

imb Independent
Monitoring
Board

MAGILLIGAN PRISON

Independent Monitoring Board's Annual Report for 2005/06





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Glossary of abbreviations

CCEA – Council for the Curriculum Examination & Assessment	VT – Vocational Training
NIMBY – Not in my back yard	PDU – Prisoner Development Unit
NWIFHE – North West Institute of Further and Higher Education	CPO – Custody Probation Order
IT – Information Technology	PBNI – Probation Board for Northern Ireland
FE – Further Education	ACE – Assessment, Case Management and Evaluation
CAD – Computer aided design	CJI – Criminal Justice Inspectorate
NIACRO – Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders	

Mission Statement

To monitor the quality of prison life, by working to ensure fairness and accountability in prison.



1 | Foreword

This is a report produced by the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) for the Secretary of State and for general readership.

The IMB for the prison is a statutory body appointed by the Secretary of State as an external, reviewing, scrutinising and reporting committee.

Its membership (with a maximum complement of 17), is drawn from the general public (appointed through media advertising and interview), with final approval given by the Secretary of State.

Members hold office and have powers conferred on them through section 10, Prison Act (NI) 1953 (as amended).

To fulfil their role, each member of the Board has the right of access to all parts of the prison and to each prisoner, without exception, at any time. Members need to be familiar with the prison estate, personnel and procedures, and must work together (with consultation) as a team.

Their primary function must have a prisoner welfare perspective in relation to health, welfare, food, safety and security.

The IMB has an oversight into staffing and administrative issues, only in so far as these impact on the welfare of the prisoners. They also have defined mandatory functions in relation to the oversight of restraint procedures, and the removal of prisoners from association within their blocks. This role is not as decision makers, but to monitor the application of these decisions.

IMB representatives are present as observers at all major incidents. This role is generally welcomed by prison management, as it provides an unbiased, independent view of the incident, which if necessary can be put into the public domain.

The IMB is provided with copies of the standards manual as part of the system of standards and audit compliance for the Prison Service. Board members are given training, and their effectiveness in this role is assessed through annual appraisal.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Governor and his staff for their courtesy in affording us the means and the opportunity to fulfil our function. I should also like to thank the Board members for their hard work and diligence in supporting me this past year.

The transfer of secretarial function from the Prison Service to the Prisoner Ombudsman's Office, has been exceptionally well executed. Thanks to the Ombudsman and his staff. This transfer should further enhance the public perception, as to our independence from Prison Service management.

This year has been one where we worked alongside the Prisoner Ombudsman Office in dealing with prisoners' complaints. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of applications to the IMB.

There is an ongoing review of prison rules, and with the right of access of Human Rights Commissioners into the prisons, some members feel that our role is now primarily a monitoring one.

There is further uncertainty regarding the relocation of Magilligan prison. The Board would maintain that the special relationship, which has developed over years in this location, would be sadly missed. They also feel that the many initiatives started within Magilligan involving the local populace and the prison population could be lost in a different location.

It would be our contention that the necessary refurbishment and new build could be undertaken within the large secure area of the existing prison, without the NIMBY problem which may occur in other locations.

The Executive Committee formerly called NIAMBOV, has now been superseded by CIMB (Council of Independent Monitoring Boards). This Council will be made up of the Chair and Vice Chair of each of the three establishments, the Chair of the MDGC (training), and a further two members from each of the Boards, elected by ballot. The deliberations of these meetings will be forwarded to each member for information.

It is with great sadness that we have to report a death in custody in October 2005, and wish to express to the family of the bereaved, the heartfelt sympathy of myself and all the members of the IMB.

**Joe Mitchell
Chairman**

2 | The Prison Estate

HMP Magilligan is a low to medium security working Prison, which can house approximately 450 prisoners. The Prison is situated on the banks of Lough Foyle near to Magilligan Point.

Inmates are managed by the Progressive Regime and Earned Privileges Scheme (PREPS) with its attendant Personal Officer involvement. The Scheme works on a concept of resettlement and through care, which starts for prisoners on committal at prisoners Reception, is continued throughout custody to the prisoners release and afterwards on their return to normal life in the community.

