



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## CAYMAN ISLANDS INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD (CIIMB)

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for Prisons and Places of Detention  
“The eyes and ears of our community behind the closed doors of  
our prisons and places of detention.”



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## A1-Acknowledgements

The Cayman Islands Independent Monitoring Board (the “Board” or “CIIMB”) noted at the end of the monitoring period for 2022 that the grounds and common areas of each cell block at HMP Northward were exceptionally clean and would like to commend the Acting Director of Prisons and his staff who encouraged the prisoners to do their part in keeping the compound clean.

During the reporting period, it has been noted that Prison Management has made strides towards prisoners not smoking within the cell blocks by posting “No Smoking” signs on cell blocks at HMP Northward. Several prisoners at HMP Northward have ceased smoking indoors or have given up smoking. HMP Fairbanks has been successful in maintaining its status as a smoke-free institution.

During the 2022 reporting period, the Board observed that everyone entering the prisons (including officers and Board members) continued to be LFT tested before entering the compound at both HMP Northward and HMP Fairbanks to ensure the safety and protection of the prison population.

During this reporting period, the Board is pleased to report that HMP Northward and HMP Fairbanks successfully limited the infection rate of COVID-19 by regularly testing and isolating symptomatic prisoners.

Unlike the previous reporting period, this year, the Board was able to maintain its contact with the prisoners throughout the year and was not restricted from visiting due to COVID-19.

The board extends its appreciation to both the Prison Management and the Ministry of Home Affairs (the Ministry) for their collaboration with the CIIMB and their joint efforts in addressing issues and concerns during this specified period. This collaboration showcases a dedication to transparency, accountability and effective problem-solving.

The board eagerly anticipates sustained cooperation and the continued development of innovative solutions that will undoubtedly yield substantial benefits to both the penal system and society as a whole.



## A2-The Role of the CIIMB

The CIIMB was established by the Governor and made operational in February 2019. Its role is to monitor the conditions and treatment of those imprisoned, incarcerated or otherwise detained in custody in the Cayman Islands, to satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody and the range and adequacy of the programmes and other arrangements preparing them for release.

Prisoners' and detainees' human rights must not be lost because of imprisonment or detention. In line with various international Human Rights instruments, the Cayman Islands Bill of Rights requires all persons deprived of their liberty to be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.

*“Human Rights” is a modern term but the principle that it invokes is as old as humanity. It is that certain rights and freedoms are fundamental to human existence. They are inherent entitlements that come to every person as a consequence of being human, and are founded on respect for the dignity and worth of each person. They are not privileges, nor gifts given at the whim of a ruler or government, nor can they be taken away by any arbitrary power. They cannot be denied, nor can they be forfeited because an individual has committed any offence or broken any law. ... While facing situations of lawful limitations of freedoms and rights, prison officials are at the forefront of human rights protection on a daily basis, experiencing them and putting them into practice; respecting them and enforcing their respect. (UN:2005, Human Rights and Prisons-Manual on Human Rights Training for Prison Officials, p.4)*

The CIIMB members are not qualified professionals and they do not conduct formal, episodic inspections. Instead, they are trained volunteers who operate as the eyes and ears of the community behind the closed doors of our prisons and places of detention, monitoring and observing what goes on daily. The members provide commentaries on what they see in prisons based on their experience and the expectations of society outside the prison.

The CIIMB is broadly modeled after the UK Independent Monitoring Boards. It replaces and builds on the work of the previous Prisons Inspection Board.

The Board is responsible for:

- Making regular monitoring visits to prisons and places of detention to observe first-hand the treatment and condition of prisoners and detainees on an ongoing basis;
- Receiving and dealing with prisoners' and detainees' applications and requests confidentially and referring issues to the appropriate individual or agency when specialist advice and support is required;
- Informing the Management of the Prisons and any other entities monitored promptly of any concerns it has, and;
- Reporting annually on the Board's main findings and observations regarding the treatment and conditions of prisoners and detainees and any key areas for development based on the monitoring activities carried out during the year.



To enable the Board to carry out these duties effectively, its members have the right of access by policy, and not yet by legislation, to every prisoner (and in private where necessary), every part of the prison or place of detention, and all of the establishment's records (except for personal medical records).

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the CIIMB also have the opportunity to discuss emerging themes at meetings with officials who have a significant interest in the outcomes of the work of the CIIMB, which include the Director(s) and Ministry representatives of the establishments being monitored, as well as representatives from the Offices of the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Cayman Islands. These meetings are held quarterly.

The CIIMB's monitoring and reporting is organised around the World Health Organization's (WHO) four key tests of a healthy custodial environment:

- **Safety** - Prisoners, even the most vulnerable, are held safely.
- **Respect** - Prisoners are treated with respect for their human dignity.
- **Purposeful activity** - Prisoners are able, and expected, to engage in activity that is likely to benefit them.
- **Rehabilitation and Release Planning** - Prisoners are prepared for release into the community, and helped to reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

The Office of the Deputy Governor provides Secretariat support and services to the CIIMB, on behalf of the Governor.

For more information about the CIIMB, please visit [www.odg.gov.ky](http://www.odg.gov.ky) or email [CIIMB@gov.k](mailto:CIIMB@gov.k) -



## A3-Description of the Prison Facilities Monitored

His Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service was opened in 1981 to secure persons committed to serve prison time by the Cayman Islands Judiciary.

Responsibilities of the service include taking care of all adult and juvenile offenders in custody, as well as ensuring that court orders are followed and community standards upheld. In addition to public safety, the Prison Service is also committed to providing opportunities for all prisoners to rehabilitate themselves, thus improving their chances of a positive life after release.

His Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service consists of four facilities. HMP Northward is a category C facility also holding category A, B, C and D prisoners. The facility experienced a riot in 1999, when A Wing, B Wing, Eagle House (which held female prisoners) and some ancillary buildings were set on fire. These buildings were mainly repaired and brought back into use. HM Prison Fairbanks, formerly an immigration centre, came into existence as a female establishment as a direct consequence of this. In 2019 two new units were established: a new Juvenile Wing for males at the HMP Northward Prison site, and an Enhanced Rehabilitation Unit (ERU) for males, located at Fairbanks. Since 2020, from the outbreak of the pandemic, the Juvenile Wing was being used as an isolation unit for prisoners on remand entering the prison as a precaution due to COVID-19.

His Majesty's Prison Northward provides services to convicted and pre-trial adult male prisoners. Convicted and pre-trial young juvenile male prisoners are held in the Juvenile Wing, which has been segregated at the back of Charlie Wing on the Northward site. During this reporting period the Juvenile Wing was used as an isolation wing for new intakes, due to COVID-19 protocol. During this time, juveniles would be housed at HRU.

His Majesty's Prison Fairbanks provides services to convicted and pre-trial female adults.

The name of the Director of HM Prisons Service during this reporting period was: Acting Director Mr. Daniel Greaves.

### Number of Prisoners Held during 2022

	HMP Northward	ERU	HMP Fairbanks
January	175	9	14
February	177	11	15
March	177	11	16
April	177	11	16
May	177	10	15
June	180	7	15
July	184	9	13
August	186	7	14
September	192	7	13
October	189	10	17
November	199	10	19
December	198	9	19
<b>31 December 2022</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>



Certified Normal Accommodation	124 single cells HRU230 max capax	11 single cells 22 max capax	32 single beds 6 isolation bunks
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#### Number of Prisoners Held

Prison Facility	Number of Prisoners held at 31 December 2022	Number of Prisoners held at 31 December 2021	Certified Normal Accommodation Numbers
HMP Northward	198	168	126
The ERU for male prisoners	9	9	11
Juvenile males unit at HMP Northward	0	1	6
HMP Fairbanks	19	12	32

During the reporting period, there were two periods that juveniles were housed at HMP Northward. However, as at 31 December 2022 there were no juveniles in custody.

