



Independent Monitoring Board  
Annual Report 2012-13  
HMP MAGILLIGAN

## **Mission Statement**

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

## **Statement of Purpose**

Members of the Independent Monitoring Board for Magilligan Prison are appointed by the Justice Minister under Section 3 of the Treatment of Offenders Act (NI) 1968 and under the Prison Act (NI) 1953.

The Board is required to:

- visit Magilligan Prison regularly and report to the Justice Minister on the conditions of imprisonment and the treatment of offenders;
- consider requests and complaints made by prisoners to the Board;
- report matters of concern to the Governor or, in serious cases, the Justice Minister; and
- exercise certain powers that are given under the Prison and Young Offender Centre Rules (NI) 2005.

The Prison Rules further require the Board to satisfy itself as to:

- the treatment of prisoners including provision for their healthcare and other welfare while in prison;
- the facilities available to prisoners to allow them to make purposeful use of their time; and the cleanliness and adequacy of prison premises.

To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively its members have free access at any time to all prisoners and to all parts of the prison to which they are appointed. The Board shall also have reasonable access to any of the records of the prison.

## **UK NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE MECHANISM**

The Independent Monitoring Board is part of the United Kingdom National Preventative Mechanism (UK NPM) as required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

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## **CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION**

I am pleased to present the report covering the period April 2012 - March 2013 for the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) for HMP Magilligan.

I wish to thank all the members of the Board in Magilligan for their continuing work and dedication and also for their support of the Chair throughout the year. Board members give their services voluntarily so their commitment and generous giving of their time must be acknowledged. During the reporting period the Board had eleven members. One member resigned because of increased work commitments and one of the most experienced members came to the end of her appointment having served for just less than twelve years.

As reported last year the Board was concerned about the recommendation to close Magilligan prison so was delighted to hear the Justice Minister's announcement that closure was no longer definite. The Board would hope that a further announcement of a decision to retain a prison on the Magilligan site is made soon as we see it as the best option both for the medium to low risk prisoners in its care and for the local economy.

Disappointingly this report contains a number of repeat recommendations which the NIPS has not implemented despite some of them being repeated for some years. It is hoped that this year something will actually be done.

The Board holds monthly meetings during which the Governor presents his report, answers any questions and addresses any concerns of the members. In doing this, the Board wishes to acknowledge the unfailing courtesy and cooperation of the Governor. Our job is made easier by a Governor who appreciates the importance of the work of the IMB and for that I thank him.

Finally, the Board and I wish to thank the IMB Secretariat for continuing to facilitate and support our work. Their help is much appreciated.

**Thomas Kerrigan**  
**Chairperson**

## **OVERVIEW OF ESTABLISHMENT**

HMP Magilligan is a medium to low security prison which houses around 500 male prisoners serving nine years or less and a small number of life sentence prisoners. The regime focuses on addressing offending behaviour and reducing reoffending.

The majority of prisoners are housed in the three old-style H-Blocks and the dormitory-style facility of Sperrin. Alpha and Halward House are newer additions which have more modern provisions including in-cell sanitation. There is also a separate Care and Supervision Unit (CSU).

Outside the main prison wall is Foyleview which is a low security semi-open unit for selected prisoners who are nearing the end of their sentence. This accommodation comprises portacabin living quarters and the larger communal Cunningham building.

Although responsibility for the healthcare for all prisoners has been transferred to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT), the prison has an in-house Healthcare unit. On-site drug and alcohol services for prisoners with addiction problems are provided by AD:EPT working in partnership with the Trust.

Various charitable and voluntary organizations maintain a presence on the site - NIACRO provide guidance through the Jobtrack scheme for those trying to obtain a job on discharge; CRUSE provides invaluable support in dealing with bereavement issues; Barnardo's support prisoners over family issues; and Housing Rights staff brief prisoners on the complexities of obtaining housing, housing benefits and associated grants.