An additional residential sub unit – Foyleview, has been established within the Magilligan complex, but outside the main Prison security perimeter. It provides a semi open regime for appropriate prisoners (prisoners are subject to rigorous risk assessment criteria). This unit is capable of housing up to 82 prisoners. There are also ‘working out’ places available to some inmates – 6 at Benburb. Foyleview now has a separate exit onto the Point road, and can count prisoners in and out of the complex, without using the main exit. This in effect makes it a separate Prison. The Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Prison Estates is still debating the future of Magilligan Prison.

Magilligan has three refurbished ‘H’ Blocks each of which can accommodate 100 prisoners in single cells, with special facilities for self harming and disturbed prisoners.

Sperrin, a dormitory unit, capable of housing 64 prisoners, with one side allocated to exclusively house vulnerable prisoners. The inmates are assessed before inclusion. It is also looked upon as a stepping stone towards inclusion into Foyleview. It is hoped that a new Ready to Use 60 cell unit will shortly be constructed on site, to relieve overcrowding, and to allow an alternative use for Sperrin either in whole or in part. A Gymnasium, training areas, workshops, Education buildings, and a purpose built Prisoner Development Unit are all within the secure area.

The reliance within the Prison to house workshops and other facilities in temporary structures including Nissen huts is not acceptable in the medium and long term. The IMB would welcome more permanent accommodation replacing the Maze – style ‘H’ Blocks, when finance permits.

We are mindful that this ‘carrot and stick’ approach is in its infancy, but indications of its efficacy are to us self evident. This is reinforced by structured resettlement planning, opportunities for Education, gaining qualifications, work training and offending behaviour programmes.

We recognise the professional challenge for staff to embrace this new ethos, involving as it does more work and interaction with the prisoner, with the emphasis being rehabilitation rather than ‘warehousing’. The IMB feel that the outcome will be beneficial to all parties and will have positive benefits for the wider public.

We look forward to continued working with the Probation Board, the Ombudsman’s Office and other external agencies, such as the Western Health and Social Services Board, who presently deliver behavioural and lifestyle programmes, and the Education Board who provide education and library services in the Prison.

The IMB underline the need for guaranteed funding, necessary for the constructive use of time spent in Prison, and the attendant Resettlement strategies.

3 | Accommodation

The refurbished H Blocks can accommodate 100 prisoners in single cells. There is also provision for safer cells in each block, which have no ligature points, integral sanitation, and have provision for either one or two ‘listeners’ to accompany the prisoner at risk. We cannot commend highly enough those prisoners who put themselves forward as ‘listeners’ and undergo training with the Samaritans, prior to acceptance.

These are not ideal locations to hold prisoners, as there is still no integral sanitation, apart from the safer cells mentioned above. They do however have software in place to allow for night unlock, which gives the prisoner access to the toilet singly, on request.

H1 A/B Drug free wing. This has been in use for the past year, and results are hopeful. 50 prisoners are selected to the wing, knowing that it will involve a more rigorous drug testing and searching regime. The staff find a more relaxed atmosphere, and look for peer pressure to help keep the wing drug free. The increase in drug testing and the random searching of two cells per day, together with a high input from the drug dog will hopefully keep the facility drug free.

Another drug free area is Sperrin House, which is an even more relaxed regime, consisting of dormitory facilities, longer association, improved laundry and recreational provision.

The dormitory provision in Sperrin may not be to the liking of some longer term prisoners, where shared accommodation and issues to do with music and lights predominate. The prospect of moving to Foyleview and attendant contact with outside may well make them ‘amenable’.

H2 The ligature point in the 4 man cell has been removed, thus rectifying this fatal flaw. The safe cell is now fully functioning. The Samaritans are reported to be pleased with the results.

10 new ‘listeners’ have now been selected and trained.

A medical room has been set up on the wing, with a triage nurse on duty from Monday to Friday. The inmates are made aware of a basic care plan or Health Care Marker and how it may affect them.

4 | Education and Library

The Gymnasium has been relocated onto the wing. The old Gymnasium has been refurbished to facilitate Adult Literary classes and programmes, thereby utilising staff that are on duty whilst maintaining staff levels at the same time.

Two additional telephones have been installed on each wing, bringing to 4 the number of telephones available with the new system of cards with personal PIN numbers. This should help to eliminate previous abuse of the telephone cards.