#### Number of Prisoners Held

PRISONER CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PRISONERS HELD			
	2022		2021	
	HMP Northward & ERU	HMP Fairbanks	HMP Northward & ERU	HMP Fairbanks
Category A	7	0	2 (on remand)	0
Category B	12	10	89	3
Category C	40	2	50	4
Category D	40	7	36	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>12</b>

#### Category Descriptions:

A = Prisoners whose escape would be highly dangerous to the public, the police, or the security of the State and for whom the aim must be to make escape impossible.

B = Prisoners for whom the very highest levels of security are not necessary, but for whom escape must be made very difficult.

C = Prisoners who cannot be trusted in low security conditions and who are likely to escape.

D = Prisoners who present a low risk; can reasonably be trusted in low security conditions and for whom low security conditions are appropriate.

#### Number of Prisoners Held per Wing

Wing	Number of Prisoners
Alpha	34
Bravo	53
Charlie	34
Delta	28
Foxtrot	33
Echo	4
HRU	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>



**Number of Deaths in Custody**

Location	2022	2021	2020	2019
HMP Northward	1	0	0	1
HMP Fairbanks	0	0	0	0

As acknowledged at the start of this report, one prisoner from HMP Northward died in custody due to complications from COVID-19. The Board was informed that the prisoner had underlying medical issues at that time. The number of COVID-19 positive cases during the period were 112.

**Staffing Levels**

Uniform staff in post (by category/band/grade)	NORTHWARD		FAIRBANKS	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Director	0	1	0	1
Deputy Director	2	2	1	1
Unit Managers	7	7	0	0
Supervisors	18	16	1	2
Prison Officers	113	106	11	12
OSG/Prison Officer Trainee	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>

# A4-Executive Summary

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## INTRODUCTION

During January to December 2022, the Board made 172 visits for a total of 468 hours to HMP Northward, HMP Fairbanks and the Enhanced Rehabilitation Unit (ERU). In 2021, the Board conducted 450 hours of visits. Prisoners were also able to present applications to the Board using Zoom. In addition, the Board also conducted 15 visits to the Immigration Detention Centre, beginning 8 August 2022, which are covered in an addendum report to this Annual Report. Covid-19 continued to be a cause for concern across the globe and the Cayman Islands were no exception. The CIIMB, however, continued to perform its duties as best as possible under the circumstances.

Unlike in the previous monitoring year, in 2022 the Board encountered less interruptions to its normal visiting routines due to COVID-19 protocols.

Although the Board noted improvements and educational advancements during this reporting period, the Board also noted that the majority of concerns reported in the prior year remain unchanged.

The fundamental issues include the lack of comprehensive mental health provisions for prisoners with mental health challenges, lack of comprehensive provisions for disabled prisoners and the lack of a purpose-built vulnerable persons' wing. Despite efforts and progress made in regards to some safety areas, there are still many health and safety issues which remain unaddressed, e.g. smoking inside some wings.

## IMPROVEMENTS NOTED BY THE BOARD OVER THE MONITORING PERIOD

- Recruitment and training of prison officers has taken place. In total HMCIPS delivered 1,885 training hours to 225 attendees in 2022.
- Increased class attendance and programme completion by prisoners, during the school year.
- Helping to address mental health and addiction disorders as core drivers of crime with delivery of new programmes.
- New security window installed on two residential units.
- Training building renovated.
- Electric vehicle charging pedestal completed.
- Propane tank fire separation wall completed.
- Visitors' check point refurbished.
- Farm office constructed.
- New emergency generator installed and commissioned.
- Some bathroom refurbished in residential units, including new toilets.
- Bulk storeroom constructed in maintenance yard.
- Replacement of torn down fence to the north of Bravo Wing and the kitchen.
- Significant upgrades were made to the kitchen at HMP Northward.
- Urgently required repairs to the laundry carts at the prisons were made. These are now fitted with new material with new wheels installed. This work was done by



- prisoners.
- The interior of various buildings were repainted.

## **SUMMARY OF BOARD OBSERVATIONS: KEY TESTS OF A HEALTHY CUSTODIAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. SAFETY: *Are prisoners, even the most vulnerable, held safely?***

On the matter of safety, as stated in previous reports, the CIIMB continues to be concerned that there is still no dedicated vulnerable prisoner wing or facility at either prison, and prisoners with mental health issues, or those that are vulnerable due to the type of crime committed, are still incarcerated within the general prison population, although efforts are made to separate them within the confines of limited space.

During the post COVID-19 lockdown period (March - December 2022), several prisoners and prison staff tested positive for COVID-19 in the prison. The practice of prisoner isolation has been implemented on several occasions in order to protect the general prison population. In addition, staff were required to isolate at home to protect prisoners, however, this created staff shortages resulting in a reduced operating capacity, which the Board considers to be a security concern.

### **2. RESPECT: *Are prisoners treated with respect for their human dignity?***

The Board observes that prisoners are treated fairly with respect for their human dignity. These observations were made during multiple visits and discussions with prisoners and staff over the reporting period, January to December 2022, in a variety of prisoner and staff settings and exchanges at the Northward, Fairbanks and the Enhanced Rehabilitation Unit (ERU). There is, however, a concern that there was an increase in CIIMB applications related to prisoners perceiving themselves to be bullied by staff. This will be an area that the Board looks into more closely.

The Board is deeply concerned to have observed the housing of prisoners with mental health issues in the High Risk Unit (HRU) of HMP Northward and the fact that there are no prison staff available to support who have specialist mental health training. These prisoners spend the majority of their time in their cells with little to do. The Board is concerned that prisoners with mental health issues are being treated the same and confined the same as high risk prisoners.

The Board further understands that Echo Wing (a standalone 4 person wing), is also being used on occasion as a “place of safety” (as defined in The Mental Health Act, 2023 Revision) to house these extremely unwell prisoners. The Board is concerned that this facility is also unsuitable for these types of prisoners.

The Board noted that there had been no improvements for disabled access, there was no wheelchair access to the main bathroom and no rails had been fitted to assist those with a disability. The Board observed that there was one shower adapted for disabled prisoners’ use in the Segregation Unit, which was fitted with a rail. The Board remained concerned



about the lack of adequate provisions made for wheel chair access, in general. In addition, the Board was informed by management that the Segregation Unit, which has the shower adapted for disability, was still being used as an isolation unit for new prisoners entering the prison prior to their COVID-19 test to enter the general population. As previously mentioned in the last report, it remained of concern to the Board that this provision may be unavailable for prisoners with disability should it be in use for COVID-19 isolation.

There was a prisoner on crutches who reported experiencing issues using the common bathroom, due to the lack of provisions for persons with physical disabilities. The Board was not informed of any plans to remedy this situation.

The Board remains concerned that any juvenile is essentially in solitary confinement if there is no more than one juvenile in custody at any given time. As the facility is primarily for adults, their access to the broader prison facilities is limited in order to ensure they remain separate from adults, for not only educational but recreational and social activities.

### **3. PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY: *Are prisoners able and expected to engage in activity that is likely to benefit them?***

There are several educational and vocational courses that prisoners at both HMP Northward and HMP Fairbanks can access. The Education Unit reported a wide range of both online and face-to-face educational programmes during the academic year from September 2021 to June 2022.

COVID-19 outbreaks and restrictions during the year has continued to affect prisoners' access to some of the activities and educational programmes. However, the Board was advised that despite some disruptions in services, the education team was still able to deliver many hours of purposeful activity.

The Board observed that a significant proportion of the prison population engages with either an educational or vocational programme, and classes/workshops appear to be consistently well-attended, especially at HMP Northward. (See B3 Purposeful Activities)

It remains a concern of the Board that the female prisoners at HMP Fairbanks still do not have the same variety of purposeful activities to choose from as the male prisoners at HMP Northward. There are far fewer classes, and prisoners still complain about inconsistencies and frequent cancellations of scheduled classes at short notice.

The Board is also concerned that there is currently no provision for juvenile education within the prison service, due to an issue with teacher licensing for juvenile education.

