



Monitoring places of detention

Seventh **Annual Report**
of the United Kingdom's
National Preventive Mechanism
1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016



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Presented to Parliament by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
by Command of Her Majesty
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Introduction by David Strang

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland

I am pleased to introduce the seventh annual report of the United Kingdom's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).

The NPM is responsible for the independent monitoring of all places of detention throughout the UK. It comprises the 20 bodies which have powers to enter places of detention for the purpose of providing oversight and scrutiny of the treatment of detainees and the conditions in which they are held. Such scrutiny is designed both to prevent harm occurring to people in detention and to encourage good practice in the care of detainees. The NPM fulfils the UK's obligations arising from its commitment to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (known as OPCAT).

In order to strengthen the governance of the NPM and to improve our effectiveness, we decided to appoint an independent chair, who was not from one of the 20 member bodies. An independent chair will enable the voice of the NPM to be heard distinctly from that of the member bodies and will bring greater support to all members across the UK. After an open recruitment and selection process, the NPM appointed John Wadham

to be the independent chair. This is a significant milestone for the NPM and will enable it to grow in effectiveness.

I also want to acknowledge the significant influence that Nick Hardwick had in shaping the NPM over the last five years when he was HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. He acted as the chair of the NPM throughout this time and skilfully encouraged cooperation and a clarity of focus to the joint work of the member bodies. We wish him well in his new role as Chair of the Parole Board.

As the NPM continues to mature as an organisation, it is becoming more influential. It spends less of its energy and effort on internal structures and processes, and is able to concentrate more on improving the scrutiny of places of detention. A summary of the work of each of the NPM bodies is included in this report. The sub-groups of the NPM have developed opportunities for members to share expertise and to encourage innovation in our work. The Scottish sub-group has strengthened its relations with the Scottish Government. Importantly, members of the NPM reached a common position on the need for a time limit on immigration detention.

Last year's annual report provided a detailed review of the NPM's thematic study of the use of isolation and solitary confinement in the United Kingdom. Throughout 2015–16 we developed this work further by producing comprehensive guidance for the monitoring of isolation in detention. This guidance will be finalised and published in 2016–17. It will enable NPM members to monitor with more rigour and consistency, using a common approach, based on international human rights standards. We have chosen for the next NPM thematic study the issue of transitions between different forms of custodial settings. We know that many people are transferred from one form of custody to another, often crossing jurisdictional boundaries. The study of these transitions will enable the NPM to again identify common lessons and to develop a shared understanding of effective scrutiny across different organisational boundaries.

All NPM members have been actively engaged in shaping and commenting on legislation and policy changes affecting the places they monitor. This is an important aspect of the work of the NPM – not just monitoring places of detention, but contributing to the prevention of ill-treatment through influencing legislation and policy. Internationally, the NPM has continued to collaborate with a wide range of other organisations: NPMs, academics, NGOs, international human rights bodies, countries seeking to establish or develop their NPM, and many more.

The adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules by the UN General Assembly shows the importance of the monitoring of all prisons throughout the world in the 21st century. The NPM has a vital role to play in ensuring that these international standards are translated into practical action on a daily basis in our places of detention. These Rules represent a significant step forward for prison policy. The NPM will seek to promote these standards and apply them through its work.

I would like to thank all the members of the NPM who have been active throughout the year in supporting the work of the NPM. I am grateful, too, to the members of staff in the coordination team, who have made such a significant contribution to our work this year.

I am delighted that John Wadham has begun his tenure as the independent chair of the NPM with such energy and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to working with him in the busy year that lies ahead.



David Strang

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland
NPM Chair, January to May 2016



Introduction by John Wadham NPM Chair

The UK has a very unusual NPM. Most of its 20 member bodies pre-dated the United Nations OPCAT treaty and already had established methodologies for inspecting and monitoring detention when the NPM was designated in 2009. In fact it is possible to trace the origins of inspections and monitoring back at least as far as John Howard who, in 1773 when High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, started inspecting prisons in his area. He was shocked by what he found and launched into a round of inspections of hundreds of prisons around England. Howard published the first edition of *The State of the Prisons* in 1777 and included very detailed accounts of the prisons he had visited.

Today if you count the number of staff and volunteers involved in monitoring detention across the UK there is no doubt we have the biggest NPM anywhere in the world.

The UK was one of the main drafters of OPCAT and is proud of its NPM's reputation. The UK's NPM has a unique tradition of professional inspectors and members of the community visiting places of detention, and their role is generally understood as an important check on what goes on behind bars.

But our work is not done. We have to make sure our monitoring fulfills international expectations of *preventive* monitoring. We have to work hard to build greater consistency in the way different members identify ill-treatment. And we have to make sure the role of the NPM is understood by the governments of the UK and the authorities responsible for detainees.

In 2014, NPM members decided to appoint an independent chair from outside the membership of the NPM to strengthen its governance, particularly because of its unusual and complex structure. I was very pleased to be selected as NPM Chair, particularly because the decision was made by NPM members themselves. Often, decisions to appoint to posts such as this are taken by government ministers. As Chair I will work part-time (and pro-bono) and have been appointed for an initial fixed term of two years.

My job is to advise and support the NPM and its members to fulfill its OPCAT mandate, to represent the UK NPM in meetings with members, government, and international bodies. My responsibilities are to chair the meetings of the members, support

members in developing their work and fulfilling their NPM responsibilities, and to represent the NPM in public and with external stakeholders, including the United Nations and the OPCAT Sub-Committee (SPT). A key task for the future will be to ensure that the 20 organisations, with their different mandates, duties and powers, work collectively and individually across the four jurisdictions of the United Kingdom to reduce ill-treatment and ensure the best possible systems are in place to prevent its occurrence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wadham', is positioned below the main text block.

John Wadham

NPM Chair, May 2016 to present

Section one

Context



About the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) is an international human rights treaty designed to strengthen the protection of people deprived of their liberty. Its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002 reflected a consensus among the international community that people deprived of their liberty are particularly vulnerable to ill-treatment and that efforts to combat such ill-treatment should focus on prevention. OPCAT embodies the idea that prevention of ill-treatment in detention can best be achieved by a system of independent, regular visits to all places of detention. Such visits monitor the treatment of and conditions for detainees.

OPCAT entered into force in June 2006. States that ratify OPCAT are required to designate a 'national preventive mechanism' (NPM). This is a body or group of bodies that regularly examine the treatment of detainees, make recommendations, and comment on existing or draft legislation with the aim of improving treatment and conditions in detention.

In order to carry out its monitoring role effectively, the NPM must:

- be independent of government and the institutions it monitors;
- be sufficiently resourced to perform its role; and

- have personnel with the necessary expertise and who are sufficiently diverse to represent the community in which it operates.

Additionally, the NPM must have the power to:

- access all places of detention (including those operated by private providers);
- conduct interviews in private with detainees and other relevant people;
- choose which places it wants to visit and who it wishes to interview;
- access information about the number of people deprived of their liberty, the number of places of detention and their location; and
- access information about the treatment and conditions of detainees.

The NPM must also liaise with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), an international body established by OPCAT with both operational functions (visiting places of detention in states parties and making recommendations regarding the protection of detainees from ill-treatment) and advisory functions (providing assistance and training to states parties and NPMs). The SPT is made up of 25 independent and impartial experts from around the world, and publishes an annual report on its activities.¹ There are currently 82 states parties to OPCAT, and 64 designated NPMs.²

1. <http://ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/OPCAT/Pages/OPCATIndex.aspx> [accessed 01/11/16].

2. Association for the Prevention of Torture, OPCAT database, available at: <http://www.apt.ch/en/opcat-database/> [accessed 01/11/16].

The UK's National Preventive Mechanism

The UK ratified OPCAT in December 2003 and designated its NPM in March 2009. Designation of the NPM was the responsibility of the UK government and it chose to designate multiple existing bodies rather than create a new, single-body NPM. This took into account the fact that many types of detention in the UK were already subject to monitoring by independent bodies, as envisaged by OPCAT, and the different political, legal and administrative systems in place in the four nations that make up the UK. Designations were made to the NPM in 2009 and 2013, and 20 individual bodies now make up the NPM.

