

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

## INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD (CIIMB) for Prisons and Places of Detention

*“the eyes and ears of our community behind the closed doors of our  
prisons and places of detention”*



2023 Annual Report



Office of the  
Deputy Governor  
Cayman Islands Government

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## A1 Statement from the Chairman

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As Chairman of the Cayman Islands Independent Monitoring Board (CIIMB), I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. This report reflects the Board’s continuous commitment to monitoring the treatment and conditions of prisoners and detainees in the Cayman Islands. Our role is to provide independent oversight of the prisons and places of detention, ensuring that individuals in these facilities are treated fairly, humanely, and with respect for their rights.

Over the past year, the Board has conducted numerous visits to HMP Northward, HMP Fairbanks, the Enhanced Rehabilitation Unit (ERU), and the Immigration Detention Centre. We have seen progress in several areas, including improvements in safety protocols and the availability of rehabilitation programmes. However, challenges remain, particularly in addressing overcrowding, the provision of healthcare, and the accommodation of vulnerable groups such as individuals with mental health issues and female prisoners.

The CIIMB remains focused on identifying areas for development and working closely with relevant authorities to address these issues. Our goal is to ensure that all individuals in custody are treated with dignity and that their rights are upheld in line with both local and international standards.

Looking ahead, the Board will continue its efforts to monitor and advocate for improvements in the facilities under its remit. We acknowledge the ongoing work of prison and detention staff in often difficult circumstances and thank them for their cooperation during our visits.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow Board members for their dedication and commitment throughout the year. Their efforts are instrumental in fulfilling our mandate of ensuring transparency and accountability in the treatment of prisoners and detainees in the Cayman Islands.

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Dorothy Davis  
Chairman, Cayman Islands Independent Monitoring Board

## A2 Human Rights and the Role of the CIIMB

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### Human Rights

At the heart of human rights is the belief that everyone is born with basic rights and freedoms that cannot be taken away. These rights come from our inherent value as human beings, not from any government or rules. They apply to everyone, no matter who they are or what their situation is.

It is especially important to protect people's rights in prisons and detention centres. Even though they're confined, people still have basic rights that must be respected. This idea is backed up by laws around the world, including national legislation such as the Cayman Islands' Bill of Rights.

It is crucial to have transparency and accountability in how prisons and detention centres are handled. Organisations that monitor prisons and detention centres play a big role in making sure human rights are respected and in pushing for changes to improve conditions.

### Human Rights in Prisons

In our society, everyone has the right to be safe, including those who are detained. It's important that prisoners are held in a safe and secure environment where they are protected from harm. This means that the authorities have a responsibility to ensure that proper measures are in place to prevent violence, abuse, and accidents within the prison or detention centre.

Prison and detention centre officials have a significant role in making sure that people's rights are respected every day. Their job is more than just keeping order; they have to treat everyone in their care with respect and fairness. This isn't just about following rules—it's about doing what's right. It also means making sure everyone is treated equally and with dignity, no matter what. When we respect the rights of prisoners and detainees, we show that we believe in fairness, justice, and the value of every person.

This means that even if someone is or has been detained, they still have the right of access to the same level of healthcare and wellness services as they would in the community. When detainees have access to good healthcare, it not only helps them stay healthy but also contributes to their rehabilitation and helps reduce the chances of them committing crimes once they're released. It's also important for prisoners to receive support and guidance to help them plan for life after detention and reintegrate into society smoothly. By ensuring that prisoners and detainees are treated humanely and given the help they need, we not only uphold their rights but also make our communities safer for everyone.

### Human Rights in Immigration Detention

When it comes to people held in immigration detention, human rights are especially important because they face unique challenges. Unlike in criminal cases, immigration detention can be the result of

administrative rules, rather than offending behaviour. So, it's crucial to understand the legal, ethical, and humanitarian aspects of respecting their rights.

At its heart, the idea remains the same: everyone held in immigration detention has basic human rights, no matter their immigration status. These rights include being treated with dignity and respect, having a fair process and a chance to speak up, and not being held without a good reason. We also need to pay extra attention to groups like children, refugees, trafficking victims, and people with mental health issues, because they might need more support.

Immigration detention brings its own set of problems for protecting human rights. People can be held for a long time without knowing what will happen to them, and they might not have enough access to legal help. They might also face language and cultural barriers and not understand how the legal system works.

To address these issues, immigration authorities and detention staff need to focus on respecting human rights. This means making sure people have lawyers, translators if they need them, and that their detention is regularly reviewed. It's also important to find other options besides detention whenever possible. Detention centers should also make sure people have access to healthcare, enough food, and are able to relax and socialise.

### **Establishment and Role of the CIIMB**

The Cayman Islands Independent Monitoring Board (CIIMB) was established by the Governor in February 2018 and became fully operational in 2019. Its job is to keep an eye on how people are treated in prisons and places of detention in the Cayman Islands. The CIIMB checks that prisoners and detainees are treated fairly and humanely.

### **CIIMB Board Membership**

The members of the CIIMB are appointed by the Governor. They are not experts in law or prison work, and they don't do formal inspections. Instead, they are volunteers who act as the community's representatives inside the prisons detention facilities. They seek to understand what happens on a day-to-day basis and share their observations in line with the monitoring standards set by the Cayman Islands government. They also draw from their own experiences and consider what society expects from prisons and detention facilities. This helps ensure that their insights are relevant and useful in improving conditions and treatment of prisoners and detainees.

### **Key Responsibilities of the CIIMB**

The CIIMB, broadly based on the UK Independent Monitoring Boards, has several responsibilities:

1. Regularly visiting prisons and detention facilities to see first-hand how prisoners and detainees are treated and the conditions they live in.

2. Handling prisoners' and detainees' applications and requests confidentially, and passing on any issues to the right person or agency for help.
3. Quickly informing the management of the facilities about any significant concerns they have.
4. If the concerns aren't resolved, escalating them to the proper authorities through the ODG Secretariat to the Board.
5. Discussing emerging themes from their visits at Quarterly Meetings with officials from various offices and ministries involved in managing the facilities, and from the offices of the Governor and Deputy Governor.
6. Reporting annually on how well the facilities meet the standards and requirements, and how this affects the people in their custody.