Both HMP Northward and HMP Fairbanks each have a functioning gym that prisoners can use. The Board regularly observed that the gym at HMP Northward was being utilised on average by 15-25 prisoners at any one time. Gym use at Fairbanks was less frequent and not observed on any regular basis. There is still no purpose-built gym facility at ERU, and prisoners are not allowed to go off-site to use a community gym. The prisoners at the ERU do have a gym bike and some weights along with a few other pieces of equipment that they use in a makeshift 'gym', located on the patio outside the main building.



**4. REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION: *Are prisoners supported to maintain and develop relationships with their family and friends? Are prisoners helped to reduce their likelihood of reoffending and is their risk of harm managed effectively? Are prisoners prepared well for reintegration into society and are they provided with adequate social support when they are released?***

Across all Prison sites, prisoners continue to be supported to develop and maintain relationships with their family and friends on the outside.

In person, home and exceptional visits have now recommenced following the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 in the last reporting year; however, strict protocols are still in place, and LFT testing continues to help keep prisoners safe.

The Release on Temporary License (ROTL) programme provides an opportunity for eligible prisoners to access employment within the community as a precursor and preparation for their release and reintegration. It is only accessible to Category D prisoners (those who pose the lowest security risk) and who are Caymanians or Permanent Residents with right to work. Prior to approval, every prisoner is subject to a robust multi-agency process that assesses their suitability for the programme and risk to the public. The male ROTL prisoners are still housed at ERU, and the female prisoners still do not have equal access to the same housing privileges for their ROTL programme as their male counterparts. For example, they do not have a purpose-built building for housing prisoners in the programme; however, other benefits, such as pay, are the same as their male counterparts.

The 'Through Care Service' is a programme that was designed to coordinate with all the other relevant agencies to offer assistance to the released prisoners and was aimed to help an individual's resettlement and reintegration into the community, e.g. with housing, job placement, opening a bank account, etc. This programme had to be paused during 2022 and the Board was advised that it is due to recommence following legislative changes



## SUMMARY OF AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

### To the Ministry:

- a. **Mental Health:** During the reporting period 2022, the Board observed that the psychiatric provisions for prisoners with severe mental health issues, as previously reported, remain unchanged. The Board is aware that there is still no purpose-built facility or space for prisoners with mental health issues during 2022.
  - i. **Can the Ministry inform the Board of its plans to provide adequate facilities to accommodate prisoners with mental health challenges?**
  - ii. **Can the Ministry inform the Board of the strategic action plans in place to provide training for HMP staff to equip them to handle prisoners and detainees with mental health issues?**
  
- b. **Adequate Facilities for Disabled Prisoners:** The Board continues to express concern over the lack of adequate access and facilities at both prisons for prisoners, detainees and others with disabilities.
  - i. **Can the Ministry advise the Board of its plans to make the prisons more accessible to people with disabilities?**
  
- c. **Facilities for female prisoners at HMP Fairbanks:** Female prisoners at HMP Fairbanks still did not have the same variety of purposeful activities to choose from as the male prisoners at HMP Northward. There were far fewer classes, and prisoners still complained about inconsistencies and frequent cancellations of scheduled classes at short notice.
  - i. **Can the Ministry advise whether there are any plans to improve the range of activities and facilities available for the female prisoners, for example access to cell phones and cooking while on ROTL?**

### To the Acting Director of Prisons:

- d. **Smoking:** The issue of smoking continues to be of great concern to the Board as many non-smoking prisoners and staff continue to lodge complaints to the Board about the negative impact the inhalation of smoke is having on their health. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Prison Management informed the Board of plans to create dedicated smoking areas at HMP Northward. At HMP Fairbanks prison there are designated times and an outdoor space to accommodate smokers. The Board observed 'No Smoking' signs and notices posted on cell blocks at HMP Northward, with stated consequences for violations. However, the Board continues to observe and receive complaints from both prisoners and staff regarding violations of these notices.
  - i. **Can the Acting Director provide an update or timeline for the implementation of the programme to address the smoking matter at HMP Northward?**



### B1. SAFETY

#### *“Prisoners, particularly the most vulnerable, are held safely”*

The Board remains concerned that there are no dedicated facilities at either HMP Northward or HMP Fairbanks for prisoners with mental health issues or vulnerabilities due to the type of crime committed, and that these prisoners are still housed within the general prison population.

From time to time prison management voiced concerns about overcrowding during the year as they neared maximum capacity. Prison Management were also challenged to find ample space and safe housing alternatives for male and female prisoners who had COVID-19, and also during the preparations for Hurricane Ian.

### HMP Northward (including ERU and Juvenile Wing)

#### **Reception and Induction**

- Based on discussions with prisoners, the Board continues to hold the opinion that the process involving the intake of new prisoners at Reception is fair. Staff are cordial and ensure that prisoners are provided with the necessary personal and hygiene materials. This includes clothes, sleeping wear and other essential materials.

#### **Managing Behaviour (Encouraging positive behaviour, adjudications, use of force, segregation):**

The Board noted no changes in the use of segregation or behavior management strategies in HMP Northward. The High Risk Unit or “HRU” is still being used to house prisoners for various infractions or prisoners that need to be monitored on an Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork instruction or “ACCT” if it is deemed that they pose a threat to others or are at risk for self-harm, which continues to be a significant concern for the Board. Of further concern, during periods of heightened restrictions, due to Covid-19, this unit was also used to house juveniles, because the juvenile unit was used as an isolation unit for new prisoners entering the prison who needed to be isolated.

- As stated in previous reports, the Board continues to be concerned that HRU is still being used to accommodate these vulnerable prisoners instead of a specialist unit. While the Board recognises that these measures are taken for the protection of the vulnerable prisoners for their own safety, it is also not ideal to keep them in such restrictions for a long period of time. In the absence of a dedicated vulnerable prisoner wing, it would appear that Prison Management has very few options.
- In regards to the distribution of medication by prison officers (noted as a concern in previous reports), even though a pharmacist assistant has not been hired as initially intended by management, training is now being provided by the HSA for medication distribution, and 24 staff have already been trained.



The Board did not observe the use of any excessive force on the part of any staff member or any required handcuffing of prisoners during visiting times within the institution during the reporting period. However, 7 Use of Force instances were recorded during the reporting period, as shown in the table below. The Board also received 8 applications from prisoners at HMP Northward relating to staff/prisoner issues including, Use of Force complaints and bullying, which is more than any previous reporting year. The Board plans to explore this area in more detail during the next reporting period, to establish if there is any cause for concern.

According to the Use of Force Statistics provided by Prison Management (see Table below), the number of instances recorded of use of force at HMP Northward for this reporting period (2022) was the same as in 2020 and 2021, but almost double the number (4) from 2019.

**Use of Force Statistics** (Figures provided by Prison management). The table below indicates the number of times force was used during the year:

Institution	2022	2021	2020	2019
HMP-NW	7	7	7	4
HMP-FB	0	0	0	0

**Security:**

- It is still the Board’s concern that body cams have not been seen to be worn by officers while on duty during visits. The Board remains unclear in regards to how the body cam policy is implemented.
- The Board has received several complaints from prisoners about incidents which have not been recorded by a body cam, resulting in a lack of evidence to substantiate a complaint.

**Safeguarding (Suicide and self-harm prevention, protection of adults at risk):**

- During the reporting period, Echo Wing, which can house up to 4 prisoners, was used on occasions as a vulnerable prisoner wing. Staff advised that some prisoners housed here suffer from mental health issues. However, it was noted that during times of heightened restrictions due to COVID-19, Echo Unit was also used to house prisoners with COVID-19 and the vulnerable prisoners were placed in the general population, which is of concern to the Board.

