened risk of decisions not being taken in the best interests of the detainee. It does not always lend itself to good communication between clinician and case worker. Moreover, there appears to be a tendency to categorise a disproportionately bigger proportion of vulnerable detainees at the middle level 2 (there being levels 1-3) potentially diluting the seriousness of the condition of some individuals.

8.10 The IMB is concerned about the very short notice that is sometimes given for the release of a vulnerable individual, in particular those with mental health issues. This limits the opportunity to ensure that the detainee has a suitable address to which to go and that arrangements with the local/community mental health support teams have been adequately explored.

8.11 The IMB was saddened to learn of three deaths in detention at Morton Hall during 2017. These matters currently are under investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO). The IMB highly commends the support offered to detainees by staff at Morton Hall following each of these deaths.

8.12 There is a good and effective working relationship between the establishment and healthcare providers. Following a nomination from the Deputy Centre Manager, the Morton Hall Healthcare Team was named the 2016/2017 Winners of the Collaborative Working Award from the NOMS Southwest Region.

## **9: EDUCATION AND PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITIES<sup>4</sup>**

9.1 Education provision is contracted out to Lincoln College, though the permanency of this contract remains in doubt. The College offers a wide range of provision, with ample availability. The education staff at Morton Hall have a strong and visible presence. They work closely with other staff. Detainees routinely praise the staff's contribution to their welfare.

9.2 All detainees are offered an education induction session following their arrival. During the academic year 2016/17 89% of newly arrived detainees attended an initial induction session. Some 67% subsequently sought further details of whom 54% attended some form of provision. Detainees have access to courses within 24 hours of their arrival.

9.3 The delivery of courses is a mixture of unitised provision, short courses and access to other qualifications which enable detainees present for 4 weeks or longer to take advantage of such. For detainees needing support with English language, ESOL courses are available by means of outreach, offering one to one tuition and support. Outreach tutors visit detainees on ACDTs. Qualifications are developed using the guidelines of formal awarding bodies eg City and Guilds. It is not possible for detainees to take external qualifications owing to their typical short stay at Morton Hall. Some 89% of detainees who enrolled for courses achieved certification. The retention of learners was 93%

9.4 Education provision is available every weekday throughout the year with the exception of bank holidays. It is delivered in 2.5 hour slots, giving 25 hours in total each week. The cancellation of courses is rare.

9.5 Courses on offer during 2017 include ESOL, work- based safety, business studies, art/ craft, ICT, barista training, window cleaning, food hygiene, barbering and decorating. In general, detainees report that they can readily access the courses in which they have an interest.

9.6 The curriculum and timetables are frequently reviewed; four adjustments were made during 2017 to meet the changing needs of the transient population and to have regard for policy changes.

9.7 A deterring factor for detainees accessing education provision is that, unlike prisons, there is no payment for attendance.

9.8 The gymnasium and sports hall are open daily; they are well used. Detainees are very positive about these facilities and value the opportunities to keep fit.

9.9 The library is particularly valued by detainees who are very complimentary about the relaxed atmosphere and the support they receive. The library staff are particularly obliging

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<sup>4</sup> All data in this section comes from Lincoln College and the Morton Hall Library Team.

in assisting detainees to arrange appointments with solicitors. During 2017 there were some 49,279 visits by detainees to the library, with a total issue of books etc of 30,818. The staff consider the range of stock to be suitable and sufficient. There were no closures nor sessions lost. There were no complaints about this service.

9.10 Detainees have access to a wide range of purposeful activities including cleaning, kitchen work, library work, painting and decorating, gardening textile workshops, recycling and barbering. Typically, during 2017 some 35% of detainees were engaged in such activities. This figure might have been higher if the processing of applications was quicker. The IMB considers that posts are fairly allocated.

## **10: PREPARATION FOR REMOVAL/RELEASE**

10.1 As was previously reported in the Annual Report, the IMB regards the reception/departure suite as not being fit for purpose. It is small, cramped and lacks privacy and dignity for both incoming and departing detainees.

10.2 Staff report that sometimes there is insufficient notice for the adequate preparation of detainees' departure. This is a particular concern where a vulnerable individual is concerned, especially those with mental health issues, as it does not always provide sufficient time nor opportunity to ensure that arrangements are in place to support the detainee at their destination.

10.3 The IMB is aware that TASCOR do not always adhere to collection times; their service is not always reliable. On occasions this can bring about stress for both detainees and staff. From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018, a new contractor (Mitie), will provide the escort services.