Spiritual and religious matters are the remit of the prison Chaplaincy Team which aims to facilitate the practice of all faiths within the prison community. Additional spiritual help is provided by Prison Fellowship.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board recommends that –

### **1 ACCOMMODATION**

- a) the H blocks should be provided with in-cell sanitation (paragraph 1.1)
- b) the retention and redevelopment of Magilligan prison (paragraph 1.6)

### **2 ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- a) stronger and more secure medication boxes should be provided as a matter of urgency (paragraph 2.3)
- b) greater efforts should be made to move towards a drug-free prison with further incentives for prisoners to be drug-free (paragraph 2.4)

### **3 CATERING AND KITCHEN**

- a) hot meals are kept hot until point of service (paragraph 3.2)

### **4 CHAPLAINCY**

- a) Bible classes are reinstated as soon as possible and that a Carol Service is held for Christmas 2013 (paragraph 4.3)

### **5 EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- a) plumbing and catering are added to the courses available to prisoners (paragraph 5.3)
- b) daily workshops are run with a minimum of closures (paragraph 5.4)
- c) education staff's views should be included as part of the Learning and Skills Review (paragraph 5.5)

### **6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

- a) relevant training is provided for prisoner representatives to the Equality and Diversity meetings (paragraph 6.1)

## **7 HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

- a) specialist clinics should be reinstated immediately (paragraph 7.2)
- b) dental services should be monitored with a view to reducing waiting times (paragraph 7.3)
- c) a purpose built safe and secure facility should be set up for prisoners with severe personality disorder (paragraph 7.4)
- d) the use of in-house facilities and technology should be considered as a way to reduce the need for outside hospital appointments (paragraph 7.6)

## **8 LIBRARY**

- a) the updating of the computer system should be a priority (paragraph 8.2)
- b) an IT technician should be retained on site (paragraph 8.2)
- c) the appointment of a full-time Librarian (paragraph 8.2)

## **9 RECEPTION AND INDUCTION**

- a) interpreters are available to foreign national prisoners when necessary (paragraph 9.3)
- b) induction staff receive training in mental health awareness (paragraph 9.4)

## **10 RESETTLEMENT**

- a) the Personal Officer Scheme should be reinstated (paragraph 10.3)
- b) NIPS should re-engage with Family Support Groups (paragraph 10.4)

## **11 SAFER CUSTODY**

- a) new staff should be trained in the SPAR process (paragraph 11.2)

## **12 SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)**

- a) alternative to segregation are found for prisoners in fear of their safety (paragraph 12.2)
- b) staff should receive training in coping with difficult prisoners (paragraph 12.4)
- c) there should be a reduction in the awarding of Cellular confinement at adjudication (paragraph 12.7)

**13 SPORT AND RECREATION**

- a) gym equipment should be updated and replaced as necessary (paragraph 13.2)
- b) lighting in the gym should be improved to comply with risk assessment (paragraph 13.3)
- c) astro turf football pitches should be installed (paragraph 13.4)
- d) Foyleview should be updated to accommodate an gym facility (paragraph 13.5)

**14 TUCK SHOP – no recommendations**

**15 VISITS**

- a) a covered walkway for visitors should be built (paragraph 15.1)
- b) child-centred visits should not be cancelled (paragraph 15.2)

## Section 1 – ACCOMODATION

1.1 The main accommodation in Magilligan is three H-Block units comprising old-style cells with capacity to house approximately 300 prisoners. Despite an increasing population the majority of cells remain single occupancy cells. Despite the fact being continually highlighted by the Board, none of the H Blocks has in-cell sanitation. This is totally unacceptable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the Board again **recommends** that the H Blocks be refurbished to provide in-cell sanitation. This recommendation has been made regularly in previous reports but disappointingly has never been implemented.

1.2 Sperrin Unit is a 64-bedded dormitory-style unit which is divided into four units. Showers and toilets are located outside the sleeping quarters. The unit is airy, clean and tidy, with the cleaning being done by the prisoners themselves. The Board acknowledges their efforts.

1.3 Alpha House can accommodate 50 prisoners in two wings. The cells in Alpha are called rooms and each prisoner has his own key. The unit has shower facilities and both ordinary and disabled toilet facilities. The building is immaculately clean throughout and appears to be an efficiently managed unit. The Board commends both the prisoners and staff for maintaining this standard.

1.4 Halward House is an attractive building located separately from other prison units. All cells have toilet facilities and there are communal showers on each landing. Halward House is spotlessly clean and the Board is very impressed with the facility. It was designed as single cell accommodation on two floors but doubling up because of the growing population has increased. This has the potential to cause problems but to date no serious difficulties have arisen. The Board **recommends** a return to single room / cell accommodation for all prisoners but recognises the difficulties given the continuing influx of prisoners.