**HMP Fairbanks**

- The Segregation Unit at Fairbanks can house up to two prisoners with separate toilets and shower facilities equipped with rails to facilitate the physically challenged. This unit is also used to house prisoners with mental health issues. During the reporting period, this unit was used to house new receptions as an isolation unit due to the pandemic, so it was not available to facilitate the physically challenged. The Board notes that this is an ongoing issue, as identified in previous reports.
- The CIIMB reported in 2019 and 2020 that no fire drills were conducted at Fairbanks, which was of concern to the Board. In 2022 it was reported that a fire drill was conducted at the facility on 2 December 2022.



## B2. RESPECT

*“Prisoners are treated with respect for their human dignity”*

### HMP Northward (including ERU and Juvenile Wing)

#### Staff-prisoner relationships

- Through the Board’s observations, and discussions with staff and prisoners, the Board is of the opinion that generally, prisoners are treated with respect and dignity by staff whilst in custody. For example, the way in which the prisoners and officers speak to and address each other during visits has generally been cordial and respectful. Three applications relating to staff-prisoner relationships were processed (a fourth application was received but withdrawn) The HMCIPS responded to these with the following outcomes:
  - Two applications were found to have no merit
  - One complainant was transferred to another facility outside the prison.

#### Daily Life (living conditions, residential services, prisoner consultations, handling of complaints, legal needs/rights):

- Prisoners receive information from their wing staff verbally or by reading notices posted on the notice board. They can also access applications for making internal complaints to prison management and they may request things such as food and store supplies, and make medical or other health appointments by application to the supervising wing manager. Prisoners can also make applications/complaints to the CI Independent Monitoring Board (CIIMB) by depositing their application into the CIIMB purple box or by making a verbal request/application.
- During the last half of the reporting period, a number of new initiatives were expedited to mitigate risks directly related to the spread of COVID-19 and the need for safely isolating positive prisoners. These initiatives included completion of the air-conditioning system in the wings, repairs in and the reopening of the kitchen at Fairbanks, and ongoing structural work and ventilation of the kitchen area at HMP Northward, with a final completion date of early January 2023. Extraction devices were also installed throughout the prison estate at HMP Northward to assist with the smoking issue inside cell blocks. However, the Board has not observed a significant impact and both prisoners and staff continue to raise concerns about the impact of cigarette smoke on their health.
- Live zoom link initiatives implemented during COVID-19 have now become standard practice post COVID-19 and are frequently utilised by the courts, lawyers and prisoners to deal with some of their legal matters, in addition to adjudications and conference calls to family members and relatives. This offers more flexible and practical options.
- Prisoners at HMP Northward live in residential areas that are ageing, dilapidated and substandard, with no new or ongoing major structural remediation to the current site’s living areas. The Board is concerned about the current conditions at the prison and inadequate provisions. Most of the main accommodation issues reported on since the 2019-2021 CIIMB reports remain unchanged, such as lack of natural lighting and ventilation, bin-liners



being used as curtains in cells for privacy, broken showerheads, some wings having leaking issues when it rains due to lack of plexiglass and mosquitoes getting inside where there is no mesh on windows. However, the completion of the installation of the air conditioning system has been a big improvement to the comfort of the prisoners.

**The following accommodation issues have been noted in 2022:**

- Officers and prisoners have reported to the Board the ongoing issue of rain water continuing to leak through cracks around some window frames and from the ceiling in some areas. Despite efforts to remedy this problem, some leaking continues during mild to severe weather. Part of the issue with this is the lack of plexiglass to keep water out when it rains in some Wings. The Board hopes this can be corrected in short order especially before the rainy season.
- In addition to the lack of Plexiglass, the Board is concerned that mosquito screens are not installed in many of the windows at HMP Northward, and there could be risk of mosquito-borne diseases.
- The building behind the kitchen to the west side of the HMP Northward laundry room, referenced in the 2021 report, is still of concern to the Board because of the safety hazard. Pigeons now use it as a nesting place and the area looks unpleasant and could encourage an infestation of rodents and roaches.
- All the plumbing rooms on wings are without solid doors to secure them. Therefore, the prisoners are using these locations inappropriately for storage of their belongings, as stated in the previous reporting year. This is due to the lack of storage available in cells for prisoners and the Board believes storing items in the plumbing rooms could be a safety hazard.
- The ERU facility remains a key component of the Cayman Islands prison system and the early release programme for male prisoners. It is well maintained by staff and the prisoners who are housed there.
- At HMP Northward, the prisoner population receives a food service allocation of three meals per day. They also have access to a microwave oven, hot beverages and snacks on the wings during evening hours and before going to bed. The Board has observed that, at meal times, many prisoners still eat in their cells or in corridors, due to there being an undesignated area to eat on most Wings, which creates the risk of a pest infestation and is not conducive to social interactions.
- Since the appointment of the kitchen manager in March 2022, the Board is happy to report based on visit observations, a gradual improvement in the kitchen area of both sites. There has not been any written complaints during 2022 concerning the quality and quantity of food offered, and food storage improvements have been noted. Kitchen staff and prisoner workers have been issued with new uniforms, and the use of gloves and hair nets is now standard practice. Additionally the manager has embarked on a full renovation of the kitchen, including additional capital improvements and upgrades to the ventilation systems.
- HMP has made some progress in regards to smoking cessation policies and protocols. However, observations by the Board during 2022 found that the issue with prisoners



smoking in their cells at HMP Northward continues to be problematic, for both the prisoner and staff population. Management have displayed “no smoking” signs and encourage prisoners to smoke outside during the daytime. However, the signs are often disregarded and prisoners still smoke inside their cells after lockdown in the evenings. The Board again raises the concern that the smoking cessation programme, which was to be implemented in 2021, was still not implemented in 2022. Officers and prisoners alike are concerned that the inhalation of second-hand smoke creates health risks.

- Post Pandemic restrictions had an impact on in-person family and legal visits at different times in the 2022 reporting year, but from the Board’s observations, and discussions with prisoners and management, there was generally no significant impact on the ability of prisoners to contact families, or for prisoners to consult with their attorneys – albeit this was usually done remotely by telephone or via Zoom. Prisoners could also make virtual court appearances in some instances.
- As noted in previous reports, the Board’s view is that prisoners’ applications to the Board for assistance are generally taken seriously by prison management and thoroughly investigated. Management’s responses are usually forthcoming, however, we still have reservations expressed by some prisoners regarding the prison’s internal complaint process. There were three written applications processed during the 2022 reporting period in this regard under “Complaints System, Regime and Rights”. The complaints were escalated to the Director for further investigation. One of the prisoners was transferred to another facility before a follow up could be performed and the findings of the investigations of the other two complaints did not merit any further action.

#### **Equality, diversity and faith:**

- The prisons in the Cayman Islands hold prisoners with a diverse mix of ethnicities and backgrounds. The issue of a multi faith room, as reported in the 2021 report, has still not been achieved as of the end of the reporting year.
- There is a Chaplain who still continues to provide Christian denomination services to prisoners at HMP Northward, HMP Fairbanks and ERU, and also offers a non-denominational practice. Prisoners can make special requests to have a leader of their particular faith visit if they desire.

#### **Health, well-being and social care:**

- As previously reported in the 2019, 2020 and 2021 reports, the Board visits to HMP Northward and HMP Fairbanks during the monitoring period 2022 found no improvement to the facilities that would assist those prisoners who may require special access due to a disability. Wheelchair ramps and/or specially adapted areas have not materialised.
- The Board was informed by clinic staff that the clinic is operational during the week from Monday to Friday and is closed on weekends. The Board is still concerned that during weekends and holidays the clinic remains closed, with no medical staff to deal with a prisoner’s medical needs, and in these instances prisoners have to be taken to the Health Services Authority (HSA) by prison staff. The clinic is staffed during normal office hours and still appears to be sufficiently equipped to deal with the basic health needs of prisoners. First aid kits are kept on each wing for any minor incidents that may occur outside opening hours.



