

Phil Wheatley, Director General HM Prison Service

Commenting on a year in which he has seemed to be on television and radio more often than Jonathan Ross, Phil suggested that it was probably because Ministers only do good news and there hasn't been a lot of that recently.

Phil gave Conference his usual clear overview of the highs and lows of the year, a year in which in spite of record populations and great pressure on budgets and on the system generally, performance overall had been very good. Amongst many successes he cited:

- an increase in prisoners released to known accommodation but against a background of an overall fall in releases because of longer sentences);
- an increase in drug treatments;
- only 4 escapes and only 1 of those from inside a prison;
- very few major acts of disorder;
- an increase in Offending Behaviour Programmes;
- a reduction in positive Mandatory Drug Tests;
- a fall in the number of self-inflicted deaths – although Phil expressed his personal unease at having this expressed as a target (see also the correspondence in IMB News 9 and Baroness Scotland's reply in this edition).

Inevitably the record prison population featured as one of the year's significant lows and the Prison Service's most pressing problem. The trends are currently difficult to predict partly because of pressures on sentencers. Almost 10% of the prison population are now either lifers or indeterminate sentence prisoners. Phil suggested that that is growing by 50 a week – mainly indeterminate public protection sentences – a figure which Tony Robson later corrected to nearer 80. The lifer population has been on a long steady increase and may rise to in excess of 10,000. Phil's main concern was over the ability of the Prison Service to respond adequately to the needs of so many IPP prisoners within the lifer system.



With all of these pressures the Prison Service is currently running at 99% of full overcrowded capacity. The many adverse effects of the lack of spare capacity include short notice transfers; early moves to open conditions; late running receptions.

Judging from the comments about doubling up, quoted later by Baroness Stern from several Board Annual Reports, it is clear that many Board members feel that the system is already over capacity. It was reassuring therefore to hear Phil report that Ministers accept that there is an absolute capacity beyond which health and safety are compromised.

In commenting on all of these pressures, Phil acknowledged that the Prison Service owes it to society to ensure that prisoners do not leave prison more bitter than they came in.

The Prison Service is facing an overspend this year and is already having to restrict discretionary spending by governors. The probability is that next year will be even more difficult.

The Chair had begun the session by reminding delegates of the key role that Phil had played in developing the decency agenda. Phil concluded his address by remarking that, whatever the pressures; the Prison Service could not back off from that decency focus.

Diversity Working Group



Dencer Brown, IMB Chair at Featherstone and Bilkis Malek, until recently a Board member at Brixton, gave an overview of the work of the Diversity Working Group and of their proposals for further training and support. Sir Peter Lloyd had earlier announced to Conference that, following a recent trawl amongst Board members, Dencer had just been co-opted to the National Council to lead on diversity issues.

Dencer began by acknowledging the poor recent history of training offered to Boards in diversity and hoped that the new approach would be seen as seeking to persuade rather than being confrontational. Both he and Bilkis explored the legal framework for diversity, the advantages to Boards in taking this approach and some of the consequences of not addressing diversity. Both stressed that diversity is not simply equal



opportunities in another package but goes much further in valuing all the differences to be found in the community.

Bilkis gave more detail on the Diversity Strategy which was approved by the Minister earlier this year and published in IMB News 9. The help to Boards proposed in the strategy has to be

practical, easily transferable and responsive to the needs of individual Boards. Support will be offered in two main areas: recruitment and training.

At a national level the work on recruitment will focus on raising the profile of IMB work. Regionally it will try to encourage joint working between Boards, especially in rural areas whilst support will also be available for individual Boards depending on resources and local need.

The team will look to develop three new training modules to help Boards:

- to diversify membership;
- to challenge prejudice and stereotype, and
- to monitor diversity by providing practical guidance and options for effective monitoring.



One of the key objectives in training will be to help Board members to meet Mr Justice Keith's requirement (Zahid Mubarek Inquiry) to "...get under the skin of prisoners to imagine what their concerns might be."

The next steps in taking the strategy forward will involve identifying appropriate resources and developing and delivering pilot recruitment and training modules.