Scotland

Care Inspectorate (CI)
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS)
Independent Custody Visitors Scotland (ICVS)
Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS)
Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

Northern Ireland

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI)
Independent Monitoring Boards (Northern Ireland) (IMBNI)
Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (NIPBICVS)
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)

England and Wales

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)
Care Quality Commission (CQC)
Children's Commissioner for England (CCE)
Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW)
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons)
Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA)
Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB)
Lay Observers (LO)
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)

The bodies which make up the UK NPM monitor different types of detention across the jurisdictions, including prisons, police custody, court custody, customs custody facilities, secure accommodation for children, immigration facilities, mental health and military detention, as shown on page 11.

The essential requirement of OPCAT – that all places of detention are independently monitored – is fulfilled by individual members of the NPM or by members working in partnership with one another. Detailed findings relating to the treatment and conditions of detainees are published in the inspection or annual reports of each NPM member.

DETENTION SETTING	Jurisdiction			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Prisons and YOIs	HMI Prisons with CQC and Ofsted	HMI Prisons with HIW	HMIPS with CI and SHRC	CJINI and HMI Prisons with RQIA
	IMB			IMBNI
Police custody	HMIC and HMI Prisons		HMICS	CJINI with RQIA
	ICVA		ICVS	NIPBICVS
Escort and court custody	Lay Observers and HMI Prisons		HMIPS	CJINI
Children in secure accommodation	Ofsted (jointly with HMI Prisons in relation to secure training centres)	CSSIW	CI	RQIA
				CJINI
Children (all detention settings)	CCE		CI	
Detention under mental health law	CQC	HIW	MWCS	RQIA
Deprivation of liberty ³ and other safeguards in health and social care	CQC	HIW	CI and MWCS	RQIA
		CSSIW		
Immigration detention	HMI Prisons			
	IMB			
Military detention	HMI Prisons			
Customs custody facilities	HMIC, HMI Prisons and HMICS			

The NPM's biannual business meetings are its main forum for members to share findings, best practice, experiences and lessons from monitoring different types of detention and different jurisdictions. The NPM business plan is agreed by members and other decisions are taken at these meetings. This year, business meetings were held in November 2015 (Edinburgh) and just after the end of the business year in April 2016 (Belfast).

NPM chair

During this year, the NPM took forward its plans to appoint an independent chair, in order to advise and support the NPM in fulfilling its mandate. The post-holder will:

- chair NPM Steering Group meetings three to four times a year and NPM business meetings twice a year;
- support NPM members in developing and implementing NPM work and in fulfilling their NPM responsibilities;
- speak publicly on behalf of the NPM and represent the NPM at meetings with external stakeholders.

An advert for the chair was circulated and publicised in November 2015 and a panel made up of four members of the NPM steering group and one independent panel member (Professor Rachel Murray from Bristol University) sifted and interviewed candidates. At the April 2016 business

3. Deprivation of liberty legal safeguards apply only to England and Wales but organisations in Scotland and Northern Ireland visit and inspect health and social care facilities where people may be deprived of liberty.

meeting, NPM members accepted the panel's recommendation to appoint John Wadham as the new chair of the NPM. This is a significant development for the NPM. John Wadham took up the role on 12 May 2016.

Prior to the appointment of the chair, and in view of the departure of Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons (England and Wales) in February 2016, the NPM steering group proposed that David Strang, Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, act as interim chair. He carried out this role from January to May 2016.

NPM coordination

Coordination is essential to the full and effective implementation of OPCAT in the UK, given the scale and complexity of the UK NPM's unusual multi-body structure. Each NPM member has a different mandate, powers and geographical remit and sets its own priorities for detention monitoring as well as contributing to joint NPM priorities.

HMI Prisons fulfils the role of NPM coordination and this function is performed with the purpose of:

- promoting cohesion and a shared understanding of OPCAT among NPM members;
- encouraging collaboration and the sharing of information and good practice between UK NPM members;
- facilitating joint activities between members on issues of common concern;
- liaising with the SPT, other NPMs and other relevant international human rights bodies;

- sharing experience and expertise between the UK NPM and NPMs in other states;
- representing the NPM as a whole to government and other stakeholders in the UK;
- preparing the annual report and other publications.

The coordination function, activities and governance of the NPM are overseen by a steering group of five NPM members who meet regularly and are representative of members in all four nations of the UK and the different remits of organisations that make up the NPM.

NPM steering group

The NPM steering group supports decision-making between business meetings, and develops the NPM business plan and proposals to members.

The steering group met three times during the year (May, September, and February).

In November 2015, HMIC ended its term on the steering group and was replaced by ICVA. At the same time, RQIA and HMIPS were re-elected for a second term. As of March 2016, the NPM steering group membership was as follows:

- Peter Clarke, HMI Prisons
- Theresa Nixon, RQIA
- David Strang, HMIPS
- Kevin Barker, CSSIW
- Katie Kempen, ICVA

NPM sub-groups

The NPM's three sub-groups continued to function throughout the year.

The Scottish sub-group, which coordinates NPM activities in Scotland, provides support to NPM members, raises the profile of the work of the NPM and improves liaison with the Scottish Government, met twice during the year. It is chaired by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland.

The mental health network, which brings together the different members who have a specialist interest in areas relevant to mental health detention in the UK, met twice during the year. This sub-group provides an opportunity for organisations with responsibilities for the monitoring and protection of people in health and social care detention settings to work collaboratively on issues with specific mental health impacts. It was chaired by the Care Quality Commission.

The NPM sub-group focused on children and young people in detention, chaired by staff from the Children's Commissioner for England, continued to serve as a mechanism for NPM members to exchange information and intelligence, and to consider joint work on issues affecting detained children. It met four times during the year.

The situation in detention during the year

Children in detention

The number of children in custody has continued to fall steadily across the UK.⁴ In England and Wales, the number of arrests of children fell by 13% between March 2014 and March 2015.⁵ However, NPM members report that children are spending longer in prison and are increasingly vulnerable. Between the years ending March 2010 and March 2015 in England and Wales, incidents of self-harm, use of restraints and assaults all increased substantially relative to the size of the detained population.⁶ In addition, while the overall custodial population has fallen, the over-representation of black and minority ethnic young people has increased.⁷ Inspections found four of the five young offender institutions (YOI) in England and Wales were 'not sufficiently good' with regards to safety. Though outcomes in areas of respect and resettlement were generally better, outcomes for children generally needed to be improved. Significant concerns were also raised from the inspections of two secure training centres (STC), particularly around staff conduct and safety for children. In contrast, in Scotland members saw impressive progress in the custody of young people on their

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4. Custody is meant here as children on remand or sentenced. Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (August 2016) *Youth Custody Data*, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data> [accessed 01/11/2016]. In Northern Ireland, figures from Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre (the only facility for children in the prison estate) have fallen from 211 in 2012-13 to 163 in 2015-16. In Scotland, the average number of under 18s in custody has decreased by 72% from 223 in 2006 to 62 in 2015: <http://www.gov.scot/publications/2015/12/5123> [accessed 01/11/16].
 5. Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (January 2016) *Youth justice annual statistics: 2014 to 2015*, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-annual-statistics-2014-to-2015> [accessed 01/11/16].
 6. The number of incidents of self-harm per 100 children detained per month has risen from 5.3 to 7.7; the equivalent increase for use of restraints is 17.6 to 28.2; and for assaults, from 9 to 16.2. Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (January 2015) *Youth justice annual statistics: 2014 to 2015*, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics> [accessed 01/11/16].
 7. In the year ending March 2010, 27% of children in custody were from a minority ethnic background; by the year ending March 2016, that proportion had risen to 41%. Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (January 2015) *ibid.*

inspections, with the introduction of greater support to maintain family links, as well as positive outcomes found for many, although improvement in health care was needed.

Medway Secure Training Centre

In January 2016 the BBC broadcast a Panorama programme which depicted, in undercover footage, the abuse of children by staff at Medway STC. As a result the centre, which had been run by G4S, was put under the direct responsibility of the National Offender Management Service. Several staff members involved in the abuse and neglect were dismissed, and 12 were arrested. Criminal investigations are ongoing. NPM members carried out inspections shortly after the abuse came to light, not least because of concerns that previous inspections may not have picked up on the serious issues illustrated in the documentary. In these visits NPM monitors adopted a new approach to ensure all key issues were considered and all young people and staff were able to express their views. This new approach has since been reflected in revised methodologies for STC inspection. The case highlights the importance of continually refining inspection methodology and has been discussed in detail within the NPM. A number of failings were found during the re-inspection of Medway, and the government established an Improvement Board, following recommendations from NPM members, to monitor improvement and ensure recommendations are implemented.