- The Board continued to observe and receive reports from wing officers and clinic staff that medication is stored and distributed on each wing by prison officers, instead of a trained medical professional. However, as mentioned, prison management has confirmed that officers have been receiving training from HSA on how to handle and distribute medications and safety precautions for storage are now in place.
- A recurring concern of the Board since the 2019 report is that of continued inadequate facilities and training of staff in dealing with prisoners with mental health issues and the lack of a specialised wing/ unit to accommodate their needs. There is no formal vulnerable prisoner wing or treatment facility to care for prisoners with mental health needs. However, there is ongoing psychiatric care for vulnerable prisoners from a visiting psychiatrist from HSA. The sole places available within the prison for emergency mental health watch is the HRU unit, which is used for segregation. This is by no means an acceptable alternative, especially given the severity of some of the mental health issues officers are expected to deal with.
- The Board has observed that there are still 3 correctional counsellors on staff, who are fully qualified and regulated by the Health Commission. They deal with the prisoners' general mental health needs on a daily basis. The Board was advised that prisoners can request to see a counsellor and will be given an appointment within 24 hours. However, since the last reporting period, the prison psychologist has left and the post is now vacant. The Board was informed that HSA is providing services to temporarily assist with this gap in service while a new psychologist is recruited.
- Prisoners at the ERU advised that there is still no on-site clinic, or nurse available. Any request for medical assistance has to be arranged, on a case-by-case basis.
- It was noted by the Board that the HRU gym at HMP Northward is still not being used, as most of the equipment is damaged or not working and this room is used primarily for storage now. Prisoners in HRU do have access to other purposeful activities, including 1 hour of exercise time per day and educational classes, as well as access to the Chaplain, who visits on request.

## HMP Fairbanks

### Staff-prisoner relationships

- During the reporting period, the Board observed that interactions between prisoners and staff were generally cordial and respectful. Nevertheless, the Board continued to hear from a few prisoners that relationship issues remain problematic between prisoners and staff. A few prisoners have verbally complained of bullying and have advised the Board of these issues during visits and interviews. One application relating to staff-prisoner relationship was received from HMP Fairbanks, but subsequently withdrawn.

### Daily Life (Living conditions, residential services, prisoner consultations, handling of complaints, legal needs/rights):

- The layout of the prison remains unchanged. There are 3 dormitory- style accommodations for prisoners and a segregation unit. All dormitories are maintained and cleaned regularly, with minor repairs carried out by Northward maintenance staff. The Board has observed



that repairs have been made to the kitchen and that other minor maintenance has been carried out. Full kitchen services were restored at the end of Q1 2022, following some staff shortages and drainage issues. The menus have also been under discussion between prisoners and staff, and the issues from the last reporting period of prisoners complaining about the food choices seems to have been resolved. No Applications were received in regards to food and the kitchen during this reporting period.

There are 4 showers and 3 toilets in the communal bathroom area. The centre toilet in this communal bathroom is still out of order, despite this being noted in the 2021 report.

- There is still no purpose-built juvenile unit in Fairbanks, which would be of concern to the Board if a female juvenile were to be received, as there would be no options for segregation.

### **Equality, diversity and faith**

- It is noted by the Board that the Visitor's Room is still being used as a multi-purpose room for various prisoner activities. These activities include receiving visits, making Zoom calls with their family, calls with lawyers, attendance at court via Zoom, probation officers' meetings and other activities. Since the lockdown during 2020, Zoom calls have remained common practice.
- The Chaplain holds Christian and non-denominational services in this area every week. The Chaplain also provides compassionate pastoral support and Bible studies. Multi faith services, as previously requested by some prisoners, can be provided by individual request. One such request was received during the reporting period and the prisoner was provided with a meeting with her chosen religious head.

### **Health, well-being and social care**

- There have been continued post COVID-19 challenges continuing into the 2022 reporting period. Several prisoners have been isolated with COVID-19, and heightened restrictions implemented, which included the continued LFT testing regime for all visitors and staff on entry to any prison site as well as CIIMB members. However, despite these precautions, COVID-19 has still been an issue at times at both prison sites.
- Based on the Board's observations, during the reporting period, the medical provisions remain unchanged. There is a small medical room used by the visiting nurse located inside the main reception area and a secondary location inside the main accommodation that dispenses medication. There is a nurse who visits three times a week, and it was observed by the Board that prisoners' medication appears to be stored in a safe and secure manner.
- There is still a visiting psychiatrist and psychologist (currently provided by HSA, as the former psychologist on staff has yet to be replaced), who visits weekly. Counsellors are also available upon request for prisoners' general mental health needs.
- During the reporting period 2022, the Board noted that there remains no improvements for disabled access, there is no wheelchair access to the main bathroom and no rails fitted to assist those with a disability. The Board observed that there is one shower adapted for disabled prisoners' use in the Segregation Unit, which is fitted with a rail. The Board is still concerned about the lack of adequate provisions made for wheel chair access, in general. In addition, the Board was informed by management that the Segregation Unit, which has



the shower adapted for disability, was still being used as an isolation unit for new prisoners entering the prison prior to their COVID-19 test to enter the general population. As previously mentioned in the last report, it is of concern to the Board that this provision may be unavailable for prisoners with disability should it be in use for COVID-19 isolation.

- During the reporting period, there was a prisoner on crutches who reported experiencing issues using the common bathroom, due to the lack of provisions for persons with physical disabilities. The Board is not aware of any plans to remedy this situation.
- The Board observed that the issue regarding mold in the gym which was reported in the 2020 report had been treated and rectified during the last reporting period. However, mold in this area has since reappeared and is to be dealt with.
- The situation regarding provisions for prisoners with mental health issues, as previously reported, remains unchanged, and is still of concern to the Board. There are no specific facilities for prisoners with mental health issues, and they are held within the general female population.

### **B3. PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY**

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*“Prisoners are able, and expected, to engage in activity that is likely to benefit them.”*

- Purposeful activity includes time out of cells and involvement in meaningful day-to-day activities. For example, this may include exercise, sports, library services, events within the chapel and other activities that support rehabilitation, re-socialisation and reintegration. Also included in this definition are a range of activities that support the everyday running of the Prison, such as work undertaken in the kitchen and laundry.
- Prisoners are permitted to be out of their cells between 6:45am and 11:45am in the morning and from 1:15pm to 9:15pm in the afternoon/evening. During these times, prisoners normally have the opportunity to participate in various educational, recreational or work-based activities. During 2022, the provision of purposeful activities continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic at both HMP Northward and HMP Fairbanks as, at times, prisoners’ movements were restricted, or some activities were not always permitted to the fullest extent.

#### **Educational training across the whole prison estate:**

- The Education Unit reported offering, across the prison estate, over twenty online and face-to-face educational programmes during the September 2021-June 2022 academic year. Details of the courses offered are provided below:

- 1. Literacy (Laubach Entry Levels 1-4): 35 students**
- 2. Numeracy (Laubach Entry Levels 1-4): 23 students**
- 3. IT Programme**
  - a. Computer Literacy (UWI): 15 Students
  - b. Intro to Computers (UWI): 12 Students
  - c. Professional Typing: 8 Students



d. Ratatype: 5 Students

**4. Business Programme**

- a. Small Business Management UWI: 23 students
- b. MOBI: 14 students

**5. CXC Programme**

- a. Principles of Business: 18 students
- b. Office Admin: 8 students
- c. Science: 14 students:
- d. Social Studies: 9 Students
- e. Religious Education: 2 Students
- f. Mathematics: 12 students
- g. English: 15 students

**6. City and Guilds Programme**

- a. Maths levels 1-3: 47 Students
- b. English Levels 1-3: 28 Students

**7. GED Programme: 8 Students**

**8. Music and Art Programme: 15 Students**

**9. College/University Online (Penn Foster/ UWI/UCCI): Approximately 8 students**

Short Courses in: Pharmacy Technician; Supervisory Skills; Alison online courses; Coursera Online courses; Google IT; Information Science; High School Diploma; Coding; Nursing; Elderly Care; Biology; Music Theory; Music Production; Health Care courses; Computer Programming

**10. Higher Education: 4 Students**

- a. BSc- Computer Science UCCI
- b. MSc-HR Management ICCI
- c. AA- IT- New York University
- d. BSc- Psychology UWI (scholarship)

- A total of 109 prisoners were actively enrolled in one or more educational programme during the September 2021-June 2022 academic year. 82 enrolled students completed the programme, and 27 were discharged or released before completion. These numbers indicate an increase from the previous year and that over a third of the average male population and approximately half of the average female population are engaged in educational programmes.