At the end of the presentation Norman McLean, Head of Secretariat, announced that he was about to appoint a consultant to provide professional support on diversity issues, including support for individual Boards. Norman hoped that the person appointed would have an IMB background. Part of the brief for the appointment will be to assist with designing and delivering training. Additional funding has been made available for the consultancy so it won't affect main Board budgets.

Baroness Vivien Stern

Baroness Stern, Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre for Prison Studies and current President of AMIMB, brought the Conference to a close and sent delegates away on a high note.

In her address she succeeded in informing, inspiring and challenging Boards. Unlike some other speakers at recent conferences who have also sought to challenge, Vivien did so from the starting-point of being a long-term supporter of Boards whilst also pointing to examples of good practice and quoting from many clear and forceful Annual Reports.

Vivien began by describing her visit earlier this year to death row in a women's prison in Texas. She went on to describe an administrative segregation unit in the same state where some women had been held for as long as three years in conditions which Vivien described as "...extreme cruelty deliberately inflicted on some of the most deprived people in a rich country." The lesson to be drawn from both visits was that neither the prison authorities nor the academics understood that this wasn't normal practice elsewhere.

How do you keep a sense of what is normal and what is unacceptable?

Vivien's visit to Texas was to participate, along with Anne Owers and Sylvia Casale, President of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture, in a conference exploring the introduction of external oversight of prisons. Vivien's particular role was to describe the work of IMBs. In addressing the questions put to her in Austin she gave a frank appraisal of the state of Boards:

- *are Boards truly independent?* On paper no, but in a peculiarly British way they produce fiercely independent individuals;
- *are they in the pockets of government?* There is a real danger that they may be but most are not;
- *do they achieve great changes?* Not really. They try hard but theirs is essentially an advisory role.
- *are they trusted and welcomed by prisoners?* Yes, but not always.
- *are they representative of the wider community?* not really but they are an immensely important force for good, bringing into prisons the values of the outside world.

One of the key features of the role of Boards is that by coming into prisons they keep alive the outside view of how people should be treated.

Vivien went on to give examples, from a range of recent Annual Reports, of Boards who had been forceful in pointing out the thoroughly indecent conditions in many doubled-up single cells; the KPT emphasis on quantity rather than quality; failure of new build to provide adequate infrastructure; the shortcomings of the escort service, especially for juvenile prisoners.

She reminded Boards not to be reticent about expressing criticism simply because the system was under pressure. Boards owe it to both prisoners and staff to describe things as they really are and to press for change. She opened a potential flood-gate by asking why neither she nor other like-minded peers received Boards' reports. At the end of the session one delegate, who just happened to have a report with him presented her with her first; no doubt many more will follow.

Vivien concluded her address with a few reflections on the current context in which prisons operate. The BBC2 programme on *Styal*, as well as teaching her a new verb - to ligature, had also shown her and the general public an under-resourced staff performing heroically. Judges are increasingly seeing in front of them not criminals but social casualties. Imprisoning those social casualties is a sign of the time we live in. It shouldn't be so but since it is, Boards need to be there to safeguard the vulnerable.

Against this background she described the work of Boards as human rights work at its most immediate and pressing, work in which Board members do outstanding service.



National Council Question Time

The Zahid Mubarek Inquiry

Understandably, one of the key topics of discussion at the Annual Conference centred on the report of the Zahid Mubarek Inquiry and its implications for IMBs. The National Council took questions on three of the key issues during Question Time on the last morning:

- **Record-keeping and confidentiality of Board applications:** Delegates were reminded that we are public appointees. We should be reporting and retaining our records carefully. The Inquiry had clearly demonstrated that requirement. National Council is considering whether to recommend an extension to the length of time records should be kept – currently six years. Norman McLean undertook to speak to government record-keepers to see what they advised and whether there is a need for the time limit to be extended.
- **Exposure of Board members to legal liability:** Members carrying out their duties within their remit are entitled to support. It's up to the Secretariat to determine how best to provide that support. Stressed importance of letting Secretariat know of potential problems as early as possible.
- **Feltham Board:** Norman McLean commended the IMB at Feltham, and particularly Lucy Bogue, the former Chairman, for the way in which they had dealt with the Inquiry. The quality and comprehensiveness of their records had been a particularly significant feature.