### **Right of Access**

To make sure the Board can do their job well, they have the right to:

1. access every prisoner, even in private if needed;
2. visit every part of the prison or detention facility; and
3. look at all the records of the facility, except for personal medical records.

### **Support for the CIIMB**

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.ky](mailto:CIIMB@gov.ky) .

## A3-Executive Summary and Main Findings

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### A3.1 PRISONS

#### INTRODUCTION

CIIMB members made 162 visits for a total of 337.5 monitoring hours from January to December 2023, to HMP Northward, HMP Fairbanks and the Enhanced Rehabilitation Unit for male prisoners.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CIIMB conducted thorough monitoring activities across HMP Northward, HMP Fairbanks, and the Enhanced Rehabilitation Unit (ERU), focusing on key areas such as safety, respect, healthcare, and rehabilitation. The report presents the findings from 162 visits conducted between January and December 2023.

#### MAIN FINDINGS

Below are the main findings made in line with the CIIMB monitoring standards and key outcomes expected for prisons:

**1. SAFETY: Prisoners, even the most vulnerable, held safely**

The prisons were found generally to be safe for inmates, however bullying cases have gradually increased. Concerns persist regarding overcrowding, the lack of dedicated facilities for vulnerable prisoners with mental health needs.

**2. RESPECT: Prisoners are treated fairly and humanely, with respect for their dignity as human beings**

Prisoners are treated fairly and humanely, though the Board noted some complaints of staff bullying, particularly at HMP Fairbanks. There remain significant issues with living conditions at HMP Northward, particularly in relation to ventilation and privacy.

**3. HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS: Prisoners have access to healthcare and wellness services and facilities that are on par with community standards**

Healthcare services have improved, with medication handling now better regulated, but mental health provisions remain insufficient. The prison lacks a dedicated facility for prisoners with mental health challenges, and smoking inside cells continues to pose health risks.

**4. REHABILITATION, RELEASE PLANNING AND REINTEGRATION: Prisoners receive support and guidance to help them plan and prepare for life after prison and to reintegrate into society smoothly**

The rehabilitation programmes, while beneficial, are limited, particularly for juveniles and female

prisoners. Case management for prisoners is hindered by a shortage of probation officers, delaying reintegration planning. Educational and vocational training opportunities, especially for women, are also inadequate.

**APPLICATIONS FROM PRISONERS**

- Total number of applications received: 53
- Key observations/themes/responses: **Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying**

**MAIN AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

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**To the Governor:**

**To the Minister:**

**To the Director of Prisons:**

1. Establish dedicated facilities for prisoners with mental health challenges.
2. Improve living conditions, particularly at HMP Northward, addressing issues of overcrowding, poor ventilation, and inadequate privacy.
3. Address understaffing of probation officers to ensure timely rehabilitation and reintegration support.

The report also highlights progress in reducing recidivism rates, particularly among female prisoners, and the ongoing success of various rehabilitation programmes. However, it emphasises the need for further improvements in safety, respect, and healthcare standards across all monitored facilities.

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**IMPROVEMENTS NOTED OVER THE MONITORING PERIOD:**

**PROGRESS MADE SINCE LAST REPORT:**

Issues Raised in 2022-2023	Progress Made
1. a) Can the Ministry inform the Board of its plans to provide adequate facilities to accommodate prisoners with mental health challenges?	<b>The Outline Business case for the proposed new prison estate includes accommodations for prisoners with mental health challenges within a Care and Separation Unit (CASU). The Ministry has representation on the project steering committee and is being supported by the project management team at Public Works. We will ensure that any future design provides adequate</b>

<p>b) 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 with mental health issues?</p>	<p>facilities to better accommodate prisoners with mental health challenges. In the interim, we will continue to manage these individuals on a case-by-case basis within the limited facilities we have.</p> <p>There are plans in place to resume the Mental Health First Aid Training for all prison staff. This training will be delivered internally in cohorts to allow all staff to complete the training. This training equips staff to offer appropriate support to individuals facing mental health challenges while in our care and custody.</p>
<p>2. Can the Ministry advise the Board of its plans to make the prisons more accessible to people with disabilities?</p>	<p>The Outline Business case for the proposed new prison estate includes provisions for facilities and arrangements that are compliant with The Disabilities (Solomon Webster) Law (2016). The Ministry has representation on the project steering committee and is being supported by the project management team at Public Works. We will ensure that the future design provides adequate facilities that are more accessible to people with disabilities.</p>
<p>3. Can the Acting Director advise whether there are any plans to improve the range of facilities available for the female prisoners, for example access to cell phones and cooking while on ROTL?</p>	<p>Female inmates on R.O.T.L. do not have phones at this time. However, this is something we plan to implement going forward. In regards to kitchen / cooking facilities we are extremely limited with space at Fairbanks so this point may be more challenging going forward.</p>
<p>4. Can the Acting Director provide an update or timeline for the implementation of the programme to address the smoking matter at HMP Northward?</p>	<p>The reduction in smoking on wings is something we plan to move forward with in the best way practicable to us at Northward. We had several meetings in 2023 to discuss the best policy to introduce a cleaner air environment for all. Smoking cessation programme is currently being looked at with the psychologist dept involved as well as healthcare and staff. We hope to move forward with strict rules and designated areas in the near future.</p>
<p>5. Can the Acting Director indicate when this issue of the lack of a fire prevision (sprinklers, exhaust, drills, etc) in the building that housed Delta and HRU will be remedied?</p>	<p>A sprinkler system and exhaust systems especially were mentioned. We are currently installing exhaust fans wherever we can to improve air quality. Moving forward we hope to install a sprinkler system and fire safety hoods throughout the estate.</p>

### 1. INTRODUCTION

CIIMB members made 33 visits, for a total of 38 monitoring hours from January to December 2023, to the Immigration Detention Centre.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board noted improvements in monitoring but raised concerns over safety, such as detainees regularly breaching perimeter security. The facility lacks adequate privacy and appropriate segregation of detainees by gender and family units. There are also concerns regarding delays in meal distribution, inadequate medical facilities, and a lack of purposeful activities for detainees.