Following the Court Ruling in the Martin case, slopping out in the ablutions is no longer permitted. Prisoners must adhere strictly to utilising the sluices unit for that purpose.

It has been commented on that there is a noticeable increase in the use of illicit drugs on the wings. This is difficult to verify as there have been no great increase in drugs seized.

H3 This block is used to deliver induction and other programmes, and is in substance the same specification as the other blocks.

Foyleview This is the semi open Prison within the Magilligan complex. It has single room accommodation for 82 prisoners. It is currently at its capacity occupation. It has been noted that 90% of prisoners have community work experience before they leave Foyleview.

It is also evident that staff efforts to find work for prisoners are very commendable. In the year April 05-April 06. 42% of time served prisoners from Foyleview went out to a full time job.

The work done in Foyleview is productive and meaningful – the garden is being entered for a competition run by the Butler Trust; there are now two polytunnels growing plants for hanging baskets for care homes, hospitals etc.

Various types of work continue: painting, ironwork, picture framing, and signage. Equipment for the Special Olympics was completed and collected by the volunteers. The embroidery of badges continues to expand with two new orders just received.

The IMB commend the work of PO Trevor Barr and his staff.

The Education Department continues to make a valuable contribution to the overall wellbeing of inmates. Magilligan has a high proportion of its population with poor literacy and numeric skills. Courses are on offer for these shortcomings. However the number obtaining qualifications in these Essential Skills is declining, due to the short sentences that many inmates have left to serve. It was disappointing that no presentation of certificates took place in the past year, this was due to delay with CCEA in producing the certificates, and the fact that inmates had left, sentence served, when the certificates arrived.

We strongly recommend that this be re-instated, that the award ceremony be held twice every year. It is also suggested that we devise and present all certificates achieved in the Prison at this award ceremony.

Accommodation has slightly improved, however a more permanent building would be appreciated. Staff continue to research new courses and update their own qualifications. The links with NWIFHE and the Playhouse in delivering Essential skills through creative writing, performing in the medium of English, has proved very successful and we would recommend that this continues, hopefully the funding can be found! Essential Skills and I.T. has been delivered through Limavady F.E. College and this has also proved very successful. An innovative Anti-Bullying course has been delivered through a CAD programme, linking with North Eastern College; this was most successful and should continue for vulnerable prisoners.

Our partnership with these local colleges is beneficial and successful. Part time evening classes have had to be withdrawn due to budgetary constraints.

The Department currently offer VT Related Essential Skills twice a year. We feel that the appointment of a Learning Development Co-ordinator would be beneficial at this time. The Department is also addressing the issues raised in the various recent Inspection reports.

We will monitor closely the effect of the amalgamation of Limavady and the North West Institute Colleges. We thank all those involved both externally and internally in education provision for Magilligan Prison inmates.

Library resources are generally well utilised, however more children’s books for the Child Centred Visits are required. The Library is too small and opening times need to be increased. I am aware that the Library opening times have been restricted due to staffing levels.

The links and partnerships that Magilligan Prison has established with local Colleges, with businesses, community groups, local council, and various organisations have proved advantageous in assisting our population to prepare for their future lives, and we highly commend all the staff for the very valuable contribution they have made to this.

5 | Induction and Prisoner Development Unit

The Induction Programme is available to all new prisoners over a period of five days. Trained Staff help deliver the programme along with other Agencies. Sessions are taken in H3.

The Programme is designed to cover what all prisoners need to know about the policies, regimes and procedures in the prison.

Prisoners are made aware of the facilities and opportunities available to them.

Information is given on Education, work, training, skills, behavioural programmes and support services.

At the end of the week each prisoner is seen individually to assess his resettlement needs.

Booklets are given out with details on all of the main areas of the Programme.

The Independent Monitoring Board recognises the strength of the multi-disciplinary approach used in Induction and are pleased to note prisoners are encouraged to ask questions and have their opinions entered on a database to be evaluated by staff.

Members of the IMB now attend Induction on Tuesday. During this session the role of the IMB is discussed and questions answered.

Efforts will be made to ensure that posters and leaflets about the IMB are available in Reception, the PDU and all residential areas.

The Prisoner Development Unit

During 2005 Staff continued to monitor, review and plan ahead to improve on current practice.