Health and social care detentions

Detentions under the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 in England continued to rise for reasons that were unclear. During 2014–15 there were 58,399 detentions under the MHA, an increase of 5,223 (or 9.8%) compared with 2013–14 (53,176).⁸ This continued a trend of rising numbers of detentions in previous years. In the second half of 2014–15, 35% of the mental health inpatient population was detained under the MHA. Although the increasing number of detained patients has been a gradual change, it is a significant shift from the past patterns of use of compulsion in mental health law, with 5% of inpatients being detained in the 1970s and 8% on average by the mid-1990s.⁹

Reflecting patterns across the UK, in Scotland the number of episodes of detention under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act continued to rise. In 2015–16 there were 2,193 episodes of emergency detention (which can last up to 72 hours), a rise of 9.3% on the previous year, and of 22.8% since 2011–12. There was a rise of 2.6% in short-term detention (up to 28 days) and the total number of new compulsory treatment orders (up to six months) rose by 8% to 1,366.

In Wales the number of applications for deprivation of liberty safeguards saw a 16-fold increase on the previous year, from 631 applications in 2013–14, to 10,679 applications made between April 2014 and March 2015. This is partly due to the ongoing effects of an expansion of the legal definition of ‘deprivation of liberty’ in 2014. There was

8. Data from Health and Social Care Information Centre (2015) *Inpatients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983, and patients subject to supervised community treatment: Uses of the Mental Health Act: Annual Statistics, 2014/15*, available at: <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB18803/inp-det-m-h-a-1983-sup-com-eng-14-15-rep.pdf> [accessed 01/11/16].
9. On 31 December 1975, there were 146,718 patients resident in mental health and learning disability hospitals, of which 7,680 were detained under the MHA 1959. *Review of the Mental Health Act 1959, Cmnd 7320*, p.103. The 1990s data is taken from Hoggett, B (1996) *Mental Health Law*. Fourth Edition. London: Sweet & Maxwell, p.8.

also a continued concern across the NPM that there are places of 'de facto' detention which are not subject to any inspection or monitoring regime. In all parts of the UK there is a need for the relevant inspectorates to consider how they can help to provide assurance about outcomes for those people living in supported accommodation. While the agencies providing care and support in these settings are subject to regulation and inspection, the settings are not.

Immigration detention

The number of people held in immigration detention continued to rise. In the year ending March 2016 there were 32,163 people entering immigration detention, which constituted a 16% increase of people in detention centres compared with the previous year.¹⁰ In contrast the number of children entering detention has fallen by 90% over the last five years, and in this reporting period was 24% lower than the previous year.¹¹

NPM members reported concerns about the prison-like environment in many adult immigration removal centres (IRCs), dysfunctional and inconsistent use of the Rule 35 process (intended to protect those who have been tortured or trafficked, among others who may be particularly vulnerable) in all IRCs, and inadequate safeguarding processes at Yarl's Wood IRC, which holds women. During the year ending March 2016 32,610 people left detention, and of these, 63% had been in detention for less than 29 days. However, members remained concerned about the detainees experiencing prolonged and indefinite detention.

Longport Freight Shed

During an inspection of the short-term immigration detention facilities at Dover Seaport in summer 2015, HMI Prisons inspectors found a freight shed that was being used for the short-term detention of migrants. Migrants arriving clandestinely to the UK through the Channel Tunnel were being detained in Longport Freight Shed in Folkestone before being moved to a holding room in Dover or Frontier House. Home Office staff told inspectors that the freight shed was not a place of detention, but after insisting on seeing the facility, inspectors found that the people held there were not free to leave and had been issued with legal authority to detain documents. Inspectors were concerned by the wholly unacceptable environment in which people were held. Though the majority of detainees spent less than 12 hours there, the longest period was 21 hours and 25 minutes, and this was the detention of an unaccompanied child. Over 500 people were held in the freight shed over a period of one month, including 90 children. Inspectors noted that detainees had insufficient food and that conditions lacked decency and were unhygienic. While it was clear that there was a strain on infrastructure in the area during a period when there had been a significant increase in the numbers of migrants arriving from France, the inspection of this facility took place months after this increase had begun, and showed that contingency planning by those responsible had not gone far enough, quickly enough. The facility has since closed.

10. These are the figures for immigration removal centres but do not include those held under immigration powers in non-residential short-term holding facilities, police stations, or those held in prisons under immigration act powers. Home Office National Statistics (May 2016) *Immigration statistics January to March 2016, Detention*, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2016> [accessed 01/11/16].

11. 110 children were held in immigration detention in the reporting period. Home Office National Statistics (May 2016) *ibid*.

Police custody

NPM members in England and Wales reported some progress in making more efficient use of custody suites, as the number of people detained in police custody as a place of safety under section 136 of the MHA and the number of child arrests continued to fall.¹² However, improvements were inconsistent across regions and the welfare of vulnerable people in custody remained a concern. In England and Wales members reported that vulnerable people, such as children and people with mental health issues, were too often in custody not because they had committed a crime but because they were a risk to themselves, which could have been avoided if alternative arrangements had been made available by the relevant agencies.¹³

Other recurring concerns identified across the UK included: risks relating to the use of force, the variable quality of risk assessments in custody, and the large overrepresentation and proportionally worse outcomes of black and minority ethnic groups in custody.

Prison

Continuing from last year, a decline in outcomes for prisoners in England and Wales was of great concern to NPM members, who also found a surge in incidents of violence. During 2015 there were 22,195 recorded assaults in prisons, an increase of 31% from the previous year, while incidents of serious assaults went up by 26%.¹⁴

In the reporting period there were over 34,586 reported incidents of self-harm, an increase of 27%, with a 22% increase in the number of individuals self-harming. There were 105 self-inflicted deaths in prison, a 28% increase.¹⁵

The growing prevalence of new/novel psychoactive substances (NPS) was identified by inspectors as the most serious threat to the safety and security of the prison system at the moment.¹⁶ These synthetic substances, formerly known as ‘legal highs’,¹⁷ were linked not only to violence and the related debt and bullying, but also to serious illness, self-inflicted deaths and life changing self-harm.¹⁸

12. See National Police Chiefs Council (2016) *Use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in 2015–16 (England and Wales)* and Howard League (October 2016) ‘Child arrests in England and Wales fall by 59% in five years’, available at <http://howardleague.org/news/childarrests2015/> [accessed 22/11/16].

13. HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (March 2015) *The welfare of vulnerable people in police custody*, available at: <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/publications/the-welfare-of-vulnerable-people-in-police-custody/> [accessed 01/11/16].

14. There were 2,953 recorded serious assaults from March 2015–16. See Ministry of Justice (July 2016) *Safety in Custody Statistics Bulletin: March 2016*, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/safety-in-custody-quarterly-update-to-june-2016> [accessed 01/11/16].

15. Ministry of Justice (July 2016) *ibid.*

16. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales (December 2015) *Changing patterns of substance misuse in adult prisons and service responses*, available at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/inspections/changing-patterns-of-substance-misuse-in-adult-prisons-and-service-responses/> [accessed 01/11/16].

17. Spice and other NPS were unclassified in UK law until May 2016 when the Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect, therefore they were technically legal though never allowed within detention settings.

18. Prison and Probation Ombudsman (July 2016) *Learning Lessons Bulletin: New Psychoactive Substances*, available at: http://www.ppo.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/LLB_FII-Issue-9_NPS_Final.pdf#view=FitH [accessed 01/11/2016].

In contrast with much of the men's prison estate, general outcomes for prisoners in the women's estate remained reasonably good. However the high number of self-inflicted deaths in the women's estate in England and Wales gave cause for concern. In the 12 months to June 2016 there were 11 self-inflicted deaths, accounting for more than 10% of all self-inflicted deaths in the period, despite women representing less than 5% of the prison population. In addition, two transgender women held in men's prisons also killed themselves during the year.¹⁹ Women also continued to have much higher rates of self-harm than men.²⁰ The closure of the London women's prison Holloway was announced in November 2015.

In Scotland members saw a year of relative stability in inspected establishments, though there were also concerns about NPS use.²¹ In Northern Ireland an inspection highlighted significant concerns at the high security Maghaberry prison.