Other issues

Other general issues raised in Question Time included:

- **Decency and Overcrowding:** Doubling may be only solution to the immediate population crisis but it has to be done with decency. Shared cells with unscreened lavatories are not right.
- **Overcrowding and mental health:** Instead of building 8000 new prison places as proposed why not release prison places by building appropriate secure hospital facilities?



- **Support from Secretariat:** London Boards have carried out survey looking at the support they feel that they receive from Secretariat. Norman McLean indicated that he would discuss this with NC and consult with his staff re possibility of extending survey to all Boards.
- **Purpose of Boards:** Are we catalysts for change or merely passive? We are a monitoring not a campaigning body. We should highlight issues which may prompt change but that is not the same as championing change.
- **Health Care in prison:** Now that PCTs are in charge why do staff appointments appear to take so long?
- **Recruitment and retention of diverse Boards:** a consultant is to be appointed to advise on recruiting from minority ethnic groups. Also considering how to increase recruitment of younger Board members.
- **Raising IMB profile:** Why do so few people know who we are? Some Boards have done a great deal of work with the media; that may be undermined if other Boards refuse to speak to the media when they approach.
- **Accumulated Visits:** These are now very difficult to arrange even when they have been approved. It was suggested that because of overcrowding there may now be a policy in place to suspend the facility, particularly in the London area. Members were reminded of the need to challenge this and not simply accept that visits are not possible.

The Younger Element!

Steve Reeves, IMB Chair at Brinsford, joined the Board in 2001 at the age of 24. He spoke of his delight at being in an organisation where, as he approaches 30, he is still regarded as very young!

Steve's presentation to Conference challenged a number of orthodox views.

- Being classed as a volunteer doesn't give a licence to be less than professional.
- Why can't Board members ring for support outside normal office hours? We give the impression that we only want people who can indulge their 'hobby' during working hours.
- We're not heroes but sometimes we're our own worst enemies. We need to find a way of telling people what we do and getting them involved.
- The real challenge is that our work is something that goes on in secret behind closed doors.
- Fiona Mactaggart referred to us at last year's conference as the "IMB movement". We're not a movement but perhaps we should be. The idea of a movement implies shared objectives.



- We talk about achieving a balanced Board. That smacks of doing it to please other people. The key is to achieve an effective Board.
- If we expect new members to be perfect from day one we would never appoint anyone. (Steve has lost count of the number of broom cupboards he's walked into at Brinsford.)

And, finally:

- IMBs are still the only place where people genuinely care about whether you wear a tie.

The Role of the ROM

Trevor Williams told us that has been coming to IMB and BOV conferences for 15 years and in several different guises. This year he came as a platform speaker and in his new role as Regional Offender Manager (ROM) for the East of England.

Trevor gave a context to the development of the concept of offender management and the development of the NOMS commissioning role.



In terms of progress on the NOMS agenda Trevor pointed to the five year strategy published in February 2006 as a blueprint. The recent Contestability Prospectus gives clear indications for the way ahead and the Home Secretary has made it clear that all future development lies in a mixed economy. As an example of this, all Probation areas are currently required to spend 5% on services from the voluntary sector rising to 10% next year.

Continuous offender management lies at the heart of new arrangements and Trevor referred to evidence from pilot studies showing that offenders value it.

Trevor acknowledged that there have been difficulties in implementing the new system, some of which have come from the speed of its initial introduction.

What Works in Prisons

Annual Conference has developed a habit recently of inviting some contrasting and stimulating presentations from prison governors and from former prisoners. This year was no exception and Conference delegates were treated to two inspiring sessions with John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison in Dublin, and from Peter Fewell, a former prisoner in the English prison system. Each spoke from his own perspective about what worked in prisons.

John Lonergan



John has been Governor of Mountjoy for over 20 years. He spoke of the need for a clear objective in prison management but underlined the need also to link it to clear action:

“Vision without action is a daydream; action without vision is a nightmare”

He saw change as a slow process which can only be achieved by consent and emphasised the need for patience. In response to a question concerning the high turnover rate of prison governors in England he expressed the view that it was difficult to leave a leadership mark in less than three years.