A Pre-Release Programme was piloted during late 2005. Non-CPO prisoners who were 6-8 weeks to time served were targeted.

Areas addressed included Housing, Finance, Benefits, Training Opportunities, Education, Employment, Job Applications and Coping On Release. The pilot proved to be of great benefit to those involved.

Plans for future development include the involvement of Healthcare, with modules on Substance Misuse, Disclosure of Information and Job process.

The Programme will also be made available to CPO prisoners. A greater partnership with PBNI will be developed.

The Board welcomes the introduction of this new programme and recognises the commitment of everyone involved.

Each prisoner will in future have a 'Record Of Achievement' detailing programmes attended, educational achievements and work undertaken. This Record recognises the achievements of the recipient thus providing motivation. On release it should prove valuable when seeking employment.

PDU facilitates the delivery of 15 programmes, an increase of 2 since our last Report. However, there is still a concern about staffing levels, if the planned programmes are to be available to all who want to engage in them.

Magilligan has currently 94% of prisoners working to a Resettlement plan; this is well ahead of the agreed target of 87%.

Each individual committed to prison on determinate sentence, is appraised for Resettlement using the Probation Service's ACE assessment.

It can be seen that on examination, approximately 70% of the prisoner population in Magilligan has an education age of less than 14 years. For this reason participation in Education programmes is a must for most prisoners Resettlement plans.

The Resettlement team along with Foyleview were recently presented with the Criminal Justice Award for "outstanding contribution to working with offenders". This award was presented by David Hanson MP at the CJI Conference in the Hilton Hotel Templepatrick.

The IMB wish to congratulate SO D. Sampson and his team for their excellent work.

6 | Security and the Special Supervision Unit (SSU)

Security within the prison is good, and has been further enhanced by additional night custody officers, recently introduced.

In fact the Criminal Justice Inspectorate and H.M. Inspectorate of Prisons felt the level of security, for the type of prisoner currently in Magilligan, was excessive. The IMB is non-committal on this observation.

They also commented that electric locking should be reduced and pass keys introduced instead to allow staff and managers access to all parts of the prison at any time. A new hand-reading system, to enhance security and better account for the movement of staff and some inmates is currently operational.

The introduction of laboratory-based testing will help control the drug problem. There is a designated drug-testing facility within the SSU compound.

The IMB have been impressed by the passive drug dogs, and would wish for an increase in number to four.

The SSU has a poor ventilation system within the cells. It is hoped that some improvement might be made without affecting the security of the unit. This would be of benefit to both to staff and detainees. Some proposals have been made in this respect.

The SSU cannot offer the same night unlock facilities available in the blocks. Working conditions here can be described as uncomfortable; storage is limited both for staff and for prisoners. The office is small and cramped, especially in respect to storage. There is no area for prisoners to be interviewed except in the office or in their cells, neither of which is appropriate.

7 | Visits and NIACRO

Visits are one of the most important interfaces between the prisoners and the outside world.

It must also be noted that visits can be one method of introducing illegal drugs into the prison. The introduction of the passive drug dogs, search procedures, and scrutiny by CCTV reduces the possibility of drug transfer.

The method of allocation, processing and delivery of visits is performed in a modern, fair and equitable manner, staff is to be congratulated.

Visits are open from Wednesday through to Sunday, morning and afternoon. They are generally well-attended. The greatest demand is for Saturday afternoon, which may constitute some delay in processing, and may result in families being kept waiting in inclement conditions.

The prisoners' families are provided for in the NIACRO facility, outside the main gate. They provide refreshment and help with travel and other concerns.

NIACRO staff also assists with child centred visits within the prison, which the IMB feel is a great help in prisoners' resettlement.

The Families Officer can answer questions posed by the families in a friendly and open manner, and is much appreciated.

The IMB feel that the seating could be more comfortable and that the carpet should be regularly steam-cleaned.

They also have a concern that the families who have been allocated a closed visit have to be routed through the main hall.

An additional room is being prepared for informal contact between families and, possibly, Northlands counsellors, or other agencies. This is to be welcomed.

It is also noted that Magilligan has again been first with a child protection initiative which is to be highly praised.

8 | Training and Workshops

There are 10 workshops providing a wide range of training opportunities, including painting and decorating, bricklaying and computer usage.