1.5 Foyleview is the semi open facility in Magilligan. It is situated within the prison compound but outside the main prison's security perimeter. It comprises of five portacabin buildings with bedrooms, a small kitchen, and a shower/toilet area. While the newer ones are in acceptable condition, three of the portacabins have been in use for over 30 years and are no longer fit for purpose. The Board **recommends** that that as soon as possible the three oldest units are replaced with more suitable accommodation. This recommendation has been made in many previous reports and again the Board is disappointed to note that it has not been implemented.

1.6 In last year's report the Board reluctantly accepted the closure of Magilligan prison looked likely. However in November 2012 the Justice Minister announced that closure is no

longer the preferred option and that a convincing case might be made for the retention of a prison on the Magilligan site. While no definite decision has been made the Board is delighted by this news and strongly **recommends** the retention and redevelopment of Magilligan prison. The Board accepts that until a decision has been made the recommendations above are unlikely to be implemented but is duty bound to make them in any case.

## **Section 2 - ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

2.1 As with many other prisons, drug and alcohol abuse continues to create problems in Magilligan. The Board commends the prison management on their efforts to limit the supply line by initiatives like the provision of cups with lids in Visits so that drugs cannot be passed so easily. There has been an increase in drugs finds in the prison and the Board pays tribute to the observational skills and vigilance of the staff and the skill of the passive drug dog all of which helps to make Magilligan a safer place.

2.2 Prisoners with addiction problems can avail of the services of adept who provide courses such as the Drug Education Alcohol Management and Combined Substances programmes. Despite the continuing problem of drugs, the Board is disappointed that meetings of the multi-disciplinary drug strategy forum have stopped and **recommends** these are resumed as soon as possible.

2.3 The use and abuse of prescription medication continues to be a particularly serious issue in Magilligan. Whilst the concept of dispensing medication in prison to mirror the practice in the community, bulk issue of medication continues to raise significant problems. Medication is bartered and traded and in cases prisoners are assaulted and their medication is stolen. Last year the Board recommended stronger and more secure medication boxes to try to prevent theft and were told that the current design was under review and the supply of new in-cell safes would be put out to tender. To date the boxes have not been replaced so again the Board **recommends** the installation of more secure medication boxes.

2.4 As in past reports, whilst accepting that no system can be 100% effective, the Board again **recommends** that greater efforts should be made to move towards a drug-free prison and that further incentives should be available for prisoners who are drug free.

## **Section 3 – CATERING AND KITCHENS**

3.1 The Prison Kitchen is essential for the smooth operation of the prison given that it is required to prepare over 500 meals per day. The whole unit is spotless and all those working there are appropriately dressed for kitchen work. The prisoners in the kitchen work very well

alongside the Chief Cook and his team and despite staff shortages continuing to be a problem, the Kitchen is managed to a high standard and credit should be given to the staff for their dedication and commitment.

3.2 The kitchen provides a varied menu which includes Low Fat, Healthy Option and Vegetarian choices as well as catering to the growing number of prisoners with special dietary requirements either for medical, religious, or cultural reasons. In general the Board hears few complaints about the food provided except that it is sometimes cold at point of service. The Board **recommends** that greater efforts are made to ensure meals are served hot.

3.3 The Board were pleased to be included and consulted in the Catering Review which is currently being undertaken by the NIPS and look forward to its conclusions and recommendations being published and implemented.

#### **Section 4 - CHAPLAINCY**

4.1 The Board is aware that the he NIPS internal review of Chaplaincy remains ongoing so would like to stress that the value the Chaplains add to the prisoners' experience is hard to quantify. They link with prisoners at Induction, follow them on their journey through prison and are involved in their release plans. Prisoners speak highly of the Chaplains and appreciate all the help, guidance and support offered to them. They also provide a valuable resource to prisoners' families.

4.2 Sunday services are well attended but the Board was disappointed to note that Carol Services did not take place in 2012 due to prison staffing issues. It is also disappointing that the Friday night Bible study classes are being curtailed again for the same reason. The Board **recommends** that these classes be reinstated as soon as possible and that a Carol Service is held this coming Christmas.