His own vision is based on a commitment to treating prisoners with respect and decency which in themselves can cause change,

particularly to the low self-esteem of prisoners. His approach implies a recognition of the potential in everyone to do good and bad.

One of his key tools was listening and ensuring that he heard the prisoner’s side of the story. He urged IMB members to challenge the system and not to temper valid criticism through feeling sorry for the governor or accepting the argument that there’s no money.

After 23 years he remains passionate about the job but admits to frustrations, particularly over the lack of opportunities for prisoners and increasingly hardline public and political attitudes.

Peter Fewell

Peter also spoke of the need to respect other prisoners and their property, but from the more pragmatic standpoint of knowing that he would suffer if he didn’t.

He also acknowledged the significance of prison education and of being treated for the first time as Peter – a student – and not as a number. His first experience of being in a prison classroom had been to steal everything that wasn’t nailed down only to return it when he and his classmates realised that the class couldn’t function without it.

Peter remembered clearly what it had felt like to gain his first certificate. For him, learning to read was one of the first steps on the road to self-esteem. Thanks to his tutors he began to believe in himself and went on to further success in the Koestler Awards, for his book of short stories (*“Who the Dickens is Diesel”*), and was named Adult Learner of the Year in 2005.



Breakout Groups



This year's conference repeated the successful formula of breakout groups aimed at particular interest groups and specific sections of the prison estate. Here are reports on just a few of them in order to give a flavour of what was on offer.

Introduction to the Family Man Project

The workshop broke down many barriers when everyone had to participate in typical activities from the programme. The Family Man Project has now been set up in 25 prisons so far, for groups of 16-20 prisoners aged 18 or over.

The aim is to find ways of engaging and motivating reluctant learners to get involved in education and then, hopefully, maintain and enhance links with their children and contribute to their learning and development. Family Man uses drama, video and graphic design to equip participants with the skills and confidence to contribute constructively to society.

The delegates who attended the workshop were given a little taste of what's involved when they were asked to join in some of the 'games' used in the programme. It made a change from sitting listening to platform speakers.

The project helps promote social inclusion and an enthusiasm for learning. Family Man requires many departments in the prison to engage with the project. There will inevitably be many prisoners who will need their support once the barriers have come down and they begin to look more closely at themselves and their extended family.

Developments in Prison Health

Dr Brian Docherty is the Medical Director for the Durham cluster of prisons. He began with an overview of the significant differences between prisoners and the general population. Many of the differences have a significant impact on healthcare:

- 13 times more likely to have been in care;
- 13 times more likely to be unemployed;
- 10 times more likely to have truanted;
- 24% have previously injected drugs;
- 60% of male prisoners and 40% of females admit to hazardous levels of alcohol consumption;
- incidence of HIV/AIDS 15 times higher than in the general population;
- 70% have two or more mental disorders;
- prisoners are getting older but the consequences of their lifestyle and prison conditions mean that the onset of age-related illnesses is earlier in prisoners than in the general population;
- 50% have no GP which means no past medical history and no handover when they leave prison.

Prior to entering prison, prisoners are likely to have had:

- erratic access to NHS care;
- inappropriate access to care with multiple points of contact;
- repeated and partial investigation of their medical conditions;
- eventual – and understandable – disengagement by healthcare professionals, all of which will have led to inadequate and expensive care.

Brian looked at the history of prison healthcare before it reached the current position with the NHS acting in a commissioning role through Primary Care Trusts. In his view the state has an obligation to provide for prisoners but current arrangements for healthcare do not always meet

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that obligation and he suggested that medical services in prison are not yet as good as those on the outside.

He concluded by looking at what prison healthcare could achieve in terms of treating mental illness, stabilising substance misuse, catching up on immunisation, reducing the spread of infectious diseases, screening for blood-borne diseases and reducing the risk of TB. He also looked at some of the consequences for society of not addressing some of those issues:

"Prisons are to infectious diseases what Kew Gardens are to plant conservation."

Developments in the Management of Indeterminate Sentence Prisoners

In addition to looking at changes in arrangements for managing life sentenced prisoners, with the Life Sentence Plan being replaced by OASys, Tony Robson also considered issues to do with the management of those sentenced to the new Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection (IPP), many of whom will have a short tariff.