These workshops provide training for almost 100 prisoners at any one time (currently 96). These workshops are a popular choice with inmates, with long waiting lists for vacancies.

The workshops are vitally important in prisoners' resettlement, giving inmates the skills necessary to obtain and to hold a job post outside after finishing their sentence.

The Workshop Manager and his staff have established good links with local Further and Higher Education Colleges, and the workshops provide accredited training and qualifications, such as NVQ's and City and Guilds.

Magilligan can also award accredited Performance Management and Performance Engineering Certificates to successful candidates. The inmates successfully completing these will have recognised skills, which may secure them work on their release.

Magilligan can also award a Comp TIA certificate, a qualification much in demand in today's marketplace.

The skills and work products both from the workshops and Industries have been used in refurbishing all three prisons in Northern Ireland. They have also been used to the benefit of the community, such as the making of cemetery gates, play areas etc.

However the IMB note that:

- There are insufficient job opportunities for all prisoners requesting them;
- Extensive refurbishment is required in all workshops to meet the required standard;
- Increased staffing levels are needed. At present there is only one manager, with no replacement cover for holidays or illness. Most workshops manage with one instructor;
- Workshops are forced to close when an instructor is unavailable.

9 | Industries and Reception

There was a reduction during the year of one of the Industries, due to illness and subsequent demise of the instructor, who will be sadly missed. The other two Industrial units had to then divide the inmates selected for these jobs into two groups, the vulnerable prisoners and the rest. This then meant that the vulnerable prisoners were located in the woodworking and furniture build area, the others into the metalworking area.

This effectively meant that one group had no opportunity to obtain woodworking qualifications; the other group had no chance of obtaining metalwork qualifications.

There is now to be another workshop reconstituted, thanks to the Governor, who will again bring upholstery into the Industries Complex.

This is to be welcomed, as the numbers of job posts within the Prison is still insufficient.

Reception

This area has recently been refurbished; reception is now one of the more pleasant buildings in the prison to work in.

Reception is responsible for processing all prisoners that enter the prison, including new committals, prisoners returning from parole and home leave, and those returning from court appearances.

Staff in reception are also responsible for processing any items sent to prisoners, and for holding any surplus items that prisoners do not take to their cells.

The staff and orderlies in this department are efficient and pleasant to work with, and the new surroundings are well deserved and overdue. It is recognised the reception area is very important to those prisoners coming to the prison for the first time. It would be hoped that the friendly and efficient manner by which the staff fulfil their obligations is continued.

10 | Gymnasium and Recreation

With twenty-five thousand inmate attendances at the Sports and Recreation Complex on a voluntary basis during the year, there is clear evidence of the value of the gymnasium facility, and its well qualified staff.

The average inmate attendance at the complex over a 6½ day working week, including 5 evening classes Mon – Fri is around 400.

There is a very diverse range of activities and opportunities within the P.E. programme including Indoor / Outdoor Soccer, Table Tennis, Weight Training, Badminton, Indoor Bowls, Athletics and Remedial / Compensatory Classes

The programme varies from week to week, taking into consideration seasonal sporting activities and the rotation attendance of the inmates.

The importance of exercise linked with the excellent Men's Health programme should encourage inmates to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Foyleview is catered for in the evenings and weekends within the programme.

Accreditation Courses are planned in the programme and are offered to suitable prisoners towards possible future employment within the leisure industry.

Passive recreation is also provided, especially for older prisoners. A variety of play station games and computers are provided on a communal basis.

It is important to note that supported by the Governor, the Sport and Recreation Department remains active the whole year round, providing an outlet for the pursuit of sport and recreation.

Outdoor activity is now an integral part of the Department Programme and includes individual walking, canoeing and kayaking.

Equipment within the Sport and Recreation Department receives a weekly health check by staff.

However the IMB feel that to motivate users and to assist them in reaching their exercise targets, priority for the refurbishment of weight training, audio Sky equipment would, finance permitting, be very beneficial.

The IMB receives few complaints regarding Sport and Recreational facilities.

We believe that this is due to the excellent programmes on offer, the high quality of management within the Department, and the support of the Governor and his staff. The IMB believe that the value of the Sport and Recreation Branch, its well qualified staff as a resource for prisoners, can not be overestimated.