Maghaberry Prison

In May 2015 CJINI, HMI Prisons, RQIA and the Education and Training Inspectorate for Northern Ireland conducted an unannounced inspection of Maghaberry Prison. Their report was highly critical and detailed significant failures in the prison, which holds separated paramilitary prisoners from Loyalist and Republican backgrounds as well as others. The prison was in crisis, with leadership failing to ensure safety and stability, to the extent that inspectors were concerned that serious disorder or loss of life could occur if the issues identified were not addressed urgently. Inspectors were concerned that the repercussions of operating a separated regime at Maghaberry were having a significant negative impact on the daily life for the 900-plus men who represent the majority of its population. Given the severity of their concerns, inspectors returned for a follow-up inspection in January 2016. They found that many of the issues within the prison had stabilised, but there was still significant work to be done.

19. HM Inspectorate of Prisons (July 2016) *Annual Report 2015-16*, available at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/inspections/annual-report-2015-2016/> [accessed 01/11/16].

20. There were 7,781 incidents of self-harm by female prisoners in the year up to March 2016, at a rate of 2,034 self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners, compared to 328 incidents per 1,000 male prisoners. See NOMS (July 2016) *Safety in Custody Statistics Bulletin, Deaths in prison custody to June 2016, Assaults and Self-harm to March 2016*, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics> [accessed 01/11/16].

21. HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (February 2016), *Report on the inspection of HMP Open Estate*, paragraph 4.13, available at <https://www.prisoninspectorscotland.gov.uk/publications/report-hmp-open-estate-22-29-february-2016> [accessed 22/11/16].

Political context, legislative and policy developments

The UK's general election on 7 May 2015 resulted in a return to power for the Conservative government. In Scotland, the Scottish National Party gained 50 new seats in the Westminster parliament, winning all but three constituencies.

At the State Opening of Parliament on 27 May, HM the Queen announced her government's legislative proposals, which included plans to devolve wide-ranging powers to Scotland and Northern Ireland, and to renegotiate the country's relationship with the European Union.

The Queen also announced plans to bring forward proposals for a 'British Bill of Rights' and to 'improve the law on policing and criminal justice'.²² It was subsequently reported that a Bill of Rights would be 'fast-tracked' into law by the summer of 2016, with consultations starting in the autumn of 2015, but to date no proposals or consultation documents have been published.

The year was notable for the number of reviews underway or concluded that examined aspects of detention policy or practice, all of which led to significant recommendations for change.

This was particularly evident with regard to the issue of deprivation of liberty in health and social care settings. In December 2015, the Scottish government announced a

review of Adults with Incapacity Legislation and deprivation of liberty, following on from the Scottish Law Commission's report of October 2014.²³

The Law Commission (England and Wales) announced its own review of the law of mental capacity and deprivation of liberty in July 2015. This responded to the widespread criticism of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) for being overly complex and excessively bureaucratic, as well as the 2014 Supreme Court case of *P v. Cheshire West and Chester Council* which required far greater numbers of people to be dealt with under the DoLS system than previously.

In November 2015, Northern Ireland Health Minister Simon Hamilton announced significant changes to the structure and governance of health services in Northern Ireland, in response to the review of the health service conducted by Sir Liam Donaldson published earlier in the year. In January 2016 an expert panel was set up to 'lead the debate on the optimal configuration of health and social care services in Northern Ireland'.²⁴

A significant milestone for policy relating to immigration detention was the publication in January 2016 of an independent review into the welfare in immigration detention of vulnerable persons, commissioned by the Home Secretary and led by Stephen Shaw, the former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.²⁵ This review looked at Home Office policies and operating procedures that have an impact on the welfare

22. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-speech-2015> [accessed 01/11/16].

23. <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/12/8931> [accessed 01/11/16].

24. <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/hamilton-appoints-expert-panel-lead-debate-delivering-world-class-health-and-social-care> [accessed 01/11/16].

25. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-into-the-welfare-in-detention-of-vulnerable-persons> [accessed 1/11/16].

of immigration detainees. Among his many recommendations, Stephen Shaw recommended that the presumption against detention should be extended to victims of rape and sexual or gender-based violence, those with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, transsexual people and those with learning difficulties. He called for an absolute exclusion on the detention of pregnant women. He also recommended improvements in the provision of health and mental health care in immigration detention and to the processes for carrying out detention reviews. Stephen Shaw also called for the closure or change of use of The Cedars, a pre-departure unit for families on the grounds that it was a 'misdirection of public money that could be better used for other purposes'.

Also in January 2016, the report of an independent investigation into the overall culture and practices at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre, and the impact of these on the wellbeing and welfare of its residents, was published. This report was commissioned by Serco, which runs Yarl's Wood, after a series of allegations and concerns had been raised, including in the reports of NPM members.²⁶ The report found there was no endemic culture of abuse at Yarl's Wood but did identify a range of serious concerns relating to staffing arrangements, including capacity, training and the proportion of female officers. It also identified concerns with the physical environment, the availability of meaningful activities, weaknesses in safeguarding and

inconsistent policies and underdeveloped practice in relation to raising concerns and whistle-blowing, which echoed NPM members' findings in the previous year.

Significant proposals for prison reform in England and Wales emerged during the year. Soon after taking office, the then Secretary of State for Justice Michael Gove announced reviews of provision of prison education,²⁷ Islamist extremism in prisons, probation and youth justice.²⁸ He appointed people to lead these reviews in September 2015.

The interim report of the review of the youth justice system was published in February 2016. This called for a 'fundamental change to the current youth custody system'.²⁹ To do this, the report recommended that policy-makers reconceive youth prisons as 'secure schools', with greater autonomy and flexibility for head teachers to commission services. The review also called for greater devolution of responsibility and delivery of youth justice to local areas.

Following a period of consultation, in June 2015 the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in Scotland announced the development of a new national prison for women with 80 places on the current site of HMP Cornton Vale, alongside five smaller community-based custodial units, each accommodating up to 20 women.

A Policing and Crime Bill was introduced to Parliament in February 2016, and this contained provisions that will preclude police

26. <http://www.verita.net/case-study/independent-investigation-concerns-yarls-wood-immigration-removal-centre/> [accessed 01/11/16].

27. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-in-prison> [accessed 01/11/16].

28. A summary of the final report of this review was published in August 2016, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/islamist-extremism-in-prisons-probation-and-youth-justice> [accessed 01/11/16].

29. Ministry of Justice (9 February 2016) *Review of the Youth Justice System: An interim report of emerging findings*, available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498736/youth-justice-review.pdf [accessed 01/11/16].

stations being used as a place of safety for children under the exercise of powers within section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.³⁰ In England the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat (2014)³¹ and in Wales the Crisis Care Mental Health Concordat (2015)³² aimed to address issues of vulnerable people, such as children and people with mental health issues, being held in custody.

Specific recommendations for changing the inspection and monitoring arrangements for education in prisons and youth custody were made in these reviews, which were under consideration by NPM members at the end of the reporting year.

In February 2014, the then Justice Secretary announced an independent review of self-inflicted deaths in custody of young adults to be chaired by Lord Harris. The review reported in July 2015 and concluded that ‘the same problems are being reported from so many different sources and over such a long period of time [...] the lessons are clearly not being learned, and not enough has been done to bring about substantive change’ and made a large number of recommendations to address this. Of particular note was the contention that all young adults in custody should be viewed as vulnerable and the review recommendation that all young adults aged 18–24 should be accommodated in small units with specialist staff. Youth offending teams should be required to maintain contact with children transferred from the under 18 estate

for a minimum of six months – longer if they are vulnerable (up to 21 or 24 years old).³³ Arrangements should be made for particularly vulnerable young adults to remain in the children’s estate if deemed in their best interests. The government indicated that these proposals would be considered in the context of the youth justice review and consideration of wider reforms of the prison estate.³⁴

Subsequently, in February 2016, a ‘wholesale reform’ of prison policy in England and Wales was announced by the Prime Minister.³⁵ At the heart of this reform was the plan to give greater financial and operational autonomy to governors and ‘remove the bureaucratic micromanagement that disempowers them’. Six ‘reform prisons’ would be created to take this approach forward and ‘prison league tables’ would be introduced to encourage comparisons between different institutions. Significantly, the Prime Minister announced that a Prisons Bill would be introduced in the next session of Parliament. The last Prisons Act in England and Wales dates back to 1952, making this an important opportunity to update the basic legislation governing prisons.

Further reviews were underway at the end of the reporting year. In July 2015 the Home Secretary announced that an independent review into deaths and serious incidents in police custody would be led by Dame Elish Angiolini.³⁶ In January 2016, the Prime Minister announced a

30. http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0134/cbill_2015-20160134_en_1.htm [accessed 01/11/16].

31. <http://www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk/> [accessed 22/11/16].