**Vocational training across the whole prison estate:**

- The Vocational Training Unit currently offers in-person and online programmes to prisoners across all of the prison estate who have successfully completed one or more of the prerequisite courses in literacy and numeracy and any relevant subject-specific CXC prerequisites. To the Board, this appears to promote advancement in education and training by ensuring that prisoners are sufficiently equipped to undertake courses in a



meaningful and successful manner.

- The following programmes were available during 2021-22:
  1. Tools for Success (NCCER): Northward 11, Fairbanks 7 students
  2. Core Curriculum (NCCER) 8 students
  3. Electrical Technology and Installation (NCCER LEVEL 1): 11 students
  4. Carpentry Practical – Wood Work Party: 11 students
  5. Carpentry Technology (NCCER LEVEL 1)
  6. Basic Solar Energy (New York University)
  7. Hospitality Management (Penn Foster University)
  8. Hotel and Restaurant Management (Penn Foster University)
  9. Supervisory Management (University of The West Indies Open Campus)
  10. Electrical Wireman, Apprentice, and Journeyman preparation training Certification - (UCCI): 11 students
  
- The following programmes were not available during 2021-22. For most of these courses, the main reason was a lack of staff/teachers to run the courses:
  1. Agricultural Science (City & Guilds)
  2. Plumbing Technology (NCCER LEVEL 1)
  3. Auto-Mechanic (City & Guilds)
  4. Auto-Body Repairs (City & Guilds)
  5. HVAC (Heating ventilation and Air conditioning system) (NCCER LEVEL 1)
  
- Additionally, non-qualifying programmes are provided:
  1. Gym
  2. Grow box (agricultural unit) at both Northward and Fairbanks
  3. Tailoring at Fairbanks
  4. Kitchen management
  
- A total of 111 prisoners were engaged in a vocational training programme. A significant portion of these programmes were based at Northward, which houses the majority of the facilities for these courses.

### **Observations relating to HMP Northward:**

- The Board observed that the education and vocational facilities are typically well attended. Class sizes ranged between 5 and 15. Facilities that are available range from a computer lab, art room, general classrooms, electrical, plumbing and woodwork workshops that appear reasonably furnished with practical equipment that is in regular use.
  
- Ordinary opening times are Mondays, Thursday mornings and Fridays. The Board was informed by prisoners in the library that there is still a lack of accessible working computers to prepare for court hearings. As observed in previous annual reports, the library is under-utilised, with an average of three or four prisoners per day. Complaints were received about the library being occasionally closed, mainly due to prison staff shortages as a result of COVID-19-related absences.
  
- The Board observed that prisoners regularly participate in the construction of items such as: park benches, tables, garbage bin holders, cards and domino tables, etc. These items are sold to government departments or the public and appear to be of a high standard of quality and craftsmanship.



- The Board regularly observed that the gym was utilised, on average, by around 15-25 prisoners per day during the week. There is also a physiotherapy room that was often used on a Thursday morning. However, working prisoners have expressed concerns that they are unable to use the gym, as the gym is not accessible after 5pm and have requested that the gym be made accessible in the evenings.
- The laundry and kitchen areas were observed to operate well on each visit, with approximately 5-7 prisoners working in the laundry, principally in the mornings, and the kitchen operating with approximately 7-10 prisoners engaged in work during the day. This provides various opportunities for prisoners to engage in purposeful activities that also include elements of skills for those who are not engaged in education programmes. Construction of new kitchen management/office facilities was observed towards the end of the year and involved prisoners actively engaged in construction.
- The Board observed regular activities in the farmland area, generating crop for use in the prison kitchen. The farm continued to grow a variety of vegetables for sale for local consumption or commercially for retailers on Island. They also have a variety of fish and livestock, generating a significant workload for those involved in these activities in an open-air environment.
- The Sycamore Tree Project on restorative justice was observed to run for an 8-week period from January 2022. This runs in the Chaplaincy as a formal programme to engage prisoners in addressing their attitudes towards reoffending and their experience with victims of crimes. This, along with The Prisoners Journey programme offers the opportunity to engage in activities beyond the education and vocational training programmes. In 2022, there were three sessions held for the Sycamore Tree project, with a total of 35 participants and three sessions held for the Prisoners Journey programs, with a total of 48 participants.

A juvenile detained at Northward during 2022, received no access to formal education and had limited access to other purposeful activities throughout the year. The Board observed that he spent significant time alone in his cell. The Board is concerned that juveniles being segregated from the adult population (as required by the Constitution of the Cayman Islands) results in sole isolation when there is only one juvenile in detention. In this particular instance, the legal proceedings against him took a long time as he was detained on remand for the remainder of the year. The Board noted that he was still supposed to be in compulsory education during the reporting period. However, there was a significant delay in obtaining approval from the Ministry for staff to deliver compulsory education, which was not delivered at any point during 2022. The Board is concerned that the Prison does not have staff licensed to teach juveniles.

#### **Observations relating to ERU:**

- Prisoners housed at the ERU are typically engaged in work in the community during the day as part of their release planning, and only 1 or 2 prisoners are present during weekdays, in the daytime.
- There is a small outdoor gym area that prisoners use during their free time. However, the Board remains concerned about the inadequacy and limited range of the equipment available for use by prisoners, and the fact that it is located outside.



- ERU prisoners are also engaged in a rota system of daily chores to maintain the facility in clean and good working order.

**Observations relating to HMP Fairbanks:**

- The Board has observed some inconsistencies with classes; some classes being held are infrequent or sometimes cancelled at short notice.
- During the reporting period, the salon was not operational due to staffing issues, as advised by officers.
- The Board noted that the gym is well-equipped with various exercise equipment. This facility was not observed in use particularly often, although the sign-in sheet on the door indicated that there was some use being made by a few of the prisoners on limited occasions.
- Prisoners and staff alike have complained that female prisoners do not have the same educational opportunities as male prisoners, and the Board remains concerned about this inequality in provision. The female prison population is much smaller than the male population, and the facilities at Fairbanks are more limited compared to Northward Prison.
- An art/sewing room is equipped with supplies and machinery. A small number of prisoners have been observed to take advantage of these resources during visits.
- The Sycamore Tree Project, as described on page 22, ran at Fairbanks during June and July 2022.
- The outside garden/grow box area has been developed and is used more frequently during visits compared to the previous year. There is limited space for outside activities, restricted access to a garden, and a larger outdoor space to the rear that can be used for sports. This was not observed to be used in any meaningful way during visits, aside from leisurely use and for smoking breaks in the covered area.

**B4. REHABILITATION AND RELEASE PLANNING**

*“Prisoners are supported to maintain and develop release planning relationships with their family and friends. Prisoners are helped to reduce their likelihood of reoffending and their risk of harm is managed effectively. Prisoners are prepared for their release back into the community.”*

**HMP Northward (including ERU and Juvenile Wing)**

**Children and families and contact with the outside world:**

**Prisoners’ support network**

- Across all prison sites, the visitors’ programme was still impacted by COVID-19 at the start of 2022. However, soon after, in-person visits resumed.