Indeed it is worthy of note, that the Sports Complex is now an accepted venue for a wide variety of social, cultural and community events.

11 | Healthcare Centre

The Health Care Centre in Magilligan provides a first class, full range of health care services to all prisoners, including GPs' services, dental care consultants, and opticians. It has initiated many clinics to support health and well-being including a well-man clinic, smoking cessation and asthma clinics and an essence of care protocol, recently introduced.

In addition this year it has also included in treatments, aural acupuncture which is being delivered by two people to reduce stress, and as a means to alleviate addiction dependence. It is also equipped with the necessary equipment to provide emergency care and life-saving treatment.

There have been two new observation wards built recently, designed to be safer cells with no ligature points, each has CCTV and call buttons linked to both the Samaritans and attendant staff. Both are equipped with toilet and washing facilities and are spacious, comfortable and brightly painted. They also have TV and video access through a plexi-glass screen, a disabled wheelchair access shower has also been provided. One recently introduced policy is the dispatch of prisoners' treatment and medication detail to the prisoners' GP on release, to ensure continuity of care.

Concerns about the level of staff cover were raised last year, and this has been addressed in some part by the addition of three additional staff. This brings to four the mental health cover, which in our view was badly needed. This also brings to 15 the total number of staff which would be a minimum requirement. There has been further rationalisation within the healthcare unit, where a nurse is allocated to an individual block, but can be recalled to the centre when needed. The prisoners have access to the doctor by appointment, four from each block on a daily basis. They can normally get their medicine the next day, and are currently at 90% self medication.

There has been introduced into the centre a patient's helpline, to facilitate contact between staff and prisoners' relatives, to enable a more comprehensive assessment to be made.

There has been a comprehensive Hepatitis B immunisation programme for inmates, which involves three injections.

The building is temporary, dated and in need of refurbishment. The rooms can be warm and stuffy with poor ventilation especially on warm and sunny days. However the hospital is kept in immaculate condition and is always clean and tidy.

The level of care is never compromised, despite difficulties. This is due to the dedication and hard work of the staff concerned and must be highly commended.

The formation of a multi-discipline mental health team is in its infancy, but it should prove a great benefit to those who have need of its services. It has been noted that the relative age of the prisoner population is increasing, and provision for this trend has been catered for.

It has been decided that the medical care of inmates will transfer to the Health Board in the near future, and responsibility will be managed by a partnership board set up between the prison and the local health trust.

12 | Chaplains and Prison Fellowship

Chaplains at Magilligan are appointed by the various Churches and they hold regular Church services. Chaplains and Prison Fellowship meet together regularly and have an Annual Conference. If an inmate is of a faith tradition other than Christian, there is provision made for that inmate.

The Chaplains make a very valuable contribution to Magilligan and we welcome their commitment and assistance towards the welfare of the inmates. The IMB members have opportunities to meet with the Chaplains and Prison Fellowship, and plan to do this on an ongoing basis.

Accommodation for services is poor, but this issue is currently being addressed, as is the need for more bibles and hymn books. A better keyboard with more volume has been obtained through the IMB.

The Chaplains meet with all the new inmates every Thursday as part of the Induction process. Bible study is well attended, and accredited Bible courses are provided with presentation of certificates at the conclusion.

Chaplains respond to all prisoners requests. It is important that Chaplains and Prison Fellowship work with prisoner's families, their extended family and the local clergy.

The IMB would recommend that Chaplains are given some clerical support, ie. every Thursday, this would give them the opportunity to make best use of their time in Prison.

Various Church leaders have visited the Prison during the year, and have always been warmly welcomed. We appreciate all the support given to the inmates by the Chaplains and the Prison Fellowship.

13 | Initiatives

Suicide Prevention

Regular meetings of the Suicide Prevention Team and the suicide policy is evaluated and reviewed. Implementation of this policy is well underway.

From January 2004 until December 2005, 58 PAR1 (Prisoner At Risk) forms were raised and 13 incidents of self-harm reported.

Detailed records are kept of those prisoners on PAR1. These records are made available to members of the IMB during rota visits and location visits.

Since the introduction of the Suicide Prevention Policy, 215 officers have been trained in suicide awareness.