There are currently about 1400 IPP prisoners but, according to Tony, that figure is rising by about 80 a month and by 2012 those on all indeterminate sentences will form a significant proportion of the prison population.

Prisoners on IPP sentences present significant management issues. In some ways their sentences make them similar to lifers (e.g. parole arrangements) but their short tariff – average 30 months with only 20 having a tariff of more than six years – make for particular difficulties. Should they be taken out of the lifer system? Should those on short tariffs be kept in local prisons which would meet the needs of the Parole Board but would give little opportunity to address offending behaviour and other needs? Should those assessed as low risk be moved directly to second stage lifer centres – but Tony doesn't believe that the Prison Service risk assessment is yet sufficiently reliable?

The discussion is complicated by the fact that, in some cases, IPP prisoners may be more dangerous than lifers because of their routine and repeated

use of violence. There is also the potential for litigation if their needs to address offending behaviour are not met.

A submission on how best to treat IPP prisoners is currently with NOMS.

Resettlement in Women's Prisons

Inspirational, courageous, determined... just a few words to describe Brigid O'Hanlon.

An educated and articulate woman, Brigid told delegates about her 7 years in Prison, often suffering at the hands of both fellow prisoners and Prison Officers due to her gender, her Nationality and often, purely as a consequence of her enquiring mind.

Brigid wanted to turn her life and that of other prisoners around. She wanted to make a difference and still does. She earned a degree in Housing Law during her incarceration and worked with Shelter as a voluntary case worker on the Vision Project at East Sutton Park, which assisted offenders in their reintegration into society. Since her release Brigid has continued to help others, building on the experiences gained in the Prison environment.

Listening to Brigid was a humbling experience and certainly put a lot of things into perspective. More importantly, it made me look more closely at the work I do as an independent monitor.



(Maria Desmond, IMB member at HMP Kirkham)

Feedback

Overall the conference has received some positive feedback.

One delegate commented, "When I came to conference I was at a bit of a low and was losing some of my enthusiasm for the job....., it made me feel more enthused about why I was going to the prison and doing my rota when needed..... my positive experience has given me a renewed energy for the job. Thanks for a great conference."



Self-inflicted Deaths and KPIs

■ Baroness Scotland

In IMB News 9 we published a letter which David Jamieson, Chair of the IMB at Wandsworth, had written to Tony Blair deploring the use of Key performance Indicators in measuring the number of self-inflicted deaths in custody. Baroness Scotland responds as the Minister responsible for safer custody issues.

Thank you for your letter of 28 April to Tony Blair regarding self-inflicted deaths in prison and the use of Key Performance Indicators by the government. Your letter has been passed to me for answer as the Minister responsible for safer custody issues including suicide prevention in prisons.

I would like to assure you that the government, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Her Majesty's Prison Service regard every death in prison as a terrible tragedy and recognise that they affect families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Unfortunately due to the number of individuals who pass through the prison system each year and the fact that the prison population contains a high proportion of

very vulnerable individuals, self-inflicted deaths in prison are a sad reality despite the best efforts of many people.

HM Prison Service has a duty of care for those in its custody and the number of self-inflicted deaths is a crucial indicator of how prisoners are being cared for. The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) target on self-inflicted deaths is not an indication that any death is acceptable, which is one of the reasons why individual targets are not set at establishment level. Having a target in regard to the reduction of self-inflicted deaths does however help to focus the minds of the whole organisation on this critical issue.

Clearly 74 self-inflicted deaths in prison in 2005/06 should not be regarded as a success in any way. However, the fact that the KPI has been met highlights the hard work and commitment of prison staff, NOMS and the Prison Service, particularly in the last few years and the progress we are making. We are not complacent about this reduction and recognise that we will need to continue to focus on safer custody if this progress is to be maintained.

Prison Libraries – Adding value

In IMB News 9 we gave an overview of current developments in Learning and Skills in prison. Here Andy Cooke, Chair of the Prison Libraries Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, gives an account of the current situation in prison libraries.

As this article goes to press, prison library staff, and public library authorities around the country are awaiting the confirmation that their funding has increased since last year. This should lead to an increase in library staffing at many prisons, which in turn will ease delivery of library services in line with the new offender library and information specification. The specification was developed by the Social Inclusion Offender Unit of DfES, along with the Prison Libraries Group of

the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (amongst others).