- Across all sites, prisoners have the option of physical visits and virtual visits conducted via Zoom. It's up to the prisoner to decide which option they prefer for a particular week. Furthermore, there is flexibility in varying the visiting approach, i.e. to rotate between physical and virtual visits, on a weekly basis, if desired. Prisoners still make use of virtual visits, which enable them to speak to their family members when the family members are unable to physically travel to the prison on a particular day, such as when family members are off-island.
- Since visits resumed, there are currently no restrictions on the nature of visitors, including children visiting. Relatives are allowed to visit based on the schedule and fathers are also allowed to interact with their children. Some precautions are still in place, however, and all visitors are required to wear masks at the prison and perform Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) before accessing the prisoners. Additionally, limited contact is allowed; for example, hugging and kissing are restricted.
- Special church programmes and home visit permissions were also reinstated. There is currently no direct monitoring for home visits; however, the prisoners are reviewed periodically to confirm that they comply with the regulations during the special home visits. The prisoners are also required to perform LFTs upon return.
- Emergency visits are also accepted; for example, prisoners with sick/ dying relatives are allowed to go and visit their relatives in the hospital.
- Low-risk prisoners are allowed one home visit per month. This applies to mostly local and foreign prisoners with relatives in the Cayman Islands.

#### **Access to telephone and other communications**

- Prisoners continued to have regular access to telephone communications, and this provided an opportunity to keep in touch with their family and friends when visits were limited because of COVID-19. Prisoners are assigned individual phone numbers that family and friends can 'top-up' with minutes. Calls, however, can only be made to those persons approved by the prison. Telephones continue to be available on every Wing.
- iPads/tablets are still made available to prisoners for Zoom visits with family and friends, following the protocols set for Zoom meetings.

#### **Rehabilitation Progression and Reducing Risk of Reoffending Coordinated Rehabilitation Services**

- HMCIPS partners closely with the Department of Community Rehabilitation (DCR) to deliver rehabilitation services in the prison aimed at reducing prisoners' risk of reoffending.
- Across all sites, each prisoner is still assigned to a probation officer with DCR and a case plan is then developed. Prisoners are involved in developing the goals and stating their individual needs, and programmes are then included in the plan that are intended to help address those needs. DCR continued to use a multi- disciplinary/multi-agency approach to aid each prisoner in achieving the set goals. The Prison's Clinical and the Re-entry teams along with other teams are involved in working with the prisoners.



- Each prisoner's case plan includes participation in programmes offered by DCR. Completion of the case plan is one of the factors considered for conditional release. It is rare for any prisoner to be granted conditional release without achieving the goals outlined in their case plan. Prison management commented that most of the prisoners state that they like the programmes, but some are not interested in continuing if they fail the entry exams or assessment.
- It was reported in the 2021 report that DCR probation officers struggled in this period with a heavy case load of prisoners and the Board heard from more prisoners than in previous years that they were not seeing their probation officers as frequently as they would like. In the 2022 reporting period this matter was addressed, and changes and improvements were made. Currently the case load appears to be manageable, and each prisoner is assigned a probation officer and they are required to meet regularly and to discuss any matters that arise.
- The Board was informed by staff that sometimes the prisoners misinterpret the duties of the probation officer. For example, some prisoners assume they are entitled to see their probation officer every time the probation officer is in the prison. However, the Board has been advised that the probation officer is responsible for assisting with the case plan and seeing the prisoner work through the case plan, and meets with prisoners when there are issues to discuss, and not during every visit to the prison site.
- The Re-entry Department and its team of officers continued its work with the prisoners from inception to release. DCR offers programmes at Northward and Fairbanks. However, due to COVID-19, DCR group sessions were suspended and not offered for some parts of 2022.
- In the latter part of 2022, DCR offered 7 group sessions of the Anger Management programme and 13 prisoners enrolled in this group. There was also one client in ERU who accessed the community Men's Non-Violence Programme via Zoom in 2022. DCR will resume the Men's Non-Violence Programme starting in 2023.

It is important to note that even though they could not conduct as many group sessions, the supervision continued. Probation Officers were delivering intervention services through one-to-one supervision.

### **Support to achieve targets**

- The Board was informed that the prisoners still receive their case plan through their Probation Officer and that each prisoner receives a case plan and works towards achieving targets. They are supported by their Officer Advisor and the various other staff members who work with them on a daily /weekly basis.
- These programmes are part of the prisoner's case load and completion of the programme is a key consideration for conditional release. Therefore, most prisoners attend and complete their case load.
- Prison management commented that the majority of the prisoners are interested in the programmes; however, some prisoners might say they are not interested due to stigma. Stigma usually arises when the prisoner fails the entry exams or is assessed and deemed



not fit to take on a particular programme, or if it is a beginner programme specifically for those that cannot read or write. In this case, some prisoners resort to stating that they are not interested.

- Due to the stigma attached to being unable to read and write prison management are looking to rename classes such as “English Beginner” classes to encourage prisoners who would otherwise be reluctant to participate.

## **Intervention services**

- The Board was informed that things were mostly back to normal with intervention services, after the disruptions due to COVID-19, and that the counselling team continued to provide appropriate interventions for the benefit of the prisoners. Proven, evidence-based programmes are still in use for prisoners who need them.
- These are highly demanding programmes. Some of these programmes can take 12 weeks to complete and involve much reading. These are mostly clinical programmes like “Steps to Success”, which is offered to prisoners with anger management issues and sex offenders. These programmes are based on criminal factors identified during the assessment of the prisoner.
- The “Steps to Success” is one of the most highly recommended programmes, and is included in most prisoners’ case plans. This programme helps the prisoners assess and monitor themselves, for example, understanding that the victim is not only the person that was directly injured by their acts, but that the prisoner might be a victim, and that their family members, relatives, and friends can also be victims.
- The program is designed to assist participants in identifying their values and objectives, understanding their utilisation of delinquent actions to pursue these objectives, and discovering strategies for adopting safer behaviors to achieve their goals. The curriculum integrates training in mindfulness, distress tolerance, interpersonal aptitude, and emotion regulation, all aimed at enhancing self-control and self-governance. Ultimately, participants are directed in formulating a plan for preventing relapses.

## **ROTL Programme**

- The Release on Temporary License (ROTL) programme continued to be an essential part of the Prison’s rehabilitation strategy and resettlement journey for the prisoners.
- The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the 2021 and 2022 numbers on ROTL. As of December 2022, nine (9) prisoners were on ROTL.
- Most prisoners desire to be on the ROTL because it’s one of the first steps to integrate into the community. However, there are only eleven (11) rooms which can accommodate up to twenty-two (22) prisoners at a time if placed at double occupancy; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the prison management did not want to congest the area hence a single occupancy rule is in place.



The table below provides the number of prisoners who have completed the ROTL programme since 2019.

Calendar Year	# Completed Prog.
2019	14
2020	11
2021	11
2022	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

- All prisoners are still encouraged to have a job inside the prison, which can range from cleaning and laundry to construction work or orderly work for different areas. For this work, they receive a small weekly stipend for their services. Prisoners continued to receive advice on how to manage the money they earned and how to save money for when they are released. Payments received by prisoners for their work are deposited into a split account, which has voluntary and compulsory savings. Withdrawals can be made from the voluntary account to purchase “canteen” items. The remaining funds are placed in a compulsory saving system.
- In the last report, the Board reported that a slight increase in the prisoner stipend had occurred, and there had been an increase in pay due to a change in the PSI instructions from \$15 to \$18 per week. The Board followed up on the effect of this increase and was advised that there was no significant change noticed.

## Release Planning

- In 2021 a new programme was put in place that aimed to follow each prisoner beyond the gates of the prison for a proposed six months. The programme was called Through Care Services and was implemented in the prison in October 2021.
- The programme was designed to coordinate with all the other relevant agencies to offer assistance to the released prisoners and was aimed to help an individual’s resettlement and reintegration into the community, e.g. with housing, job placement, opening a bank account, etc.
- The Board was informed that this programme had to be paused during 2022 and is due to recommence following legislative changes.