### 3. MAIN JUDGEMENTS (consider how to group to create summary questions like prisons)

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

Detainees' safety at the Immigration Detention Centre remains a concern, particularly due to frequent breaches of the perimeter fence and inadequate staff levels. Although the Centre is staffed by three security officers at all times, this is insufficient when the number of detainees rises, sometimes reaching up to 60 individuals. Additionally, concerns were raised about exposed electrical wiring and a lack of fire safety resources. These issues compromise the overall security and disaster preparedness of the facility.

#### 2. ***RESPECT (Fair and humane treatment): Are detainees treated with respect for their human dignity?***

The respect and dignity of detainees are undermined by inadequate privacy and segregation measures. Men and women are often housed together without proper separation, leading to significant concerns regarding personal safety and privacy. The detention facility's layout is an open floor plan with little provision for family units or vulnerable groups. Additionally, there were complaints from detainees about inappropriate treatment by security officers, which led to the removal of some staff.

#### 3. ***HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS: Are detainees able to easily access healthcare and wellness services and facilities that are on a par with community standards?***

Healthcare services at the Detention Centre are inadequate. While a visiting doctor from the Health Services Authority (HSA) attends weekly, detainees have raised concerns about the timeliness of care, particularly for dental needs. The facility also faced outbreaks of chickenpox, leading to quarantining of detainees offsite. Moreover, detainees have complained about secondhand smoke due to poor separation between smokers and non-smokers. The overall healthcare infrastructure, including the broken air conditioning in the doctor's office, requires improvement.

#### 4. **Communication and information**

Detainees have limited access to phone. They are allowed to make phone calls twice a week for a reduced duration due to the increased number of detainees. Legal communication is facilitated, but inconsistencies and delays in the deportation and asylum processes have been reported.

Additionally, while Spanish-speaking officers are available to assist with language barriers, detainees have expressed concerns about the clarity and consistency of information provided regarding their detention and legal rights.

#### 5. **Children and vulnerable detainees:**

- a) **Children:** There were no families with children or unaccompanied minors housed at the Detention Centre during the reporting period. However, when unaccompanied minors are detained, they are segregated in a separate location to ensure their safety. Despite this, the facility does not have proper infrastructure or dedicated spaces designed specifically for the care of children, raising concerns about their well-being in case of future detentions.
- b) **Vulnerable Detainees:** The Centre lacks a formal system to assess and address the needs of vulnerable detainees, including pregnant women. Pregnant detainees are often transferred to more suitable housing facilities, but there have been delays in these transfers, leading to concerns about their care. The Detention Centre itself is not designed to accommodate pregnant or otherwise vulnerable individuals, and detainees with specific health or safety needs are often not given appropriate care in a timely manner.

Overall, the Centre falls short in providing the necessary facilities and accommodations required for the safety and well-being of vulnerable detainees, including children.

#### 4. APPLICATIONS FROM DETAINEES

- Total number of applications received: 15 Applications
- Key observations/themes/responses: 0

#### 5. MAIN AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

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**To the Governor:**

**To The Minister:**

**To The Director of CBC:**

1. **Purposeful Activity:** There is a significant lack of purposeful activities available for detainees. The facility lacks books, exercise equipment, and other forms of engagement. While there are

plans to re-install televisions, such engagement activities are crucial for improving the detainees' well-being and mental health.

2. **Delayed Meal Distribution:** Meals are often delivered late, sometimes left outside for up to two hours before distribution. This issue is largely due to limited staff responsible for delivering meals across multiple facilities. Ensuring timely and hygienic delivery of food is a priority for improvement.
3. **Segregation of Detainees:** The lack of proper segregation between male and female detainees, as well as inadequate provisions for families, remains a significant issue. The open floor plan does not provide privacy or safety for vulnerable detainees, particularly women and children.
4. **Clothing and Hygiene Supplies:** Detainees have repeatedly complained about insufficient clothing and delays in the provision of hygiene products. These essentials are critical for maintaining dignity and personal health, and more consistent supply chains must be established.
5. **Security Hut Conditions:** The security hut used by officers is in poor condition and exposes staff to the elements, including potential mosquito-borne illnesses. This area needs repair and upgrade to ensure that staff can perform their duties effectively and safely.
6. **Fire Safety and Structural Concerns:** Exposed electrical wiring and insufficient fire safety measures continue to pose risks to detainees and staff. Repairs and upgrades are urgently needed to bring the facility up to safety standards.

These areas highlight the need for urgent improvements in basic amenities, safety, and security at the Immigration Detention Centre.

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## A4-Description of the Facilities Monitored

### A4.1 PRISONS

His Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service was established in 1981 to secure persons remanded or committed to serve prison time by the Cayman Islands Courts. 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, improving their chances of a positive life after release.

His Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service consists of the following facilities:

- **HMP Northward** is a category C facility also holding category A, B and D prisoners. In 1999 there was a riot and 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. This facility provides services on-site to convicted and pre-trial adult male prisoners.
- In 2019 two new units were established:
  - a **Juvenile unit** for male prisoners, at the HMP Northward Prison site, and
  - an **Enhanced Rehabilitation Unit (ERU)** for males, located at Fairbanks.
- **HM Prison Fairbanks**, provides services to convicted and pre-trial female adult and juvenile prisoners.

The Acting Director of HM Prisons Service: Mr. Daniel Greaves

**Table 1: Number of Prisoners Held (These figures were provided by HMCIPS)**

Prison Facility	Number of Prisoners held at 31 December 2023	Number of Prisoners held at 31 December 2022	Number of Prisoners held at 31 December 2021	Certified Normal Accommodation Numbers
HMP Northward	218	198	168	126
The ERU for Male Prisoners	14	9	9	11
HMP Fairbanks	26	19	12	32

\*During the reporting period, there were two periods that juveniles were housed at HMP Northward. However, as at 31 December 2023 there were no juveniles in custody.