If you want to have a look at the specification, visit the web address below for a draft version. (The final version should have been published by the time you read this).

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/prison/publications/ollis.htm>

Role of the prison library

The prison library should provide offenders in custody with a range of services similar to those found in public libraries. Put simply, those services should include books, and the encouragement of reading for pleasure, access to information, and support for learning.

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In addition to the above, the library should be a welcoming, safe and neutral space that supports these three service areas. Library professionals, and a growing number of Heads of Learning and Skills, believe that the prison library plays a vital role in adding value to learning, training and preparing the offender for release.

Books, reading and reader development

The enjoyment of books and reading is still the most important aspect of prison library provision, but now there is far more understanding of the role reader development has to play in supporting learning. It is increasingly understood that the ability to read for pleasure is key to academic and economic success. (Reader development is all about widening reading choices, and encouraging the sharing of the enjoyment of reading).



Prison library staff develop reading for pleasure with offenders at all ability levels. Cutting-edge reader development and family learning projects such as Storybook Dads, The Big Book Share and Free with Words, carried out in partnership with organisations such as the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, are helping to demonstrate that reader development activities can contribute to rehabilitation and reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

Access to information

One of the most important and transferable skills that people need is the ability to handle and use information in all formats, including the ability to make the best use of ICT resources. Professional

library staff are expert in providing and teaching the skill of information handling, known as Information Literacy. Librarians work with people to help them locate, retrieve, understand and communicate appropriate information when it is needed. This could be anything from finding the address of a self-help organisation, to assessing the suitability of a source of information.

Information literacy is a key skill for any offender if they are to lead a successful and law-abiding life after release from prison.

Support for learning

Prison libraries offer support to formal learning, through the provision of curriculum materials. Support is also provided for offenders who are learning independently. Access to libraries and information is key to both guided and self-supported learning.

Of course, reading for pleasure, and the support towards acquiring information literacy are also essential elements of learning.

Pre-release

Prison library staff should be fully involved in pre-release work with offenders. There is pioneering work taking place at present in a number of public library authorities to help offenders move seamlessly from being a prison library user to becoming a public library user. The ability to make the most of all that a public library has to offer is important in enabling an ex-offender to integrate more easily into their community.

Role for IMB members?

If you want to know more, or are interested in getting involved in promoting reading in the prison, have a chat with your prison librarian.

You might like to ask prisoners if they are getting 30 minutes per week access to the library. You might like to talk to them about what you are reading at the moment – you could even become a Reading Champion! (Visit <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/Campaign/Champions/prison.html> for further details). You might even like to get involved with a reading group!

Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to Margaret Johnson, member of the IMB at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Take a Break

■ **Wendy Anwar** Chair HMP/YOI Moorland

As an IMB we had followed the publicity regarding Foreign National prisoners being held in open conditions little realising that we would shortly be involved in taking applications from 12 prisoners removed from HMP Ford under emergency arrangements.

I became aware on Monday 29th May that 7 Foreign Nationals urgently wanted to meet the IMB. I met them individually and subsequently monitored a meeting between the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and the prisoners as a group and individually.

The prisoners expressed a number of concerns which included:

- Their reasons for their removal at short notice into closed conditions without personal possessions.
- Their residence and nationality status within the UK
- Family problems, visits and personal affairs.
- The arrangements that were made for their removal from HMP Ford which involved Prison Service C&R, Police dogs and helicopters.
- The conditions under which they were transferred.

It became apparent that no documentation had accompanied these prisoners nor had their personal possessions been sent with them. All these prisoners would now be subject to review by the IND on an individual basis.

Having personally seen all these prisoners and listened to their accounts, I was sufficiently concerned to write to the Contract Manager at PECS and also to the Regional Director (London & south East) at SERCO Home Affairs expressing concerns regarding the transport (and removal) arrangements. The prisoners had stated that during the 5hrs 33mins journey they received insufficient water, no food and no comfort break resulting in having to urinate on the vehicle floor. Subsequently not all these complaints were substantiated following an internal investigation by SERCO and an independent investigation by PECS.