32. <http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/151210reporten.pdf> [accessed 22/11/16].

33. <http://iapdeathsincustody.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Harris-Review-Report2.pdf> [accessed 01/11/16].

34. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486564/gov-response-harris-review.pdf [accessed 01/11/16].

35. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prison-reform-prime-ministers-speech> [accessed 01/11/16].

36. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-chair-for-deaths-in-custody-review> [accessed 01/11/16].

review of racial bias and black and minority ethnic representation in the criminal justice system.³⁷ A concordat on children in custody was drafted during the year, aiming to reduce the number of children held overnight in custody and to ensure that police forces meet their duties regarding children in custody.

Scrutiny with a specific focus on vulnerable persons in detention came during the year. The Equality and Human Rights Commission published its *Preventing Deaths in Detention of Adults with Mental Health Conditions* report, calling for the establishment of structured approaches for learning lessons from deaths in prisons, police custody and health detention in order to implement improvements for previous deaths and near misses.³⁸

In March 2016, the Court of Appeal overturned a ruling that a compulsory, immediate ban on smoking in prisons in England and Wales should be introduced on the grounds that the ban on smoking in public places does not apply to state prisons and other crown premises. Bans had already come into place in January 2016 in Welsh prisons. In response, the Ministry of Justice stated that it still intended to roll out voluntary controls on smoking in prisons as a matter of policy.

In July 2015, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) announced its plans to focus its future international human rights work around three new themes: democratic values and the rule of law; strengthening the rules-based international system; and human rights for a stable world.³⁹ Concerns were raised in some quarters that these three themes could undermine the FCO's previous stated focus on promoting torture prevention, but the FCO confirmed its continuing commitment to this work within the new themes.

It was announced in September 2015 that a commercial arm of the National Offender Management Service, Just Solutions international (JSi), which sold expertise in prisons and probation around the world, would be closed. Created in 2012, JSi aimed to make a commercial return on work contracted from overseas governments. There had been significant media interest and a judicial review of JSi's planned work training prison officers in Saudi Arabia. Despite initial indications that this work would continue if the bid for it were awarded, on the grounds that it would be detrimental to the UK's interests if it did not, the bid was withdrawn in October 2015. This case raised considerable interest in the UK government's role working with governments of countries where torture is known to be committed. The National Audit Office conducted an inquiry into the closure of JSi and found that it had made a net loss of £1.1million over its lifetime.⁴⁰

37. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-of-racial-bias-and-bame-representation-in-criminal-justice-system-announced> [accessed 01/11/16].

38. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/preventing-deaths-detention-adults-mental-health-conditions-report> [accessed 01/11/16].

39. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2015/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2015> [accessed 01/11/16].

40. <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Investigation-into-Just-Solutions.pdf> [accessed 01/11/16].

New legislation

New legislation adopted and enacted during the year brought changes to many aspects of detention.

- The Northern Ireland **Mental Capacity Bill** passed through the Northern Ireland Assembly over the course of the year, and was officially approved on 15 March 2016.⁴¹ This pioneering law introduces to Northern Ireland for the first time a legal framework governing capacity and incapacity, which is based on a presumption of capacity and requires decisions to be made based on a person's best interests. It is the first law anywhere in the world to fuse mental health and mental capacity law. Further work will be required to develop a code of practice focusing on the requirements set out by the legislation.
- The **Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015** received royal assent on 4 August 2015. It introduces a new right for patients in medium secure hospitals to appeal against being detained in conditions of excessive security.
- The **Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016** received royal assent in January 2016 and made changes to procedures for the arrest and detention of people suspected of having committed a crime. It makes provisions relating to arrest, the period of custody, investigative liberation, legal advice, questioning and the rights of suspects. The legislation is not yet in force.
- The **Psychoactive Substances Act 2015** was given royal assent on 28 January 2016 and introduced new offences for production and supply of psychoactive substances, and a specific offence for possession on custodial premises. The draft legislation had been criticised by the government's own Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for, among other issues, its definition of a psychoactive substance, which failed to distinguish between potentially harmful and harmless substances.⁴²
- The **Social Care and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014** came into effect in April 2016 and is intended to transform social services in Wales. It provides a legal framework for improving the wellbeing of people who need care and support and carers who need support.
- The **Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016** became law in January 2016. This law will have significant implications for Welsh NPM members and will begin to be implemented in April 2017. NPM members are working closely to help shape the code of practice that will be drafted to implement the law so that it supports their aims and objectives and ensures NPM responsibilities are recognised.
- The **Public Services Reform (Inspection and Monitoring of Prisons) (Scotland) Order 2015** came into force on 31 August 2015. Under this legislation, responsibility for monitoring prisons has passed to HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland and responsibility for monitoring legalised police cells has moved to Independent Custody Visitors in Scotland.

41. The Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 received Royal Assent on 9 May 2016.

42. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441400/2-7-15-ACMD_advice_on_PS_Bill.pdf [accessed 01/11/16].

International developments

After several years of revisions and negotiations, the UN General Assembly adopted a revised version of the Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners on 17 December 2015, which was agreed to be named 'The Nelson Mandela Rules'. This significant development updates the original document adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council in 1957, and reflects many of the developments in human rights standards in prisons since then.

In August 2015, the UN Human Rights Committee published its Concluding Observations from its review of the UK's progress in implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In its wide-ranging conclusions, the Committee called on the government to ensure that any legislation passed in lieu of the Human Rights Act 1998 is aimed at strengthening the status and protections of international human rights in the domestic legal order. Specifically relating to detention, the Committee called for measures to prevent self-inflicted deaths and self-harm in custody and the establishment of a statutory time limit on the duration of immigration detention. In relation to youth justice, the Committee reiterated its recommendation that the UK raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in line with international standards, and also recommended that efforts be made to reduce the number of children in the juvenile justice system. Finally, the Committee reiterated its previous recommendation that legislation denying any convicted prisoner the right to vote be amended.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture published a report examining the unique experiences of women, girls and LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) detainees and how the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in international law applied to them. This important report reflects the fact that the international framework relating to torture and ill-treatment evolved largely in response to practices and situations that disproportionately affected men, thereby failing to have a gendered or intersectional lens.⁴³

43. United Nations General Assembly (5 January 2016) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment*, A/HRC/31/57, available at: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/57 [accessed 01/11/16].

Section two

Focus on detention issues



Isolation – guidance for NPM monitoring bodies

The NPM began work to develop comprehensive guidance to strengthen its monitoring of isolation in detention. This guidance was developed on the basis of the findings of the review of isolation and solitary confinement across detention settings conducted by NPM members in 2014–15, and draws from international and best practice. It will be published in 2016–17.

The guidance will provide a comprehensive framework that NPM members should apply when examining isolation in detention, which has the potential to give rise to ill-treatment. It aims to improve the consistency with which NPM members monitor the issues. At the same time, the guidance will allow NPM members to identify and promote good and improved practice, and will provide a basis on which to formulate recommendations to strengthen policy.

Immigration detention

In November 2015, NPM members discussed the UK's unique situation of having no statutory time limit on immigration detention. The UK has opted out of the EU Returns Directive, which sets a maximum time limit of six months (and 18 months in exceptional circumstances). This situation has been criticised by a number of international human rights bodies, including most recently the UN Human Rights Committee, which called on the UK to 'establish a statutory time limit on the duration of immigration detention and ensure that detention is a measure of last resort and is justified as reasonable, necessary and proportionate in the light of the relevant circumstances'.

The Scottish Human Rights Commission proposed that in light of the significant harm caused by indefinite detention, and considering the NPM's responsibility under OPCAT to make recommendations that take into account relevant UN standards, the NPM should take a position on the issue. Some individual NPM members have already called for there to be a time limit. As a result, NPM members agreed that the NPM should call for a time limit on immigration detention.

Section three

The NPM in 2015-16



Strengthening the NPM

The process to appoint an NPM chair began in 2014, when NPM members decided to strengthen the NPM's governance by appointing a chair from outside the NPM membership. Last year's annual report noted our disappointment that the recruitment of the chair had been delayed because of concern by the Ministry of Justice.

During this year, further frustrations arose from the NPM's attempts to reach agreement with the government on a mutually acceptable process for appointing the chair and as a result, in October 2015, the NPM steering group informed the government that it would go ahead with the recruitment of a chair via a non-executive appointment. The appointment was further delayed by the government's request to put the process on hold until after the new Chief Inspector of Prisons had taken office in February 2016, and late questions about the case for the NPM having a chair that had to be resolved.