4.3 If the decision is taken to redevelop Magilligan the Board hopes to see a purpose-built place of worship included in the plans.

#### **Section 5 - EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

5.1 The Education Department provides a wide range of courses from basic literacy and numeracy to Open University Courses. This has been another challenging year for the department with staff leaving on the VERS (Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme) and replacement staff not following immediately. Despite this, the year has also been productive with a high number of education and vocational training certificates being achieved. The

Board congratulates the current staff for their work in delivering and achieving such results in spite of the various difficulties they face.

5.2 The Children's Laureate visited the prison in March and an interactive session was enjoyed by prisoners, families, staff and Board members. The teacher who organised the event is to be congratulated on her hard work and initiative to provide training opportunities for prisoners to gain new skills. These will be invaluable when they leave prison. Many more initiatives like this are needed especially with the growing population in Magilligan.

5.3 Workshops in Magilligan are well run by suitably qualified staff who provide excellent training in a wide range of learning opportunities including painting and decorating, furniture making and plastering etc. As well as the courses currently on offer, the Board **recommends** that plumbing and catering are added to the courses available prisoners. With the increase of gas installations, many more plumbers are required so this would give prisoner greater opportunities for employment on release. While the workshops are well equipped, use of resources in out-centres could prove beneficial to provide further learning opportunities such as car maintenance for example.

5.4 The Board has been very disappointed to see that staff shortages have led to many workshops being closed throughout the year. Constructive activity is essential to the well-being of prisoners as well as preparing them for release so the Board **recommends** that as far as possible daily workshops continue to be run with a minimum of closures.

5.5 The Board is aware of the NIPS ongoing review of Learning and Skills and its proposals to 'out-source' the education provision. It is also aware that research in GB prison establishments indicates that the results were most unsatisfactory and eventually education had to be brought back 'in house' so NIPS should bear this in mind when implementing the review. The Board also **recommends** that current Education staff should be included in any discussion and decisions relating to the future provision of education and training since they provide the service and produce good results, which has been reflected in Inspection reports.

## **Section 6 - EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

6.1 An Equality and Diversity (E & D) meeting, chaired by the Deputy Governor takes place monthly with a report prepared by the Equality and Diversity Officer. He works enthusiastically and energetically with prisoners and staff to promote good relations. Attendance at the E & D meeting by Section Heads has been variable throughout the year and is an area that requires prioritisation. Prisoner representatives are also in attendance with the meeting serving to consider concerns and issues relevant to all minority groups. Training for prisoner reps would support their familiarity with this role and would assist in facilitating

their ability to represent more collectively their respective prisoner grouping so the Board **recommends** this.

6.2 Data on complaints, adjudications, prisoner status, home leave, segregation, drug testing, and use of force is collected and reviewed at the meeting. Any statistically significant deviations are highlighted and explained where necessary. Key Equality and Diversity related achievements throughout the year have included;

- The completion of work in H2 A&B ablutions;
- Regular foreign national prisoner forum meetings;
- 2 UKBA surgeries held in past year.
- Prisoner representatives meetings held regularly;
- Disability survey;
- Consulate visits (from Portuguese and Latvian Consulates)

6.3 Staff/prisoner relations are on the whole considered to be good and show an empathy with cultural needs. There is generally a proactive approach to ensure all prisoners have equal access to all regimes and facilities available in the prison.

6.4 A continued area of challenge is foreign national prisoners. Uncertainty about their immigration status is worrying for this group. It also impairs their sentence and resettlement planning. It is therefore important that issues of immigration status are addressed as soon as possible in a prisoner's sentence and that he should be kept informed and have good access to advice and support. "Eleventh hour" decision-making is very unhelpful. To provide this advice and support, Magilligan prison needs active help from external agencies, the UKBA clinics being an important step.

6.5 The recently undertaken disability survey will hopefully provide some additional insight on gaps in provision including in particular the needs of those prisoners who have a learning disability, for who on account of their vulnerabilities, the passage through prison may be far from easy.

## **Section 7 - HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

7.1 The provision of Healthcare continues to produce significant problems not least of which are caused by staff shortages. Healthcare staff are available in each residential unit during office hours each day and outside these hours nursing staff are available for emergencies and a GP is on call by telephone if medical advice is required. With three

members of healthcare staff are currently awaiting discharge under the VERS this service is under pressure. At the time of reporting it is expected that vacancies will be filled within the next few months. The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust) is also in the process of appointing a number of new GPs who are expected to take up post on 1 April 2013. These measures will facilitate staffing levels being brought to the required level.