I also informed the Prisons Ombudsman and sent him copies of correspondence. He stated that he would await the outcome of the investigations

but would accept any complaints from prisoners who remained dissatisfied.

The internal investigation by SERCO appeared thorough and was not at variance with the PECS independent enquiry, the findings being as follows:

- The vehicle had approximately 180 containers of water on board – each container holds approx 86 millilitres of water, during the journey 160 containers of water were used. There are no food storage facilities on any vehicle and it is not a requirement for prisoners being transported to be offered food whilst on a vehicle.
- At the time of departure the vehicle had a supply of urine pouches on board, all these were used during the journey and 2 prisoners had to urinate on the floor of the vehicle at the end of the journey.
- Contractually a comfort stop must be provided every 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- The vehicle log showed that only one stop had been made during the journey this was to refuel.
- Contingency plans for this type of incident require that prior to departure the escorting staff must be given specific instructions as to their final destination and where to stop en route for comfort stops and refreshments. It has been established that the escort did not receive any instructions prior to departing HMP Ford.

The following recommendations were made:

- SERCO would apologise in writing to all prisoners who complained to them about the lack of comfort stops.
- SERCO would amend their contingency plans for dealing with incidents so as to provide a comfort stop at 2hrs 30mins intervals.

In an incident, the location of comfort stops would be agreed in advance of the escort leaving the scene. This would also include refreshment arrangements for both prisoners and escort staff.

All prisoners who made a complaint regarding these issues have now received in writing a letter of apology from SERCO Home Affairs, in addition to which financial penalties have been applied by the PECS Contract Manager to SERCO in respect of this journey.

Upcoming IMB Training Courses

New Chairs' Course (IMBs in Prisons and IRCs)

- 30 November – 02 December (York) 2006
- 29 November – 01 December (Southampton)

New Vice Chairs' Courses (IMBs in Prisons and IRCs)

- 26 – 27 January (Southampton)
- 16 – 17 February (York)

New Members' Courses (IMBs in Prisons)

- 2 – 3 February (Birmingham)
- 2 – 3 March (Southampton)
- 20 – 21 April (Manchester)
- 13 – 14 June (York)
- 10 – 11 August (Bath)
- 28 – 29 September (Waltham Abbey)
- 26 – 27 October (York) (N.B. - Venue Change)

New Members' Courses (IMBs in IRCs)

- 16 – 17 May (London)
- 6 October (London) (N.B. Course runs 08.45 - 17.00)

Experienced Members' Course (IMBs in Prisons)

- 16 – 17 March (Birmingham)
- 18 – 19 May (Waltham Abbey)
- 13 – 14 July (York)
- 12 – 13 October (Southampton)
- 9 – 10 November (Manchester)

Experienced Members' Course (IMBs in IRCs)

- 26 May (London) (N.B. Course runs 08.45 - 17.00)
- 30 – 31 October (London)

Training Co-ordinators' Courses (IMBs in Prisons/ IRCs)

- 10 February (Birmingham)
- 24 February (York)
- 10 March (Waltham Abbey)

Effective Triennial Review Training (for chairs conducting reviews this year)

- Dates To be confirmed

For more information on the above courses please see DBM 05/05, visit the existing members' section of the IMB website (www.imb.gov.uk) or contact Rodney Bowles in the IMB Secretariat on 020 7035 2257.

Letters to Chairs and Board Members

Letters (to Chairs of IMBs in Prisons & IRCs)

DC	IMM	Title
DC 07/06	IMM 06/06	Provision of Facilities & Clerical Support (IMM 07/06 Not used)
DC 08/06	IMM 08/06	Triennial Review 2006
DC 09/06	IMM 09/06	Probationary Year for New Members (DC 10/06 Not Used)
	IMM 10/06	Probationary Record (Annex A)
DC 11/06	IMM 11/06	New rates for Travel & Subsistence
DC 12/06	IMM 12/06	Boards Expenditure Report (Period 12)
DC 13/06	IMM 13/06	Movement of Foreign National Prisoners from Open Prisons
DC 14/06	IMM 14/06	Changes in the IMB Appointments Procedures
DC 15/06	IMM 15/06	Memorandum of Understanding HMCIP
DC 16/06	IMM 16/06	Appointments of Chairs/Vice Chairs for 2007
DC 17/06	IMM 17/06	Update – Deportation of Foreign National Prisoners
DC 18/06	IMM 18/06	National Council Minutes 24 – 25 May 2006
DC 19/06		Prison Population Issues
DC 20/06		Monitoring use of restraints
DC 21/06	IMM 19/06	Election of Training Co-ordinators
DC 22/06	IMM 20/06	National Council Minutes 25 – 26 July 2006
DC 23/06	IMM 21/06	Major Changes to the Recruitment Process
DC 24/06	IMM 22/06	National Council Minutes 25 – 26 September 2006