Funding has been made available to enable two staff to train as tutors for the Applied Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). This development will prove valuable in the future.

The 'Listeners' Scheme continues to work well. The Samaritans give excellent training for this. Additional listeners are soon to be trained.

Listeners are located in all residential areas

Safe cells are available and are used. These are equipped with a button giving direct access to the Samaritans. These cells are located in all blocks, with an additional two in the healthcare facility.

Since October a family hotline has been located in healthcare facility. Family members may use this to pass on, or obtain information regarding prisoners at risk of self-harm or suicide. More awareness of this facility would appear to be needed.

The Families Officer could tell families about this facility during visits. Posters and cards should always be available promoting the hotline.

Drugs Strategy

The Drugs-Free Unit in H1 A/B is now well-established. This unit provides places for 50 prisoners. Sperrin and Foyleview are also designated drug-free residential areas. This is an increase in provision for those electing to be in a drugs-free area.

Since 2000, Northlands has worked in Magilligan prison. Prisoners with addiction are offered:

- One-to-one counselling
- Programmes
- Support for families
- Help with further support on release.
- Alcoholics' Anonymous visit for one-to-one counselling.
- Information leaflets about Northlands and how to obtain help are clearly displayed in PDU.

The healthcare team works closely with PDU and Northlands in a co-ordinated approach.

More provision for those prisoners wishing to transfer to drug-free areas must be a consideration in further planning.

Multi-agency drug strategy meetings are held regularly in the prison to keep the situation under review.

Anti-bullying meetings

These meetings are held on a regular basis, to indicate who and how many prisoners are being observed and reported on daily basis, having been given the SAM (Safe at Magilligan) notification. This is a valuable tool and must be applied in all areas.

Multi-agency mental health meetings

This is a newly-formed group, which meets to discuss and formulate appropriate treatment for mentally-disturbed prisoners. It is a valuable learning aid for those who attend. Although it is to be stressed that confidentiality is paramount.

Equality and diversity meetings

Again this is a newly-formed group, which has been created following the CJI report. It may be that at Magilligan there are not many foreign nationals, unlike prisons in the UK. There is however, enough diversity in other spheres to merit serious consideration, and to formulate action for change.

14 | Kitchen and Tuckshop

The facilities are fully utilised and equipment is constantly being updated. New equipment for transporting food to the wings is being used. The quality of food is good, and spot checks with inmates revealed no complaints. Staffing levels are satisfactory.

We commend the initiative to train inmates in catering and would like to see further extensions of the levels available.

The tuck shop continues to serve the population well, with the 'best sellers' being tins of tuna, tobacco etc. Cranberry juice has been recently introduced and demand is increasing.

The staff in both kitchen and tuck shop are hard-working and very co-operative.

15 | Notable Events of Year

- Magilligan formally re-accredited Investors in People 16th May 2005.
- Presentation to Rock Mission charity project, of money raised by prisoners 24th June 2005.
- Hosted Probation Board for Northern Ireland 1st July 2005.
- Constructive feedback from Adult Literacy Inspection 15th July 2005.
- Economic impact appraisal by BDO Stoy Hayward commissioned August 2005.
- Director General attended IMB board meeting 10th August 2005.
- Visit by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate, review of target setting, 27th September 2005.
- Presentation of funds raised by inmates for Cancer Research 13th October 2005.
- Irish Society hosted by prison 24th October 2005.
- Hosted Your Turn Programme (junior common purpose) 3rd November 2005.
- IIP Worklife Balance Award presented to Magilligan 18th November 2005 at Hillsborough Castle.
- Audit by Criminal Justice Inspectorate December 2005.
- Butler Trust Conference held in Ramada Hotel on January 23rd 2006.
- Prison Minister Shaun Woodward visited on 30th January 2006.
- BBC personnel for forthcoming Talkback programme 15th February 2006.
- Visit to Mountjoy and Cloverhill Prisons 17th February 2006.
- Representatives of Billy Wright inquiry team on tour 24th February 2006.
- Visit of Prison Fellowship International and Conservative MP Mr David Liddington 7th March 2006.
- Visit to Dartmoor and Channing Wood prisons on the 6th-8th March 2006.
- Business in the Community visited 20th March 2006.
- Russian visit by ICPS International Centre for Prison Studies 29th March 2006.