7.2 As well as the routine services that would be provided in an outside healthcare clinic, Magilligan also provides additional services such as the management of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension and the promotion of well man assessments amongst others. Owing to staff shortages unfortunately these clinics have not been held on a consistent basis. It is **recommended** that these clinics be re-established as soon as possible and the continuity of provision improved.

7.3 Dental Services are also provided for which there is a consistent, high demand. This creates long waiting periods of up to 10 weeks. The Board **recommends** that dental service provision be monitored so that strategies to reduce waiting times can be implemented.

7.4 In general, the level of health of those in prison is lower than that of people on the outside. Neurotic personality disorders within prison are three times greater than that of the general population. The Board remains of the opinion that prison is not a suitable environment for prisoners with severe mental health issues and continues to **recommends** that there should be a secure unit / hospital outside of prison for the treatment of such prisoners. Despite being a recurring recommendation, to date this issue has not been addressed so the Board would again reiterate the need for such fit for purpose services to be established as a matter of urgency.

7.5 Previous reports have highlighted the need for better prescription / drug management and this continues to be a problem. There have been occasions where the withdrawal of medication or the drastic reduction of medications prescribed by a prisoner's GP has resulted in significant levels of anxiety and vulnerability which in itself raises its own problems with regards to individual prisoner safety and care and the prison population as a whole. The Board recommends greater cooperation between prison healthcare and community health centres to ensure continuity of medication provision.

7.6 The worrying trend of the cancellation of a number of both primary care and secondary care hospital appointments highlighted in last year's report has continued. Cancellations occurred for a variety of reasons - staff shortages for transport, lockdown of the prison, prisoner refusal to attend, to name a few. The Board is aware that a number of the secondary care appointments are for follow up treatment such as stitch removal which could be done by nurses on site. The Board will continue to monitor this closely but in the meantime

**recommends** that the use of in-house facilities and technology such as tele-medicine is investigated and used where appropriate thus reducing the need for hospital visits.

## **Section 8 – LIBRARY**

8.1 The Library continues to be well used but needs to be completely refurbished so if the decision is taken to redevelop Magilligan the Board hopes to see a purpose-built facility.

8.2 Despite repeated recommendations in previous years, the outdated computer system still has not been upgraded nor has an IT technician been employed on-site to deal with the problems caused by the aging system. The Board continues to **recommend** both. It also continues to **recommend** the appointment of a full-time Librarian.

## **Section 9 – RECEPTION AND INDUCTION**

9.1 The reception area is where prisoners get their first impressions of the prison. The reception area itself is spacious and the holding cells are bright, clean and well maintained. Those who are arriving for the first time may be nervous and apprehensive so the Board commends the staff for the calm and professional manner in which they handle these new arrivals.

9.2 Induction continues to be a comprehensive, structured and well-run process in which prisoners are given information about prison life including healthcare, visits, home leave, tuck shop and pastoral care. Information relating to work opportunities, education, remedial care, courses and programmes is also included.

9.3 Last year the Board reported that an interpreter service was provided when necessary for the increasing number of prisoners for whom English is a foreign language. However, disappointingly, on a few occasions during this reporting year, some foreign prisoners complained of being made to participate in meetings and case conferences when no interpreter was available so they did not understand what was happening. It is important in the context of positive engagement with foreign prisoners that they should have the services of an interpreter made available to them in order for them to fully engage with the prison system and to feel less isolated. The Board therefore **recommends** that adequate procedures are established to ensure the availability of interpreters at all times.

9.4 As anxiety continues to be a common feature among new committals the Board **recommends** that induction staff receive training in mental health awareness to enable them to spot the signs and be able to respond appropriately if they have any concerns. Otherwise the Board commends the good work of the unit staff.

## Section 10 – RESETTLEMENT

10.1 Rehabilitation and resettlement is the ultimate goal of incarceration and underpins the work of the whole establishment. It is supported by strategic partnerships in the community and informed by assessment of each prisoner's risk and needs to minimise the likelihood of reoffending on release. Magilligan has a multi-disciplinary offender management team, co-located in the Prisoner Development Unit (PDU) and this shared location helps promote information sharing and collaborative working. As part of the resettlement team PBNI provides in-house staff who deliver a high quality probation service to prisoners; during their sentence; in preparation for release; and post sentence.