**Table 2: Number of Prisoners Held during 2023 (These figures were either observed by the Board or as provided by HMCIPS)**

Months of 2023	HMP Northward	ERU	HMP Fairbanks
January	216	8	22
February	216	6	24

March	207	8	21
April	211	8	22
May	213	10	27
June	208	10	23
July	213	10	26
August	221	10	24
September	214	12	25
October	212	12	24
November	213	12	24
December	218	14	26
Certified Normal Accommodation	36 Singles cells 104 Double cells 2 Dorms (142 max capax) 30 max capax	11 cells (22 max capax)	32 single beds 6 isolation bunks (38 max capax)

**Table 3: Number of Prisoners Held (as at 31 December) (These figures were provided by HMCIPS)**

PRISONER CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PRISONERS HELD					
	2023		2022		2021	
	HMP Northward & ERU	HMP Fairbanks	HMP Northward & ERU	HMP Fairbanks	HMP Northward & ERU	HMP Fairbanks
Category A	11	0	7	0	2 (on remand)	0
Category B	135	12	120	10	92	3
Category C	59	10	40	2	54	4
Category D	50	4	40	7	41	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>198</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.*

**Table 4: Number of Prisoners Held per Wing (as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023)**

Wing	Number of Prisoners
Alpha	34
Bravo	56
Charlie	28
Delta	34
Foxtrot	38
Echo	4
HRU	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>

**Table 5: Number of Deaths in Custody (per annum)**

Location	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
HMP Northward	1	1	0	0	1
HMP Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 6: Staffing Levels (as at end of 31 Dec)**

Uniform staff in post (by category/band/grade)	NORTHWARD			FAIRBANKS		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Director	1	0	1	1	0	1
Deputy Director	2	2	2	1	1	1
Unit Managers	7	7	7	0	0	0
Supervisors	20	20	16	1	1	2
Prison Officers	119	113	106	11	11	12
OSG/Prison Officer Trainee	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>

**Use of Force Statistics** (Figures provided by Prison management)

**Table 7: The number of times force was used during the year:**

Institution	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
HMP-NW	9	7	7	7	4
HMP-FB	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 8: The Number of prisoners who have completed the Release on Temporary License (ROTL) programme since 2019.**

Calendar Year	# Discharge From Prog.
2019	14
2020	11
2021	11
2022	8
2023	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

**Recidivism (Data provided by the Prison Management)**

The table below shows the prison recidivism rates for both males and females for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (i.e. inmates who have been readmitted to prison within two years of reintegration into society).

**Table 9:**

Location	2023	2022	2021	2020
HMP NORTHWARD	47.8%	46.7%	51.5%	47.6%
HMP FAIRBANKS	9.5%	7.14%	16.7%	22.2%

Most prisoners admitted to Fairbanks during 2023 were first-time offenders, a pattern observed in previous years.

## A4.2 IMMIGRATION DETENTION

The Immigration Detention Centre off Fairbanks Road was opened in October 2018, to accommodate the arrival of 11 Cuban migrants. In 2019 the centre was closed again, and a group of detainees was released and relocated to approved accommodations. Officials subsequently conducted repairs and renovations to the facility.

After the arrival of large volumes of migrants during 2021 and 2022, the Detention Centre was reopened. There are also two other sites being used to accommodate the migrants at Gun Bay and Breakers. The Board was informed, however, that these two sites were not used for detention purposes and so are not within the monitoring remit of the Board.

The Deputy Director of CBC with responsibility for the Detention Centre: Mr. Garfield Wong

**Table 10: Facility**

FACILITY	CERTIFIED NORMAL ACCOMMODATION NUMBERS
Immigration Detention Centre	70 (approx.)

**Table 11: Numbers of detainees per month**

2023	Detainees	Escapes	Pregnant Detainees	Juvenile(s)	Repatriated
January	60	10	0	0	-
February	50	0	0	0	-
March	49	1	0	0	-
April	48	1	1	0	-
May	45	3	0	0	2
June	40	0	0	0	19
July	21	0	0	0	8
August	13	0	0	0	1
September	12	6	0	0	1
October	5	0	0	0	2
November	3	0	0	0	3
December	14	12	0	0	2

**Table 12: Staffing Levels:**

Uniform Staff in Post (by category/band/grade)	2022	2023
Outsourced to a Private Security Company	4-6	4-6



**Monitoring and Evidence**

**HMP Northward (including the ERU and Juvenile detention)**

## **B-Evidence from the Board’s Monitoring Activities in 2023 For HMP Northward (including the ERU and Juvenile detention)**

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### **B1. SAFETY**

There have been some improvements made in regards to safety, reflected by reduced number of incidents and complaints relating to use of force and/or bullying. However, despite these improvements there are still some concerns with regards to safety within the prison.

While safety improvements have been noted across the prison system, significant concerns remain regarding the lack of dedicated facilities for prisoners with mental health issues or vulnerabilities. These individuals continue to be housed within the general prison population, raising concerns about their well-being and the overall safety of the prison environment. This issue underscores the need for specialised accommodations and support services to better protect vulnerable prisoners and ensure a safer, more appropriate environment for all inmates.

#### **Facility and Infrastructure**

On various occasions the prison management voiced concerns related to overcrowding as the prison neared maximum capacity. The Board also has concerns regarding the lack of a unit devoted to vulnerable prisoners, such as persons with mental health needs.

The Board is concerned that the multi-storey building that houses Delta and the High Risk Unit (HRU) still do not have adequate fire prevention measures such as sprinklers systems exhaust systems, and fire drills.

#### **Reception and Induction**

Based on discussions with prisoners and observations during the reception process, the Board continues to be of the opinion that the new prisoner intake process is satisfactory. Prisoners are provided with a supporting counsellor for their first days in prison. 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. However, although no complaints were received from new inmates in 2023, the general population complained of a general lack of supplies.

#### **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 when compared to previous reports. The HRU continues to be used to house prisoners for various infractions. It is also used to house prisoners that need to be monitored on an Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) instruction if it is deemed that they pose a threat to others or are at risk of self-harm.

In previous reports, the Board expressed, and continues to have, concerns that vulnerable persons are

housed in the HRU instead of a vulnerable prisoners wing. The Board acknowledges that, in the absence of such a wing and due to the limited options available to prison management, these measures are taken for the protection of vulnerable prisoners. However, it is not ideal to keep these prisoners under such restrictions for extended periods of time.

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 CIIMB visits. However, there were nine (9) such instances recorded in the 'Prison Management's Log Book' during the reporting period, as shown in table 7 above. The Board also received one (1) application related to the use of force and bullying from a prisoner at HMP Northward. These numbers are lower in comparison to previous reporting years, during which the Board received several complaints related to staff bullying / victimising prisoners. These complaints were escalated to Prison Management. No significant findings were reported when the Board followed up on the outcomes.