NPM members were pleased to confirm the recruitment panel's recommended candidate, John Wadham, at the April 2016 business meeting and induction plans were put in place.

The NPM coordination continued to raise the need for the NPM to have a legislative basis through regular meetings with the Ministry of Justice throughout the year. Given the appointment of the new chair, planning of future efforts to strengthen the NPM were put on hold.

It was also disappointing that the process to designate the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism to the NPM did not reach a conclusion during the year, despite frequent attempts to help move this process along. In recognition of the delays, NPM members agreed in November 2015 that the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism should be invited to future business meetings as an observer.

As a result of stronger links being established with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and in response to their request to observe business meetings, in November 2015 Lorna MacGregor, Equality and Human Rights Commissioner, attended the NPM business meeting.

Member-specific developments

In addition to ongoing inspections, from October 2015 the **Care Inspectorate (CI)** has been leading the review of Scotland's National Care Standards alongside Healthcare Improvement Scotland, covering a wide range of settings including all care services regulated by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland. This includes secure care services for children, care homes for children and adults, and independent psychiatric hospitals. The standards will also apply to wider scrutiny work across health and social care settings and will be relevant for non-registered provision. These standards will guide the development of outcome-focused care based on human rights and individual wellbeing and will begin to roll out in April 2017. The Care Inspectorate is also reviewing its own inspection methodology to reflect these new standards.

The **Children's Commissioner for England (CCE)** conducted an inquiry into isolation within the children's custodial estate in England, resulting in the publication of a research report and a policy summary in September 2015. Following the BBC report on Medway Secure Training Centre (STC), the CCE visited each of England's three secure training centres, at the behest of the Youth Justice Board. In April 2015, a youth justice specialist was seconded to the CCE, enabling visits to be undertaken more strategically and with refined methodology. The CCE was involved in a Home Office working party convened to improve compliance, by the police and local authorities, with the statutory requirement to transfer children refused bail after charge to local authority accommodation. This led to the development of a draft concordat. It also continues to monitor the de facto detention of children in immigration settings.

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) published a number of reports, including a report of a highly critical unannounced inspection at Maghaberry Prison in May 2015. Due to its concerns it took the unprecedented step of returning to the prison in January 2016 and published a follow up report. While the situation at the prison had by then stabilised, CJINI remains concerned and continues to monitor the situation. It has also given evidence before the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Justice on Maghaberry, as well as on its final report of the Progress on Implementations of the Youth Justice Review recommendations, which were published in December 2015.

The **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** has started a number of projects aiming to better integrate and align Mental Health Act (MHA) monitoring with its regulatory activity. This includes updating its approach to visits to reflect changes in the MHA Code of Practice; implementing revised methodology for specially focused visits to ensure flexibility in responding to emerging MHA issues; and creating factsheets on both NHS and independent health care providers to address a lack of routine analysis being used to inform MHA reviewers' visits. CQC has undertaken hundreds of MHA monitoring visits and drawn the first cycle of regulatory visits under the revised methodology to a close. This year it increased OPCAT compliance when Section 90 of the Care Act 2014 amended Section 48 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, removing the requirement to gain Secretary of State approval for special reviews, thus strengthening independence.

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) continues to work in partnership with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales to monitor, inspect and improve the operation of the deprivation of liberty safeguards in Wales. As a member of the Leadership Group established by the Welsh Government in the aftermath of the Supreme Court judgement on the *P v Cheshire West and Chester Council* case in 2014, CSSIW has worked to emphasise the responsibilities of the NPM as the group considers the interim statement from the Law Commission on Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty. CSSIW has begun the implementation of new frameworks for inspections of local authority

social services and regulated services, a framework that now explicitly includes the Inspectorate's obligations under OPCAT to consider the extent to which the care and support provided helps to secure rights and entitlements for people.

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW)

continues to inspect and regulate hospitals with detained patients and has undertaken long-term training of staff in key areas of mental health and detention. The additional training has focused on aspects of the Mental Health Act 1983, including section 136, and the various statutory functions of the Mental Health Act review service, including the Second Opinion Appointed Doctor (SOAD). Training has also been provided on the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010. Over 2015-16 HIW commenced, for the first time, a programme of monitoring the implementation of the 1983 Mental Health Act for Patients in the Community on Community Treatment Orders (CTOs). HIW undertook three visits to Cwm Taf, Cardiff and the Vale and Aneurin Bevan health boards and plans to continue extending this work over the next period.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) continued to deliver a rolling programme of custody inspections, and improve its independence and OPCAT compliance by ensuring that police officers seconded to work with HMICS do not form part of the custody inspection team. In all its inspections HMICS continued to consider solitary confinement, addressing factors that mitigate the negative effects

of confinement in its reports. In late 2015 HMICS commenced a review of its custody inspection framework, ensuring it takes into account the Equality and Human Rights Commission's human rights framework for adults in detention, which followed the *Preventing deaths in detention of adults with mental health conditions* inquiry. HMICS has also begun to monitor Fatal Accident Inquiries into deaths in police custody to ensure that any learning is reflected in the framework and general inspection methodology. In early 2016, HMICS conducted a significant review of all of the recommendations it has made since the creation of Police Scotland in 2013, which resulted in a number of recommendations and improvement actions being discharged. This review noted improvements in some aspects of custody delivery, although more needs to be done.

Following The Public Services Reform (Inspection and Monitoring of Prisons) (Scotland) Order 2015, **Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS)** assumed responsibility for the everyday monitoring of prisons in Scotland, which is undertaken by around 150 volunteer Independent Prison Monitors through weekly visits. An Independent Prison Monitoring Advisory Group has been established to oversee and support the effectiveness of prison monitoring, which is chaired by a member of the Scottish Human Rights Commission. In March 2015 HMIPS revised its standards for the inspection of prisons in Scotland, which both the inspectors and monitors use in the performance of their respective roles.

Reports from **Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons)** over the year documented a serious decline in safety and purposeful activity outcomes. HMI Prisons published 75 inspection reports, which included a report on the prison and police custody facilities in the Cayman Islands. Thematic reports were published on the changing patterns of substance misuse in adult prisons and on the early implementation of the new system for behaviour management and restraint of children in custody.⁴⁴ The first system-wide inspection of the Close Supervision Centres (a form of administrative segregation or 'deep custody') was conducted. HMI Prisons agreed a new set of Expectations (inspection standards) for its joint inspections of police custody with HMIC. In January 2016, the then Chief Inspector of Prisons raised concerns about the process by which spending controls were being applied to the Inspectorate's work and the consequence these had for its independence.⁴⁵ In February 2016, Nick Hardwick's term in office as HM Chief Inspector of Prisons ended and a new Chief Inspector, Peter Clarke, was appointed for a term of three years.⁴⁶

The **Independent Monitoring Boards** have been subject to two reviews of their role and governance in the last two years. This year, a full review of governance was conducted with the aim of reorganising the IMBs' management structure to make it more akin to a Non-Departmental Government Body. In January 2016, the IMBs published a new National Monitoring Framework, to set standards for monitoring activities within Boards and increase compliance

with OPCAT, the Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules. This Framework will ensure greater consistency of monitoring and more incisiveness in reporting on the fair and humane treatment of detainees. Further guidance has been issued to align Monitoring Boards' annual reports with this framework, focusing on three questions: are prisoners treated fairly; are prisoners treated humanely; are prisoners prepared well for their release. The IMBs continue to liaise with HMI Prisons and the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman under their joint protocol on reprisals. A number of investigations have taken place during the year, with IMBs providing evidence on cases reported under the protocol.

This year the **Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA)** conducted a restructure and a review of governance, intended to improve sharing of good practice and joint learning in the future. It has continued to support Police and Crime Commissioners and Independent Custody Visitors (ICV), and worked on communications internally and externally, including building a social media presence, and organising a National Conference attended by hundreds of volunteers. It also started collating national data on the number of visits, key themes and issues raised by custody visitors in order to inform national projects and stakeholders. Custody visitors undertook over 9,400 custody visits across England and Wales in 2015–16, interviewing over 30,000 detainees and monitoring whether their rights and entitlements were granted, their health and wellbeing was safeguarded and the conditions and facilities of detention were adequate.

44. <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/inspections/changing-patterns-of-substance-misuse-in-adult-prisons-and-service-responses/> [accessed 01/11/16] and <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/inspections/behaviour-management-and-restraint-of-children-in-custody/> [accessed 01/11/16].