10.2 As previously stated, the availability of purposeful activity is in decline while the prisoner population continues to grow. This is not conducive to constructive resettlement. The Board believes that Personal Officers could make a big difference as they could engage with and motivate prisoners so again **recommends** the reinstatement of this role.

10.3 Family contact is an important area of the resettlement process so the Board is extremely disappointed that a Review of the Family Strategy led to the NIPS withdrawing from involvement in the Family Support Groups. These groups were operating very successfully under the Leadership of the Family Officer. This questionable decision to hand over the running of the two groups in Limavady and Ballymena to an outside Agency is to be regretted as the former has not met since November 2012 and the latter is struggling to continue. The Board **recommends** that the Family Strategy be reviewed again and a decision made to continue the involvement of the NIPS in all Family Groups. A multi-agency approach worked well before. It will work well again.

## Section 11 - SAFER CUSTODY

11.1 Multi-agency Safer Custody Meetings chaired by a Governor are held bi-monthly. Attendance at these meetings is variable so the Safer Custody Unit manager is working hard to ensure that all the different Agencies attend as often as possible. The sharing of information and progress is vital to help ensure a safer environment in the prison.

11.2 The number of SPARS (Supporting Prisoners At Risk) opened during the year was 70. This is an increase of ten over the previous year but given the large increase of prisoners, this should be viewed as a positive sign that the Safer Custody initiatives are working. The main cause for SPARS being opened is thoughts of Self-harm. The Board continues to attend SPAR Case Conferences and the quality of staff involvement in these conferences is excellent but everyone recognises that there is still more work to be done to help ensure a safer environment for all. The Board **recommends** that training in the SPAR process is

available to new staff following the loss of expertise with experienced staff leaving. The Board continues to visit those prisoners on SPARs and attend the associated reviews.

11.3 The Board is pleased that various initiatives have been introduced to make custody a safer experience. The provision of wrist alarms for elderly and vulnerable prisoners is one such initiative and the Board commends this. Future plans include Safer Custody Information Days and Workshops.

11.4 The Listener Scheme continues to flourish. Training for Listeners is carried out by the Samaritans and meetings are held to offer support to the prisoners who perform this excellent role. This role is not always easy, but the Board recognises the importance and value of the Listener Scheme. Listeners are available 24 hours per day and are easily recognised by their fleeces. Prisoners can also contact the Samaritans if they wish to via a telephone on the wing.

11.5 Reported cases of bullying are low but there is still a culture of fear among prisoners of what might happen if bullying by other prisoners is reported. Cases that are reported are dealt with efficiently. Posters about Anti-bullying are clearly displayed in all areas and several new documents are to be introduced to enable staff to analyse incidences of bullying over a period of time and show any patterns.

## **Section 12 – SEGREGATION – CARE AND SUPERVISION UNIT (CSU)**

12.1 The Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) houses a number of categories of prisoners – those detained under Rule 32 who have offended against good order and discipline, those undergoing cellular confinement, those awaiting adjudication, violent and refractory prisoners and vulnerable prisoners who are accommodated there for their own protection.

12.2 During the reporting year some prisoners who feared serious injury being inflicted upon them by fellow prisoners spent lengthy time in the CSU – in some cases amounting to months. The Board feels this is detrimental to the prisoners and is most concerned about this practice. Whilst cognisant of the restraints, both financial and resource wise, under which the NIPS operates, the Board **recommends** that innovative practices and procedures be introduced as an alternative to segregation as soon as is reasonably practical.

12.3 Also during the reporting year a number of protests were staged by some long stay prisoners in the CSU which could have disrupted the good order, discipline and control of the prison. Despite this the officers do sterling work and the Board has always been very impressed by the relationships between prisoners and CSU staff. The unit is very well managed and the Board commends the staff for their dedication, care and patience.

12.4 A large number of prisoners in the CSU can be disruptive, display behavioural difficulties and may have personality disorders, the Board is of the opinion that training to handle such individuals properly and dealing with their diverse problems would be beneficial to officers attached to the CSU. It therefore **recommends** once again that relevant staff should receive specialised training to cope with and understand the needs of such prisoners.