### **Security**

The Board has identified a number of security concerns within the prison, including:

- the need for repairs or replacements within the prison;
- overcrowding;
- inconsistent and/or inadequate use of body cameras. The Board understands that many body cameras were non-operational/ broken and therefore not used by staff. However, the inconsistent use creates a security concern and the Board continues to receive complaints from prisoners about incidents which have not been recorded by a body camera. This has resulted in a lack of potential evidence to corroborate complaints.

Prison Management continues to play a vital role in strategically managing the different categories of prisoners in order to make the prison a safe place.

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

During the reporting period, Echo Wing continues to house from 2-4 prisoners and is occasionally used to house vulnerable prisoners who suffer from mental health issues. This is a concern of the Board as there isn't a dedicated space for vulnerable inmates.

## **B2. RESPECT: FAIR AND HUMANE TREATMENT**

The Board is of the opinion that prisoners are generally treated with respect and dignity by staff whilst in custody. However, there have been six (6) applications submitted in relation to 'Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying'. These allegations were escalated to, and addressed by, Prison Management.

### **1. Daily Life (Living conditions, residential services, prisoner consultations, handling of complaints, Legal Needs/rights)**

The Board has concerns regarding the current living conditions at HMP Northward. Prisoners live in residential areas that are ageing, dilapidated and substandard. Whilst some limited renovations have been undertaken, there are no new or ongoing significant structural developments to the current site's living areas.

Most of the main accommodation issues that were reported as far back as 2019 remain unaddressed. These include:

- a lack of natural lighting and ventilation;
- bedliners being used as curtains in cells for privacy;
- broken showerheads;
- issues with leaking when it rains due to lack of plexiglass;
- a lack of mosquito mesh on windows;
- continuing issues with mould; and
- a lack of special access for those with disabilities e.g. wheelchair ramps and/or specially adapted areas.

The Board acknowledges that Prison Management makes efforts to mitigate some of the challenges to the daily lives of prisoners. This includes efforts to remove vermin and to make continuous minor repairs.

Prisoners receive information from the wing staff verbally or by reading notices posted on the notice board. All prisoners have access to applications for making internal complaints to prison management, and are able to raise matters confidentially with the Board. They are also able to make requests for food and store supplies and make medical/health appointments by application to the supervising Wing manager.

### **2. Food**

The Board has observed that all prisoners have access to 3 meals a day. The Board also tested food prepared by the prison's kitchen and is of the opinion that the food is good. The kitchen accommodates special dietary needs based on referrals from a dietitian. However, the Board did receive 4 complaints regarding special dietary needs, which were escalated to Prison Management.



*Photo: Kitchen*

### **3. Equality, Diversity, Faith and Pastoral Support:**

The prison population includes a diverse mix of ethnicities and backgrounds. The lack of a multi faith prayer room was previously reported as an issue and this has still not been addressed as of the end of this reporting year.

There is a chaplain who continues to provide Christian denomination services to prisoners at HMP Northward and also offers non-denominational services. However, prisoners can make special requests to have a leader of their particular faith visit if they desire.

### **4. Incentive Schemes:**

The Board confirmed that various incentive schemes are in place to encourage and reward prisoners for constructive participation in the HMCIPS regime. The Prisoners' Token Wages Policy is one such scheme, but it should not be not considered in isolation. It is linked to other initiatives, such as the 'Incentive and Earned Privileges Scheme,' and aligns with broader Prison Service policies, including those related to education, resettlement, and offending behaviour programmes. These schemes are tailored to address the needs of specific prisoner groups.

## **B3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

### **1. Healthcare (General)**

The Board continued to observe and receive reports from wing officers and clinical staff that medication is stored and distributed by prison officers instead of trained medical personnel. However, as mentioned, Prison Management has confirmed that officers have been receiving training from the Health Services Authority (HSA) on how to handle and distribute medication, and that safety precautions for storage of medication are now in place.

## 2. Physical Health and Exercise

As of 2022, the HRU gym at HMP Northward was still not being used, as most of the equipment was damaged or not working and this room was used primarily for storage. Towards the end of 2023, the Board has observed that the HRU gym facility has been reinstated and is functional. The HRU Prisoners continue to have 1-hour allowance of exercise time per day.

The general population continues to engage in other physical activities such as organised football matches and gymnasium training. No other physical activity programmes currently exist.



*Photo: Football field and Garden*

## 3. Mental Health

Since the 2019 report, the Board has consistently expressed concerns about the inadequate facilities, and insufficient staff training, for prisoners with mental health issues. Although there is ongoing psychiatric care provided by a visiting psychiatrist from HSA, the prison lacks a formal facility for vulnerable prisoners. There is no dedicated unit or wing to accommodate prisoners with mental health issues.

## 4. Drug and Substance Rehabilitation

Case Plans are developed for prisoners by the Department of Community Rehabilitation, which also refers prisoners to the National Drug Council for counselling services. However, the Board continues to have concerns that some prisoners appear to have access to illegal drugs and test positive for such drugs, even after spending sufficient time within the prison to be able to access such services.

## 5. Smoking Cessation

Smoking on cell blocks and in 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 in the evenings cells after lockdown. The Board again raises the concern that the smoking cessation programme is yet to be implemented. Non-smoking officers and prisoners remain concerned that the inhalation of second-hand smoke poses a risk to their health.

### B4. REHABILITATION, RELEASE PLANNING AND REINTEGRATION (INCLUDES PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY)

In general, the provisions for rehabilitation and release are not adequate, as there are challenges servicing the different wings:



Photo 1: Reading resources.



Photo 2: HR Unit's Class room.

### 1. Rehabilitation Services

Prisoners who are sentenced for twelve or more months are assigned to a probation officer who develops a case plan with them. Prisoners are involved in identifying their individual needs and development goals. Programmes intended to help address those needs are then included in the plan, including vocational training programmes. 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 having completed their case plan. Prison Management is of the view that most prisoners enjoy the programmes, but that some lose interest if they fail entry exams or assessments. DCR continues to deploy a multi-disciplinary/multi-agency approach to aid each prisoner in achieving the set goals. The Clinical and Re-entry teams work collaboratively with other teams that work with the prisoners.