## HMP Fairbanks

### Children and families and contact with the outside world: Prisoners’ support network

- Like HMP Northward, HMP Fairbanks visitors’ programme was still impacted by COVID-19 at the start of 2022; however, later in the year in-person visits resumed.
- As mentioned, prisoners across all sites currently have the option of physical visits and virtual visits conducted via Zoom. It’s up to the prisoner to decide which option they



prefer for a particular week. Furthermore, there is flexibility in varying the visiting approach, i.e., rotating between physical and virtual visits on a weekly basis if desired. Prisoners still like the virtual visits because they are able to speak to their family members when the family members are unable to physically travel to the prison on a particular day, such as when family members are off island.

- Since visits were resumed there are currently no restrictions on the nature of visitors including receiving children. Relatives are allowed to visit based on the schedule and mothers are also allowed to interact with their children. Some precautions are still in place, however, and all visitors are required to wear masks at the prison and perform Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) before accessing the prisoners. Additionally, there is limited contact allowed. For example, hugging and kissing is restricted.
- Special church programmes and home visit permissions were also reinstated. There is currently no direct monitoring for home visits, but the prisoners are reviewed periodically to confirm that they are complying with the regulations during the special home visits. The prisoners are also required to perform LFT tests upon return.
- Emergency visits are also accepted; for example, prisoners with sick/ dying relatives are allowed to go and visit their relatives in the hospital.
- Low security risk prisoners are allowed one home visit per month, following an approval and risk assessment process. This applies to mostly local prisoners and foreign prisoners that have strong familial ties in the Cayman Islands.

### **Access to telephone and other communications**

- Prisoners continued to have regular access to telephone communications, and this provided an opportunity to keep in touch with their family and friends when visits were limited because of COVID-19. The phone system remains the same and prisoners are assigned individual phone numbers that family and friends can 'top-up' with minutes. Calls, however, can only be made to those persons approved by the prison. Telephones continue to be available in the entry room to the prison.
- Throughout the pandemic, iPads/tablets were made available to prisoners for Zoom visits with family and friends, following the protocols set for Zoom meetings. As previously mentioned, these options are still available to prisoners and some may choose a virtual visit some weeks over an in person visit depending on circumstances.

### **Rehabilitation Progression and Reducing Risk of Reoffending Coordinated Rehabilitation Services**

- All prisoners, except those on remand during the 2022 reporting period were enrolled and pursuing DCR programmes. Furthermore, timetables and scope of the programmes are maintained for each prisoner.
- In scenarios where the new prisoners don't want to enroll in any DCR programme, it's the responsibility of the Prison officers including the prisoner's probation officer to



encourage them and emphasise the advantages of pursuing the programmes. Note, during the reporting year 2022, the prison has not received any prisoner that resisted enrolment.

- In the previous reporting year, the Board had received verbal concerns from a few prisoners about the lack of regular access to their probation officers due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, this issue seems to have since been rectified during 2022. The case load is manageable, and each prisoner is assigned a probation officer and they are required to meet and discuss any matters that arise.
- During 2022, DCR offered two new programmes at HMP Fairbanks called the “My Healing” and the “Your Journey” group programmes. The “My Healing” programme is typically offered in HMP Fairbanks only. The aim of this programme is to help participants identify their trauma triggers, understand the impact of trauma on their thinking and behaviour, and identify containment techniques to manage the effects of trauma.
- The “Your Journey” programme is offered in both prisons, although it is limited at HMP Northward. This is a structured approach to supervision that uses a cognitive-behavioral approach to help participants understand how their thinking patterns are linked to their behaviour (i.e. offending behaviour). DCR have created a “Your Journey” exercise booklet that has been offered at all of the institutions. There has been great uptake of these booklets by prisoners, and they are working their way through them, and going through them on an individual level with their assigned Probation Officers.

### **Intervention services**

- Prisoners still have the same access to counselling services and can request an appointment as needed. HSA also provides a visiting psychiatrist and psychologist.
- Substance abuse programmes are also offered as part of the counselling programmes. Counseling related activities are categorized into: (1) counseling of an individual and (2) counseling for a group.
- Furthermore, the prison has two counsellors from social services that visit the prison twice every week, and the Chaplain also offers counselling services after Bible study.

### **ROTL Programme**

- For 2022, the ROTL programme closed the year with four prisoners from Fairbanks. The females enrolled in the ROTL programme do not have a dedicated ERU building like their male counterparts, given the small numbers; however, the programme and rewards structure is the same.
- Female prisoners in the ROTL programme do not have the same housing privileges as those from HMP Northward. For example, they cannot retain their phones or access their own cooking facilities while at HMP Fairbanks, as they are still housed with the general population



## Recidivism (Data provided by the Prison Management)

The table below shows the recidivism rates for both males and females for 2020, 2021 and 2022 (i.e. prisoners who have been readmitted to prison within two years of reintegration into society.)

Location	2022		2021		2020	
HMP NORTHWARD	29	19%	25	19%	13	16%
HMP FAIRBANKS	1	7%	1	10%	1	17%

Most prisoners at Fairbanks admitted during the 2022 reporting period are first-time offenders, a pattern observed in previous years.



## PART C – Work of the Board

### C1 – Board Activities

The Board meets monthly. The Prison Director (Acting), or Prison delegate is invited to attend the meeting to inform/ update the Board of the Prisons developments and respond to current observations from members during their visits.

**Table 1- Board Statistics**

CATEGORY	2022	2021
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	12	10
Number of Board Meetings Held	10	12
Total number of visits/hours to Northward	118 visits/356.5hrs	126 visits / 303 hrs
Total number of visits/hours to Fairbanks	46 visits /109 hrs	41 visits / 138 hrs
Total number of visits/hours to ERU	8 visits/2.5 hrs	16 visits / 9 hrs
Total Visits/hours All Facilities	172 visits/468hrs	183vists / 450 hrs

### C2- The Applications Process

All prisoners can ask any member of the Board to help them with a request or issue. This can be done, confidentially, in writing through applications provided by the Board. These applications are available on every wing of HMP Northward, in the prisoner telephone access area at HMP Fairbanks and at the entrance of the ERU. Prisoners can place their applications in the CIIMB's locked boxes, which are regularly checked by the CIIMB members. Prisoners can also speak directly to a member of the Board during their visits.

**Table 2 –Applications from Prisoners Submitted to the Board**

Category	Number of Applications Received		
	2022	2021	2020
<b>A</b> Accommodation	0	1	1
<b>B</b> Adjudications	0	0	0
<b>C</b> Equality, Diversity and Faith	1	3	1
<b>D</b> Education, Employment and Training	0	2	2
<b>E</b> Family, Visits, Mail and Phone	0	2	4
<b>F</b> Finance and Pay	1	1	2
<b>G</b> Food and Kitchen	0	0	0
<b>H</b> Health and Sanitation	4	3	3
<b>I</b> Property within this establishment	0	1	3
<b>J</b> Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	0	1	0
<b>K</b> Canteen facility	0	1	0
<b>L</b> Sentence Management inc. HRU, ROTL, Conditional Release, release dates, re-categorisation	3	4	5
<b>M</b> Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	9	4	4
<b>N</b> Gym & Leisure Facilities	0	0	0
<b>O</b> Complaints System, Regime and Rights	3	5	0
<b>P</b> Outside our Remit (ie. Legal)	1	8	2
<b>Q</b> Misc.	1	2	0
<b>CIIMB Applications</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Confidential Applications to the Chair</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>



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### C3- The Board Members

Mrs. Dorothy Davis (Chair)  
Mr. Courtney Perrin (Deputy Chair)  
Ms. Cheryl Myles  
Mr. Errol Levy  
Mr. Michael Bromby  
Ms. Nelva Ebanks  
Mr. Alberto Campuzano  
Ms. Faith Dube  
Ms. Karen Ferguson  
Ms. Bonnie Bodden  
Mr. Gerald Semakula

**Secretary:**

Mrs. Evette Burnell-Harris, Secretariat Services, Office of the Deputy Governor

We thank the following former Members for their service in 2022:

Lorna Lumsden  
Dahlia Miller  
Paul Nicoll



CAYMAN ISLANDS  
INDEPENDENT MONITORING  
BOARD(CIIMB)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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