45. <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/Justice/Letter%20dated%201%20Dec%20Nick%20Hardwick%20to%20Richard%20Heaton.pdf> [accessed 01/11/16].

46. Justice Committee (November 2015) *Appointment of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons and HM Chief Inspector of Probation*, available at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmjust/624/62402.htm> [accessed 01/11/16].

Independent Custody Visitors Scotland (ICVS) continued to visit Police Scotland custody estates, with the volunteers completing nearly 1,500 unannounced visits in the period. ICVS welcomed an increase in both the number of detainees to whom it was able to offer visits (up 6.13%) and detainees accepting visits (up 1.09%) on the previous year. ICVS gained the new responsibility of monitoring legalised police cells (LPCs) from August 2015. LPCs are police cells which have been 'legalised' to hold prisoners either awaiting trial locally, returning from prison for sentencing, or pending transfer to prison following conviction. They derive from the inaccessibility of the Scottish courts in outlying districts and islands. The National Manager and Regional Coordinators have developed bespoke training in preparation for the implementation of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016. This will be delivered to all volunteer custody visitors prior to the Act coming into force.

Independent Monitoring Boards Northern Ireland (IMBNI) continued to work as voluntary independent observers for all aspects of the prison regime in Northern Ireland.

Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWCS) undertook visits to all of the intensive psychiatric care units in Scotland, and all of the learning disability inpatient assessment units, with a focus on solitary confinement and isolation. This resulted in two national reports and MWCS now expects all psychiatric units where seclusion may be used to have seclusion policies in

place. A joint report by the MWCS and the Scottish Human Rights Commission, *Human rights in mental health care in Scotland*, was published in September.⁴⁷ MWCS also completed a piece of work called *Emergency detention certificates without mental health officer consent*, which analyses the use of emergency detention certificates that have been granted without the consent of a mental health officer (a specially trained social worker in Scotland), and which allow the detention of people in hospital for up to 72 hours.⁴⁸

Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) published a revised framework for the joint inspection of secure training centres (STC) which introduced two new separate judgements on the health of young people and the effectiveness of leaders and managers. Since publication two STC inspections have been undertaken and additional bespoke unannounced inspections were carried out in all three secure training centres in light of concerns about Medway STC. The implementation of new Children's Homes Regulations on 1 April 2015, which included new quality standards, has strengthened Ofsted's capacity to drive improvement in children's homes. This complemented the simultaneous launch of a new Ofsted inspection framework for children's homes. The methodology for inspecting England's secure children's homes (SCH) is incorporated within this wider framework, making it clear that establishments are primarily homes for children and young people, regardless of their secure nature.

47. MWCS and SHRC (September 2015) *Human rights in mental health care in Scotland*, available at: www.mwscot.org.uk/about-us/latest-news/human-rights-in-mental-health-care-in-scotland/ [accessed 01/11/16].

48. MWCS (June 2016) *Emergency detention certificates without mental health officer consent*, available at: <http://www.mwscot.org.uk/about-us/latest-news/new-report-scotlands-use-of-emergency-detention-without-the-consent-of-mental-health-officers/> [accessed 01/11/16].

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) visited all 57 mental health and learning disability wards in Northern Ireland (NI) on at least one occasion during the year, conducting a total of 70 planned and responsive inspections. RQIA put in place a revised inspection methodology for these inpatient services in 2016. Additionally, under the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986, RQIA screened patient detention, assessment and holding forms, which the five Health and Social Care trusts are required to submit. During the year it examined around 10,250 forms and found an error rate of approximately 5%. As a result of RQIA intervention, the detention of 12 patients who were improperly detained was terminated. RQIA also visited children in secure accommodation, where deficiencies were identified in the quality of care provision; these were subsequently addressed by the care provider. It visited police custody suites and prisons in partnership with other relevant inspectorates, including Maghaberry Prison where it raised a number of significant concerns about health care.

Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme (NIPBICVS) continues to monitor the compliance of Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) with the Human Rights Act 1998. Following NPM recommendations, non-designated police stations in Northern Ireland came under the statutory remit of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme from May 2016. After an agreement in the last period that NIPBICVS would monitor arrests

under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, anticipating that suspects may be charged under other legislation, recommendations from the NIPBICVS report led to the PSNI carrying out a comprehensive review of 168 section 41 arrests. Custody visitors found that those held in police custody often had complex health needs and the scheme oversaw a PSNI review of health care in custody, which led to the provision of new specialist staff and other plans for improvement.

Joint working between NPM members

As well as collaborating on joint NPM thematic projects, members of the NPM collaborate on a wide range of initiatives aimed at strengthening their OPCAT compliance and detention monitoring.

This year, two new protocols were agreed between NPM members aimed at preventing and addressing any sanctions on reprisals that may occur as a result of contact with NPM monitors. In Northern Ireland, CJINI and the IMBs signed one such protocol with the Prisons Ombudsman. In England and Wales, HMI Prisons and HMIC signed a protocol focusing specifically on sanctions in police custody.

In Scotland, joint working arrangements developed over the year, with the CI and the SHRC joining HMIPS on prison inspections. MWCS and SHRC published a joint report on human rights in mental health care in Scotland.⁴⁹

49. MWCS and SHRC (September 2015) *Human rights in mental health care in Scotland*, available at: www.mwscot.org.uk/about-us/latest-news/human-rights-in-mental-health-care-in-scotland/ [accessed 01/11/16].

Submitting proposals and observations on legislation (OPCAT article 19(c))

NPM members work actively to strengthen government policy that is relevant to the detention settings they monitor and to their own functions. In addition, this year the NPM coordination submitted brief comments to the Law Commission's consultation on Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty.

Members' involvement in consultations and the development of government policy included the following:

- Ofsted, CCE and HMI Prisons made significant contributions to the Ministry of Justice review of youth justice, bringing their inspection evidence and experience to bear with the review team. This included recommendations to move towards the decommissioning of young offender institutions for children and a reorientation of the ethos of secure training centres.
- These organisations also engaged with the Medway Improvement Board, with a view to informing the Board's work and its final report to the Secretary of State.
- CCE and HMI Prisons both commented on a consultation about a reduction of the Youth Justice Board's budget, which had implications for the commissioning of custodial facilities for children and the roll out of a new system for restraint.
- CQC gave input to the Department of Health on the Policing and Crime Bill 2015-16, which contains a number of changes to the powers under sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, including banning the use of police cells for the detention of under-18s and reducing the maximum period of detention.
- The CI contributed to a number of consultations relevant to secure settings and deprivation of liberty within the last year, including: Community Justice Scotland (Bill) Call for Evidence (August 2015); Proposals for the creation of an offence of wilful neglect or ill-treatment with regard to services for children under the age of 18; Consultation on working together for people who go missing in Scotland (November 2015); Consultation on the Scottish Law Commission Report on Adults with Incapacity (March 2016); Consultation on the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007: Sections 35(2) and (3), (March 2016); Consultation on the implementation of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015 and Associated Regulations (Part 1), (May 2016); Consultation on Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014: Part 1, Children's Rights Reporting and Part 3 Children's Services Planning (June 2016); Review of learning disability and autism in Scottish mental health law – a scoping consultation (July 2016). In its response to a consultation on further extension of coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to more organisations in September 2015, the CI agreed with the proposals to extend freedom of information coverage to privately managed prisons subcontracted to carry out work for the Scottish Prison Service, and to all five current secure accommodation services for children.
- HMIPS contributed to the Scottish Government consultation on the presumption against short sentences, supporting the extension of the presumption for sentences up to 12 months.

- ICVA contributed its experience and evidence to the Independent Review into Deaths in Custody, presenting both a written submission and taking part in an interview.
- HIW and CSSIW worked closely with the Welsh Government to inform and influence the shape of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act as noted above.
- HIW also commented on: the Law Commission’s consultation on Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty; The Revised Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice for Wales; Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan (2016–2019); and the Mental Health Crises Care Concordat.
- The Northern Ireland Policing Board responded to a consultation from the Northern Ireland Assembly’s Justice Committee in relation to the Justice No.2 Bill. It was also invited to appear before the Justice Committee and gave evidence in respect of HMP Maghaberry and the recent negative report by HMI Prisons.
- MWCS prepared briefings and commented on amendments at different stages in the passage of the Mental Health (Scotland) Bill. It also gave input into the Scottish Law Commission’s consultation on adults with incapacity, and the SLC’s draft bill. MWCS also proposed priorities to the Scottish Government for the new mental health strategy which is being developed. These included an increased focus on a rights-based approach to mental health care and treatment, and on greater parity and equity with services for physical health care in terms of the physical environment of many hospital wards and access to specific services.
- HMI Prisons made submissions to a range of consultations and inquiries, including the Home Affairs Committee Inquiry on new psychoactive substances; the Justice Committee Inquiry on young adult offenders; an updated Prison Service Order (No.1700) on reviewing and authorising continuing segregation and temporary confinement in special accommodation; the College of Policing consultation on Authorised Professional Practice on Mental Health; and a number of Home Office Detention Services Orders.
- The IMBs and HMI Prisons responded to a consultation on proposed rules governing short-term holding facilities.
- RQIA discussed the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986 with the Northern Ireland government and proposed topics that should be considered in the review of the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (NI) Order 2003.