The Board has been advised that probation officers are responsible for managing case plans and assisting prisoners to work through their objectives. However, the Board continues to receive

complaints that prisoners do not see their probation officers as frequently as they would like. Probation officers meet with prisoners at least every 6 months, or more frequently when there are issues to discuss. DCR reported that probation officers struggle due to heavy caseloads, which can exceed 50 cases per officer, and has advised that case management continues to be a challenge due to a lack of resources.

## 2. Juveniles

Whilst there are very few juveniles detained within the prison, the Board continues to have concerns regarding the inadequacy of facilities to hold juveniles.

Prison Management makes efforts to ensure there is no contact between adult prisoners and juvenile prisoners. However, the fact that they only interact with staff and visitors means that they are effectively held in conditions akin to isolation.

It is important to note that there are no qualified counselors available to work with juveniles at HMP Northward. The prison has sought to outsource such support to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Initial delays in implementation have since been resolved. Additionally, opportunities for recreational, vocational, and educational training for juveniles are extremely limited, as the staff working with this group do not possess the necessary teaching licenses from the Ministry of Education.

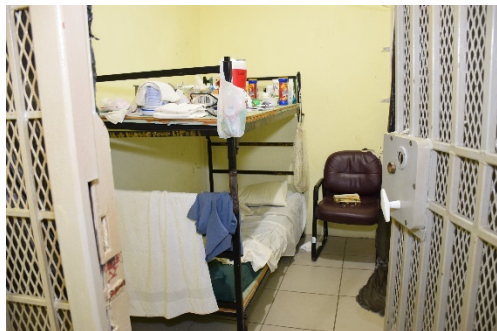


Photo 1: Cell



Photo 2: Classroom



Photo 3: Gym and Common Area

### 3. Support to Achieve Targets

Prison management commented that the majority of the prisoners are interested in the rehabilitation programmes. Some prisoners express a lack of interest due to concerns about failing an entry exam being otherwise deemed not fit to take on a particular programme. Such concerns may be heightened in relation to literacy programmes designed for prisoners who cannot read or write.

### 4. Intervention Services

Some programmes are aimed at prisoners with anger management issues, sex offenders and those who present certain criminal factors during their assessment. These programmes are highly demanding, require significant literacy skills, and can take 12 weeks to complete.

- a) The “**Steps to Success**” is one of the most highly recommended programmes, and is included in most prisoners’ case plans (depending on their set time in remand). This programme helps the prisoners assess and monitor themselves, for example, understanding that a victim may not be the only the person directly affected by their offending, but that the prisoners themselves along with their family members, relatives, and friends can also be viewed as victims. The programme is designed to assist participants in identifying their values and objectives, understanding their utilisation of improper 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, which is all aimed at enhancing self-control and self-governance. Ultimately, participants are assisted to formulate a plan for preventing recidivism.
- b) **The Sycamore Tree Project** on restorative justice was observed to run for an 8-week period, with four (4) cohorts in the year. This is delivered through the chaplaincy as a formal programme to engage prisoners in addressing their attitudes towards reoffending and the victims of crimes. Twenty-five (25) prisoners completed the course in 2023.

**Table 13:**

October 2023	July 2023	October 2022	June 2022	May 2022
12	13	10	15	10

*(Data provided by Prison Management)*

- c) **The Prisoners Journey** programme offers the opportunity to engage in activities beyond the education and vocational training programmes. Twenty-four (24) prisoners completed the course, which was held four times in the year.

**Table 14:**

October 2023	July 2023	October 2022	June 2022	May 2022
9	15	11	21	16

*(Data provided by Prison Management)*

- d) **The DCR Re-entry Department at HMCIPS** continues its work with prisoners from their inception to release. In 2023 a total of 11 prisoners successfully completed for the Anger Management programme group sessions.

**Table 14: DCR offered the below programmes at HMP Northward in 2023:**

Programme	Date	Registered
Men’s Non-Violence Programme	January May	10 enrolled 12 enrolled
Anger Management	February	11 successfully completed
Men’s Non-Violence Programme	May	12 enrolled
Interpersonal Relationship Enhancement and Awareness Programme (IREAP)	October	13 enrolled

### 5. 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.

Most prisoners enroll in the ROTL, perhaps because it is one of the first steps to reintegration 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.

All prisoners are encouraged to have a job inside the prison. These may include cleaning, laundry, construction work, and orderly duties in different areas. Participants receive a small weekly stipend for their services. Prisoners receive advice on how to manage their earnings, including how to save money for when they are released. Their earnings are deposited into a split account, which has voluntary savings (which can be withdrawn to purchase “canteen” items) and a compulsory savings system.

**Table 15: The table below provides the number of prisoners who have completed the ROTL programme since 2019.**

Calendar Year	# Discharge from Prog.
2019	14
2020	11
2021	11
2022	8
2023	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

### 6. Contact with Family and the Wider Community Outside Prison:

Prisoners have visitation rights and are encouraged and supported to maintain relationships with family

and friends. Contact is maintained through phone calls, video calls and physical visits (including family fun days).

Prisoners have regular access to telephone communications. Telephones are available on every wing and each prisoner is assigned individual phone numbers that family and friends can 'top-up' with minutes. Calls can only be made to persons pre-approved by Prison Management.

There is a regular visitors' programme in place. Family and friends are allowed to visit 2 times per week for 30 minutes per visit. Emergency visits are also permitted. Prisoners who have relatives in serious ill health may be allowed to visit them in hospital. The Board had concerns regarding the scheduling of visitation for juveniles, which is constrained by requirements to keep them separate from the adult population.

There are arrangements in place for prisoners to be permitted to participate in home visits and to attend church programmes. There is currently no direct monitoring for home visits. However, periodic reviews are conducted to confirm that prisoners comply with rules relating to the home visits. Both local and foreign prisoners who are assessed as low-risk and have family in Grand Cayman are permitted one home visit per month.



# H.M.P. FAIRBANKS FEMALE PRISON

*Established in 2000*

To protect the public's safety and  
carry out the order of the courts.

Provide regimes that are workable, culturally applicable, which will address  
offending behaviour, improve education, work skills, development of civic pride  
and cause prisoners to lead a responsible and law abiding life after release.