16 | Work of the IMB

This year the monthly meetings were well-attended with an average of 75% of members being present, and 100% of rota visits carried out weekly, ensuring that prisoner complaints (applications) are dealt with in a timely manner.

The transfer of secretarial services from headquarters and individual establishments, to the Prisoner Ombudsman office, has been very efficiently enacted. The staff involved can be congratulated.

The IMB members attended on 450 occasions, including monthly training seminars, rota visits, board meetings, drug strategy meetings, suicide awareness, case conferences, anti-bullying meetings and other associated meetings eg: CIMB, chairman's meetings etc.

We attempt where possible to observe Governor's adjudications (with prisoner consent), and, in any case, monitor the awards on a monthly basis, and report back to the board meeting.

We have dealt with a reduced number of applications in the course of the year and are currently considering a further method to access prisoner complaints. It is felt that the normal prison complaints procedure has become more efficient and timely, and the ease of contact with the Prisoner Ombudsman Office means that many complaints which come to us are resolved in an informal manner by approaching the Governor or relevant officer involved.

Members have particular areas of responsibility within the prison, which they regularly monitor and report on. However, all members have the obligation to comment on any area of the prison estate, which they consider to fall below the guidelines outlined in the Expectations document released by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons.

The board was pleased with the response of the Governor in attending to many of our concerns throughout the year. With regard to visits, an area for older children was set aside etc. The further provision of a family's officer with a dedicated room to interface with the families is very useful. There is a further addition of a converted Portacabin to be used as an area where families can converse in a relaxed atmosphere with a Northlands councillor or other support staff.

The introduction of laboratory drug testing procedures, the provision of a drug-free wing, and the reduction in usage of the big four-man cell, plus the provision of an extended Foyleview, is, in the view of the IMB, a welcome addition to the estate.

The recidivism of Foyleview 'graduates' is very impressive, currently under four per cent. It is noted that we are not working from the same baseline as the total prisoner population, but it does give the indication that involvement in outside work prior to release, does have a positive effect. It has been noted that the prison population is becoming increasingly more aged, and the attendant problems that this poses, is being addressed. The Governor is to be congratulated with providing two additional telephones on each wing, with the new system of personal PIN numbers, which not only gives more access to the phones but reduces the previous abuse of telephone cards.

It is also becoming increasingly obvious that the prisoner numbers are increasing, and as the available places are filled, the case for multiple cell occupation will become a reality.

It will become increasingly important that risk assessment be rigorously followed in shared cells and also, as at present in the dormitory conditions, in Sperrin House.

17 | Recommendations

1. Ensure that there are sufficient job places available, for those who require them, and an increase in purposeful activity hours.
2. Consolidation and expansion of the drug-free regimen in H1.
3. Increase in the use of drug dogs to combat drug abuse.
4. Extending visits to other prisons, which the IMB would see as a valuable learning opportunity.
5. Further improve the library and education provision.
6. Reassess the suitability of the seating in the visits area.
7. Upgrade all temporary buildings to an acceptable standard or new build as finance permits.
8. The carpet in the visits area should be industrially-cleaned.
9. The provision of a suitable building for worship.
10. To consider provision of secretarial assistance for the Chaplaincy.
11. To consider some method whereby an IMB member can access the blocks and interview prisoners between 12am and 2pm if necessary.
12. Continue to upgrade the gymnasium equipment, including the audio system.
13. Investigate a method for closed visits which precludes ingress into main hall.
14. Establish within the three prisons a commonality of forms.
15. Maximise training of staff in PREPS and in Control and Restraint.
16. That the blueprint plan for the prison estate policy maintains a facility in Magilligan, as the board considers the many initiatives which were started here may well be lost in another location. The fact that the estate is large enough to build within a secure perimeter, without the problem of NIMBY.

18 | Appendix

Chairman
Mr J Mitchell

Vice Chair
Mrs J Doherty

Members
Mr R Armitage
MR J Campbell
Mrs M Campbell
Mrs R Craig
Miss J Harte
Mrs I Johnston
Mr S McGregor
Mr M McIvor
Mr C McLaughlin
Mr W A Mitchell
Mrs M D Nicholl
Mr J Richardson
Mrs F R Symington
Mrs V A Von Hof