12.5 The Board has a statutory duty to attend all Rule 32 case conferences if practicable and to apply critical scrutiny to all the relevant paper work as soon as possible thereafter. This is to ensure that due process has been followed and that the rule has been fairly and reasonably applied. The Board is facilitated in the discharge of this duty by the CSU staff who treat the prisoners with the utmost respect, dignity and fairness. The Board wishes to express its gratitude to the staff in the CSU for all their assistance during IMB weekly visits.

12.6 It is in the interest of society, prisoners and prison staff that the NIPS operates in an efficient, effective and fair manner and to enable this to happen, good discipline is essential. Adjudications on offences against good order are held in the CSU and are conducted by Governors. The Board is once again pleased to note a decrease in the overall number of adjudications during the reporting period. Board members regularly attend adjudications and it is clear that the proceedings are conducted to the highest professional standards and in accordance with the rules of natural justice. Where any doubt exists, the matter is always resolved in favour of the prisoner and awards are only made where there is clear evidence of, or where the prisoner admits the offence.

12.7 Despite the fact that there has been a welcome increase in the number of awards other than cellular confinement, the Board remains concerned at the relatively high number of cellular confinement awards and questions whether such confinement successfully attains its purpose. The Board therefore **recommends** yet again that less cellular confinement awards be made and would strongly urge that other appropriate and effective awards are adopted more frequently. The Board will continue to closely monitor this issue during the coming year.

### **Section 13 - SPORT AND RECREATION**

13.1 The Board receive few complaints with regard to sport and recreation. This is due to the high quality of diverse programmes on offer, which are designed to cater for all inmates irrespective of age or fitness level, and also to the commitment of the PE staff.

13.2 The main gym caters for a wide range of activities including indoor soccer, weight training, aerobic training and basketball. The Board notes that some of the equipment is now over eight years old and needs replacing so **recommends** a review of all equipment with replacements being installed where necessary.

13.3 An annual risk assessment pointed out the need for better lighting in the gym. The Board also **recommends** that this necessary work is carried out as soon as possible.

13.4 There are also ongoing problems with the outdoor soccer pitch and the Foyleview pitch so the Board **recommends** the installation of astro turf to solve these problems and bring it into line with other establishments.

13.5 Last year the Board reported that the prisoners in Foyleview do not have adequate gym facilities as the floors in the complex are not strong enough to support the equipment and recommended that the accommodation is upgraded to accommodate an up-to-date gym. To date this has not been done so the Board again recommends this is done as soon as possible.

#### **Section 14 - TUCK SHOP**

14.1 The Tuck Shop is a very well-managed and well-maintained facility. It is amply stocked to provide for the many varied demands of prisoners and can now cater from those prisoners who suffer from diabetic or coeliac conditions.

14.2 The Board recognises that it is good for the morale of those enhanced prisoners to be placed in a position of control within the Tuck Shop.

#### **Section 15 - VISITS**

15.1 The facilities in Visits are good and provide a bright environment for prisoners and their visitors. The prisoners' patchwork quilt and paintings brighten the area and play resources are well chosen and suitable for the different age groups. However, the covered walkway for protection against the inclement climate is still awaited, so again the Board **recommends** it is put in place.

15.2 Last year the Board strongly recommended that child-centred visits should be continued if at all possible. Disappointingly child-centred visits were cancelled in December, as were all parties for the children. The visits have since operated sporadically following the appointment of some new part-time Family Officers. The Board **recommends** that child-centred visits should not be cancelled if at all possible. The Board would like to acknowledge the professionalism and expertise of the former Family Officer, who felt he could not fulfil this role adequately on a part-time basis.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **MAGILLIGAN BOARD MEMBERS 2012-2013**

Mr Thomas Kerrigan	Chair
Mrs Bernadette McCollum	Vice Chair
Ms Joan Burke	Resigned October 2012
Mrs Margaret Campbell	
Mr Brian Collins	
Mr Paul Devlin	
Mr Brian Doherty	
Mrs Joan Doherty	Appointment ended March 2013
Mrs Christine McLaughlin	
Mrs Rae Morrison	
Mr Jack Walls	