International collaboration

The UK’s progress in implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was reviewed during the year and two NPM members, HMI Prisons and HMIC, made a submission to the review, setting out a number of areas that warranted the Human Rights Committee’s attention.⁵⁰ The Committee on the Rights of the Child also held a periodic review of the UK, and the Children’s Commissioner for England submitted evidence to this, alongside Children’s Commissioners from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Both Committees’ final concluding observations raised a number of concerns relating to

50. <http://www.nationalpreventivemechanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/UK-NPM-Submission-to-the-UN-Human-Rights-Committee.pdf> [accessed 01/11/16].

detention, which were discussed by NPM members.

Members of the UK NPM provided advice to the Council of Europe Committee for Prevention of Torture before and during its periodic visit to England and Wales at the end of the reporting year. The visit focused on assessing the conditions of detention and treatment of persons held in prisons in England, and examining the safeguards afforded to persons deprived of their liberty by the police. The visit also had a specific focus on mental health establishments in England for the first time – both inpatient adult psychiatry and medium and high secure forensic psychiatry – and examined issues relating to persons held under immigration legislation. The CPT's report is expected to be published early in 2017.

During the year the NPM was also actively involved in a number of international projects and discussions relating to NPMs. The NPM gave significant input into the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights and Bristol University Centre for Human Rights project on 'Strengthening the Follow-up on NPM recommendations in the EU', and participated in the Association for the Prevention of Torture's (APT) symposium on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons deprived of their liberty in June 2015. The NPM met informally with the Dutch and Swiss NPMs in July 2015 and January 2016 to discuss common issues relating to detention and monitoring.

The NPM coordinator was invited to participate in the United Nations Minority Forum in November 2015. She made comments on a draft set of

recommendations on minorities in the criminal justice system at an expert meeting, and delivered a speech on the UK's experience to Minority Forum delegates.

NPM members continued to exchange their experience with bodies from around the world who were interested in OPCAT implementation and detention monitoring.

- CJINI hosted a delegation from the Lebanese Inspectorate General in January 2016 who were interested in, among other things, their role as an NPM and the implementation of OPCAT. In October 2015 CJINI shared its NPM experience and working methods with a team from the Health Information and Quality Authority from the Republic of Ireland which inspects places of detention for children.
- ICVA arranged for a group of four lawyers from Fiji, accompanied by the APT, to shadow a visit to police custody in March 2016. This experience was aimed at informing their work on legal protections in Fiji.
- During the year HMI Prisons received visits from the Tokyo Bar Association, a delegation of prison officers from Ukraine, officials from the French government, the New Zealand National Commissioner in the Department of Corrections, and a group of Ugandan prison officers visiting the UK as part of a secondment with the African Prisons Project.
- The NPM coordination received a delegation from the Australian Attorney General's Office who were planning for the designation of an NPM in Australia and shared their experience of coordinating a multi-body NPM.

NPM self-assessment

As in the previous two years, this year NPM members conducted a self-assessment based on the UN SPT's 'analytical self-assessment tool for NPMs', which is designed for NPMs to examine their effectiveness and efficiency.⁵¹ This year, 16 out of 20 members completed the self-assessment, which feeds into their own efforts to strengthen their OPCAT compliance, and informs NPM business planning. Most members peer reviewed their responses within other NPM members as a means to share learning and provide constructive external review.

Members reported that they were fully compliant with 86% of the self-assessment questions, and not currently compliant with 1.8% of the questions. This shows an upward trend year on year, from 79.5% full compliance in 2013–14 and 82.8% in 2014–15; this could demonstrate increased awareness of OPCAT compliance and/or increased actual compliance. Answers to questions relating to the NPM coordination function also demonstrated steady progress.

Overall, NPM members considered themselves to be more compliant in questions relating to reporting, publishing and disseminating NPM work (full compliance 89.6%) than work relating to individual cases, including lessons learned, follow up, urgent actions procedures and reprisals (full compliance 80.6%).

Further work is needed to increase compliance with the self-assessment question relating to whether NPM members have gender-balance and adequate representation of ethnic and minority groups in their visiting teams (Q1.17). Only two members (12.5% of respondents) rated themselves as fully compliant with this question, and the remaining 14 respondents reported partial compliance. This represents a deterioration over time (last year 40% of respondents considered themselves fully compliant), which may signal increasing awareness by members of the need to do more to promote diversity within their organisations.

51. The UK NPM's self-assessment questionnaire can be found in Appendix 8 of the *Fifth Annual Report*, available at: <http://www.nationalpreventivemechanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/NPM-5th-Annual-Report-2013-14.pdf> [accessed 01/11/16]. A full write-up of the self-assessment methodology is available at: <http://www.nationalpreventivemechanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/UK-NPM-self-assessment-write-up.pdf> [accessed 01/11/16].

Section four

Looking ahead to 2016-17



The NPM has agreed the following objectives for its work in 2016-17:

- To strengthen the protection of those in detention through coordinated and collaborative work on relevant issues;
- To comply individually and collectively with the NPM mandate established by OPCAT; and
- To raise awareness of the NPM – institutionally, in the UK, and internationally.
- Work with Bristol University on projects relating to the role of volunteer visiting bodies in meeting NPM obligations, and identifying how incidents of ill-treatment are recorded and the mechanisms available to deal with them;
- Submit to the UN Committee against Torture's periodic review of the UK;
- Develop and implement plans for strengthening NPM governance and OPCAT compliance, working closely with government officials to achieve this;
- Establish a UK NPM twitter feed.

The NPM's first independent chair will take up his post early in the business year and members will spend time over the year inducting him and planning future directions for the NPM.

Specific projects that the NPM will undertake during the year include the following:

- Finalise guidance on monitoring isolation in detention;
- Undertake a detention mapping exercise to identify the number of people detained in the UK at a given time;
- Begin the NPM's next thematic project on the transitions and pathways between different types of detention, which will focus on pathways from police custody arising from mental health issues, transitions between children's and adult's custodial provision, pathways between secure mental health settings, and pathways between prisons/IRCs and mental health settings;

Section five

Appendices



Appendix I

Glossary

CAT	Convention against Torture
CCE	Office of the Children's Commissioner for England
CI	Care Inspectorate
CJINI	Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland
CPT	Committee for the Prevention of Torture (Council of Europe)
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CSC	Close supervision centre
CSSIW	Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
GOOD	Good order or discipline
HIW	Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
HMIC	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
HMICS	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland
HMI Prisons	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons
HMIPS	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
HMP	Her Majesty's Prison
ICVA	Independent Custody Visiting Association
ICVS	Independent Custody Visitors Scotland
IMB	Independent Monitoring Board
IMBNI	Independent Monitoring Boards (Northern Ireland)
IRC	Immigration removal centre
IRTL	Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation
LO	Lay Observers
MHA	Mental Health Act 1983
MWCS	Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
NIPBICVS	Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
Protected characteristics	The grounds upon which discrimination is unlawful (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2010)
PSO	Prison Service order
RQIA	Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
SHRC	Scottish Human Rights Commission

SPT	United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
SCH	Secure children's home
STC	Secure training centre
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOI	Young offender institution

Appendix II

Further information about the UK NPM

If you would like further information about the UK NPM, please contact the NPM coordinator.

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For further information about a particular member, you may wish to contact them directly.



The image used in this report is a detail from *Loneliness*, a painting by a patient at the Bracton Centre, a secure mental health unit (copyright © 2016 The Koestler Trust, all rights reserved). The Koestler Trust is a prison arts charity, inspiring offenders, secure patients and detainees to take part in the arts, work for achievement and transform their lives. For more information visit: www.koestlertrust.org.uk

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