10.4 The IMB takes a view that detainees should be released at a time suitable for them to be able to readily get transport to their destination. On some occasions, it would seem better for the Home Office to grant permission for release the following day.

10.5 If a detainee about to be released has been prescribed medication at Morton Hall, the healthcare team invariably is contacted to ensure that suitable arrangements are in place for them to access that medication, if necessary, following their release. The IMB commends this attention.

10.6 Detainees have access to education provision, courses and workshops. These will often provide internal accreditation to prepare detainees for possible, subsequent employment.

10.7 The welfare team, Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT), meet with all detainees prior to their release. LAT provision has been in place since October 2017. LAT has a track record of welfare services in prisons. The context of a detention centre is different regarding the turnover of

detainees, the greater diversity of the population and the international destinations. These are challenges which LAT recognises.

10.8 LAT points out that on occasions detainees are released to no fixed abode. The Board is of a view that in those cases where a detainee with complex needs is about to be released to no fixed abode, there is a strong argument for delaying the release until appropriate accommodation is secured. The support of the healthcare team in such circumstances is recognised by the Board.

10.9 All detainees have access to legal advisers for an initial consultation and are enabled to arrange appointments with the support of staff in the library, if required. Legal advisers attend Morton Hall during weekdays.

10.10 Voluntary Reimbursement Schemes are actively promoted as are the Facilitated Return Schemes (FRS).

10.11 On occasions rules 40/42 are applied to remove detainees from their normal location prior to their release/removal. The IMB is content that in such instances a risk assessment is carried out and any such movement is informed by evidence. The intention always is to ensure that the detainee is placed in calm and quiet surroundings which might lessen any possible distress.

### **C: THE WORK OF THE IMB**

In December 2017 the IMB at Morton Hall comprised nine members, five of whom were female and four of whom were male. Four members were relatively new to the Board but very quickly became established.

The new Chair assumed office in January 2017. The Vice Chair (and Board Development Officer; BDO) retired in December 2017; the Board thanks him for his long and dedicated service and the wisdom he brought to meetings. In December plans were in place to recruit three new members; we were encouraged to learn of potentially interested parties. Board meetings are held monthly. We continue to be grateful for the services of our clerk without whom meetings would be both less productive and more time consuming. Moreover, the Board values the regular and frank input to our meetings from members of the SMT. Additionally, the Board appreciates the detailed analysis of the Centre's population and movements prepared and presented by the Home Office Immigration Manager.

The Board has sustained its programme of rota visits and other related activities, including call-outs to serious incidents. The generous and diligent contribution of members is readily recognised by the Chair. The Annual Team Performance Review (ATPR) conducted in May gave the Board an opportunity to reflect on its practice and performance. One outcome was

to aim to ensure that detainees are more aware of the nature of our work and, indeed, its limitations.

Board members have taken advantage of national training events and hosted the visits of colleagues from other centres. As ever, it was instructive to learn about other IRCs. We have started to identify the internal training needs of Board members and anticipate our new BDO giving this attention when he takes up his post in January 2018.

**IMB MORTON HALL – BOARD STATISTICS – 2017**

Board Statistics	2017	2016
Recommended Complement of Board Members	12	12
Number of Board Members at start of the reporting period	9	10
Number of Board Members at end of the reporting period	8	8
Number of new members joining within the reporting period	0	2
Number of members leaving within the reporting period – end of tenure	1	2
Total number of Board Meetings during reporting period	12	12
Average number of attendees at Board meetings	7.6	9.25
Number of attendances at meetings other than at Board meetings	11	16
Total number of visits to the IRC (including meetings)	270	292
Total number of applications received	70	76
Date of Annual Team Performance Review	23 May 2017	24 May 2016

**IRC MORTON HALL - APPLICATIONS TO THE IMB – 2017**

CODE	SUBJECT	2017	2016
A	Accommodation including laundry, clothing, showers etc	Nil	Nil
B	Use of force, removal from association, temporary confinement	2	Nil
C	Equality	4	Nil
D	Purposeful Activity including education, paid work, training, library and other activities	3	1
E1	Letters, faxes, visits and telephones	2	1
E2	Finance including detainees' centre accounts	2	1
F	Food and Kitchen	1	8
G	Health including physical, mental and social care	19	19
H1	Property within this establishment	3	3
H2	Property during transfer or in another establishment	3	3
I	Issues relating to detainees' Immigration case; including access to legal advice	22	34
J	Staff/detainee conduct including bullying	5	5
K	Escorts	4	1
	<b>Total number of IMB Applications</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>76</b>