Monitoring and Evidence

HMP Fairbanks Female Prison

## C-Evidence from the Board's Monitoring Activities in 2023 For HMP Fairbanks

### C1. SAFETY

1. The Board has seen the reception on prisoners and has no concerns.
2. The Board has been advised by Prison Management that fire drills have commenced.
3. Dorm 2 has cabinets over the prisoners' beds which could be a potential safety issue in the event of an earthquake.
4. Mould in the ceiling of the gym area, which was raised by the Board in 2020, continues to be an on-going issue.

### C2. RESPECT: FAIR AND HUMANE TREATMENT

#### 1. Accommodation:

- a) There is no designated place for female juveniles at Fairbanks. However, to the Board's knowledge, there have not been any under 18 female inmates.

#### 2. Staff and Prisoner Relationships, Key Workers:

- a) During the reporting period, the Board noted that interactions between prisoners and staff were typically cordial and respectful. However, a small number of prisoners raised ongoing complaints regarding staff bullying some prisoners and showing favoritism to others. The Board has received 6 written and 2 verbal complaints on these issues and have escalated them to Prison Management.
- b) Daily Life –There are 3 dormitory-style accommodation units for prisoners and a segregation unit. All dormitories are maintained and cleaned regularly, with minor repairs carried out by HMCIPS maintenance staff. There have been numerous complaints regarding the air conditioning not working on one wing of the facility, which the Board has reported to the Prison Management.

#### 3. Food:

There were no complaints from the prisoners regarding the quality of food and service at Fairbanks. Additionally, some Board members have sampled the food and confirmed its quality.

#### 4. Equality, Diversity, Faith and Pastoral Support:

Similar to Northward, Fairbanks hold prisoners with different ethnicities and backgrounds. The Chaplain provides Christian and non-denominational services for prisoners.

- **Incentive Schemes**

The Board confirmed that there are incentive schemes in place aimed at encouraging and rewarding prisoners for their constructive participation. Fairbanks has fewer incentive programmes than Northward which are not run consistently, due to availability of outside volunteer facilitators. Some incentive programmes available at Fairbanks include:

- Beauty Salon programme
- Sewing programme
- Arts and craft programme

## **6. Property**

There are limited bathroom facilities at Fairbanks as there are only 4 shower stalls and 3 toilets in the communal bathroom facility, which can cause some issues. During this reporting period there were two broken showers and one toilet that was consistently out of order.

## **C3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

### **1. Healthcare (general)**

It appears to the Board that the medical provisions remain the same. A nurse visits three times a week and uses a small medical room located inside the main reception area. Medication is dispensed from a secured storage area inside the main accommodation. It appears that medications are stored in a safe and secure manner.

### **2. Physical Healthcare**

Since 2019, the Board has continued to note that there remain 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 in the Segregation Unit, which is fitted with a rail and adapted for use by disabled prisoners. The Board continues to be concerned about the general lack of adequate provisions made for wheel chair access.

### **3. Mental Health**

As noted in previous reports, the Board continues to have concerns regarding provisions for prisoners with mental health issues. Arrangements remain unchanged, and prisoners with mental health issues are held within the general population as there are still no specific facilities for them. This has led to some distress and disturbance to other prisoners.

There is a visiting psychiatrist and psychologist (currently provided by HSA, as the former psychologist on staff has yet to be replaced), who visit periodically. Counsellors are also available, upon request, for prisoners' general mental health needs. The Board has received 2 written complaints about the lack of availability for counsellors, which was escalated to Prison Management.

### **4. Physical Healthcare and Exercise**

Prisoners are permitted to be out of their cells between 6:45am and 11:45am and from 1:15pm to 9:15pm. During these times, prisoners normally have the opportunity to participate in various educational, recreational or work-based activities. The prisoners have access to the gym and an outdoor multi-purpose court.

### **5. Drug and Substance Rehabilitation**

The Board has not observed any issues in relation to drug abuse at Fairbanks. The hand-in facility appears to effectively filter out any contraband. Smoking is permitted outside of the building and this appears to be managed well by prison officers.

#### C4. Rehabilitation, release planning and Reintegration (includes purposeful activity)

In general, the same provisions for rehabilitation and release as described above for Northward are available to the prisoners in Fairbanks. However, the following points illustrate the differences that are specific to Fairbanks, such as time out of cell and involvement in constructive day-to-day activities (exercise, sports, library services, other activities that support rehabilitation) due to the limited staffing.



*Photo of Library and Computer area*

#### **1. Vocational Training and Work**

The prisoners have access to both online and classroom-based training programmes. However, other than the salon facility and sewing room there are fewer practical training opportunities than at Northward. This is due to the size of population and the facility. Additionally, there are few opportunities for prisoners to continuously practice the skills they learn, for example the Beauty Salon programme.

There is opportunity for category D prisoners to work outside the prison on an apprenticeship. However, the female population has no access to the other benefits that would come with having an Enhanced Release Unit.

#### **2. Offender Management, Progression**

Some prisoners are pursuing the programmes offered by DCR, which should benefit them in the future. Those prisoners are responsible for maintaining the timetables and scope of the programmes. However, there are a few prisoners who do not engage in any programmes. In such cases both the prison officers and assigned probation officer make efforts to encourage participation, emphasising the advantages of the programmes.

**Table 17: Programmes offered by DCR at HMP Fairbanks:**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participation</b>
Making a Difference	March 2023 May 2023	13 inmates enrolled 11 inmates successfully completed
Art and Science of Happiness	October 2023	12 inmates enrolled

**3. The HMCIPS Clinical Team or Prison Chaplain has offered the below programmes at HMP Fairbanks:**

- a) **The “My Healing” programme:** The aim of this programme, which is typically only offered in HMP Fairbanks, 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.
- b) **The “Prisoner’s Journey” programme:** This 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 offending behaviour. DCR has created a “Your Journey” exercise booklet that has been offered at all of the institutions. Prisoners work their way through the booklet on an individual level with their assigned Probation Officers. There has been significant uptake in the use of these booklets by prisoners.
- c) In addition to the above programmes that specifically target female prisoners, the Chaplain also offers the following programmes:
  - **Sycamore Tree** - two cohorts during 2023 with a total of 12 participants.
  - **Prisoners Journey** – one cohort during 2023 with a total of 7 participants.

**4. ROTL Programme**

Since 2019, the Board has raised concerns regarding the fact that female prisoners enrolled in the ROTL programme do not have a dedicated ERU building like their male counterparts, due to the smaller number of female prisoners. This results in the female prisoners not being allowed the same privileges. 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. However, the rewards structure is the same; e.g. prisoners start by volunteering and are subsequently entitled to a salary.