DBM Letters (to All IMB Members)

DBM 03/06	Guidance – Conflict of Interest
DBM 04/06	National Training Programme 2007 (Prisons)
DBM 05/06	Board Members Legal/Quasi Legal Proceedings
DBM 06/06	Educational & Training Support Groups
DBM 07/06	National Training Programme 2007 (IRCs)
DBM 08/06	National Council Training Representative

Prison Service Orders and Instructions

The Prison Service has recently issued the following new or revised instructions and orders:

Instructions

PSI	31/2006	Home Detention Curfew Update
PSI	30/2006	Operation Safeguard
PSI	28/2006	Foreign National Prisoners
PSI	27/2006	Prisoner Induction Healthcare
PSI	26/2006	Pandemic Influenza Contingency Planning
PSI	25/2006	LIDS Data Entry
PSI	24/2006	Amendments to PSO 3601 – Mandatory Drugs Testing
PSI	23/2006	Immigration Checks

Orders

PSO	2800	Race Equality
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Boards should already be aware of the introduction of PSO 2800 which introduces significant changes to the management of race equality in prison.

All Instructions and Orders, with the exception of those with security implications, can be downloaded from the internet at:

www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/psispsos/

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The IMB National Council

NC Member	Constituency	Areas of Special Interest
 David Graham	Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMIMB • Communications (with Jane King) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IMB News – Annual Conference for IMBs in Prisons – Communications Working Group • Safer Custody
 Sheila Royle	North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare, including mental health • PSOs 1700 and 1600 • Performance reviews of IMB members (with Sue Nicholas) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – probationary year – annual reviews – quinquennial reappointments
 Jo Jenkins	Wales & West Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOMS including IT & OASYS • Conduct & Discipline • Contracted Prisons • Diversity (with Peter Booth) • Freedom of Information & Data Protection • Mubarek Inquiry
 Richard Gully	Thames Valley, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category Cs and Locals • Commissioning new Boards • Under-strength Boards • High Security Estate • Board members' expenses
 John Weightman	North East, Yorkshire & Humberside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile and YOI Estate • Prison education & training
 Peter Booth	IMBs in Immigration Removal Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMBs in IRCs • Extension of IMB remit to immigration holding centres • Training Review (with Simon Nieboer) • Diversity (with Jo Jenkins)
 Simon Nieboer	South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Review (with Peter Booth) • Recruitment & Selection • Foreign Nationals
 Jane King	Kent, Surrey & Sussex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Estate • Communications (with David Graham) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IMB News – Annual Conference – Communications Working Group
 Sue Nicholas	East Midlands (North) & East Midlands (South)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open prisons • Good practice • Working in Partnership • Performance reviews of IMB members (with Sheila Royle) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – probationary year – annual reviews – quinquennial reappointments • Peer Reviews
 Dencer Brown	Dencer Brown	Diversity Co-opted Member

IMB Key Messages

1. We monitor to ensure that people in custody are treated fairly and humanely.
2. We operate independently of the Prison and Immigration Services.
3. We are volunteers appointed by the Home Secretary to report on closed establishments on behalf of the community.
4. We have unrestricted access to prisons and immigration removal centres.
5. We listen to prisoners' and detainees' requests and complaints, privately and in confidence.
6. In prisons, we monitor the range and adequacy of programmes preparing prisoners for release.
7. We don't make the rules governing prisoners or detainees, but we see that these are properly applied.
8. We continually challenge things we are not satisfied with and take our concerns to the Home Secretary where necessary.

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