**Resettlement Planning**

As with HMP Northward, the Board continues to receive complaints from prisoners at Fairbanks regarding the limited access to Probation Officers due to the case load challenges reported by DCR (See page 25. B4.1). As a result, there is a delay in processing prisoner applications to the Conditional Release Board.

**6. Contact with Family and the Wider Community Outside Prison:**

Fairbanks follows the same regime as Northward in relation to contact with the wider community outside prison (See page 26. B4.6).

The Board received one written complaint regarding visitation rights from a female prisoner who reported that her request to visit her long-term partner, who was being held at Northward, was denied by Prison Management and this continues to be under review.

A black and white photograph of a small wooden boat on a calm sea under a cloudy sky. The boat is in the lower half of the frame, and the sky is filled with large, soft clouds. The water is dark and reflects the boat and the sky.

Monitoring and Evidence

CBC Immigration Detention Centre

## D - Evidence from the Board's Monitoring Activities in 2023 For the Immigration Detention Centre

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The CBC Immigration Detention Centre, located on Fairbanks Road, was reopened in October 2018. In August 2022, the CIIMB commenced a new monitoring programme for CBC Immigration Detention Centre. This work is informed by the new "Monitoring Framework: Persons Detained under the Cayman Islands Border Control Laws", developed by the Office of the Deputy Governor in consultation with key stakeholders.

There was one major incident involving a fire at the Detention Centre, which occurred on September 22, 2023. There were 6 persons on location at the time. It was alleged that the fire was started by one detainee who gained access to a lighter, which then spread throughout a specific area on compound. Investigations did not lead to any conclusive findings or arrests. Following the incident, temporary structures were put in place for the continued detention of individuals within the facility.

### D1. Safety of Detainees

#### 1. Security Measures in Place for Protection

- a) The Detention Centre is staffed by three security staff at all times, and CBC requires that at least one of these are able to speak Spanish. There is a single perimeter fence with only one (1) access point from Fairbanks Road.
- b) Other than CBC staff, private security staff, HSA medical personnel, RCIPS staff and CIIMB Board members, no visitors are permitted entry to the Detention Centre without prior clearance from CBC.
- c) Detainees have been advised by CBC to immediately report any safety issues involving detainees to security staff. Security staff have been advised to conduct immediate interviews where necessary and report the matter to CBC, or to contact emergency services if appropriate.
- d) Disaster management and other emergency plans are in place. For example, if there is an approaching hurricane, CBC will move detainees to a prearranged location until the "all clear", after which they will be returned to the Detention Centre.
- e) The Board was extremely concerned the detainees are not held securely, as many were able to breach the perimeter fence on regular occasions throughout the year.

## 2. Disaster Management/Emergency Plans

- a) In a scenario where there is a hurricane approaching, the detainees are relocated to Northward or another secure location.
- b) Exposed electrical wires continue to be a safety concern for the Board. This is mostly due to the structure damages and vandalism of property by detainees which the CBC continuously attempts to repair. The Board has expressed grave concerns regarding the lack of fire safety awareness training and resources.
- c) The security hut remains an area of concern, as its not fit for purpose and exposes the security guards to outside elements.

### D2. Physical Health of Detainees

All detainees have access to medical care, including emergency care. A medical doctor from the HSA visits the Centre on a weekly basis. In the event of a medical emergency, a member of the security staff will contact emergency services. Detainees have access to clean drinking water, which is delivered every Wednesday.

#### 1. Quarantining Arrangements:

There was a high volume of chicken pox outbreaks from January to June within the Detention Centre. To help mitigate this the detainees were transferred to an isolation area at the Boddan Town Community Centre, for isolation away from the main population.

#### 2. Smoking:

The Detention Centre is stuffy with cigarette smoke. Complaints were received from the non-smoking detainees regarding the issue of smoke. This was discussed with CBC staff and they advised that the message will be passed on to their supervisor to consider separating smokers and non-smokers.

#### 3. Dental Health

There have been a few verbal complaints regarding the timeliness of receiving dental care. However, to date no formal written complaints on this matter have been received.

### D3. Accommodation and food

1. The Detention Centre has an open floor plan, with bunk beds and very little privacy. There are no separate rooms to allow for families to reside together or for there to be segregation according to gender. However, CBC has confirmed that unaccompanied minors may be properly segregated in a separate location.
2. The open floor plan has also highlighted concerns regarding the ability to segregate in order to manage potential trafficking issues or the safety of female detainees.
3. The Detention Centre was fully air conditioned, but the system was vandalised by the detainees. CBC has experienced challenges to acquire the necessary parts for the repair, due to global

shortages. There are a number of doors and windows that can be opened to provide ventilation but this does not keep the facility adequately ventilated.

4. There are 3 separate bathroom facilities with toilets and showers. There is a designated female bathroom with 3 toilets and 3 shower stalls, and a designated male bathroom with 3 toilets and 3 shower stalls. There is another unmarked bathroom with 4 toilets and 4 showers that is located inside the main sleeping area. The bathrooms do not have doors that can close or lock to provide detainees with privacy when dressing.
5. The facilities are inadequate to meet the demand of increased numbers of detainees (there have been up to 162 detainees at one time). This contributed to blocked toilets, sewage backups and flooding outside the Detention Centre wall. This also results in an abundance of flies.
6. The air conditioning unit in the Doctor's office was broken for several months.
7. Detainees are expected to keep the facility clean. However, during Board visits, it was observed that the facility was unkept. This was due to some of the detainee's unwillingness to undertake any cleaning during their stay. Furthermore, the detainees voiced concerns over the lack of cleaning and sanitation products.
8. Meals are prepared for detainees by kitchen staff from either HMP Northward or HMP Fairbanks. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are delivered by prison staff / CBC personnel and distributed to detainees by the security staff. Detainees with dietary requirements are provided with meals based on these requirements.
9. Concerns were raised regarding meals being delivered and distributed late, e.g. lunch delivered at 4PM. This delay was due to the limited number of prison staff / CBC personnel, who were also responsible for delivering meals to other CBC facilities. Packed containers were left outside for almost 2 hours, as observed by Board members several times. The Board reported this issue to CBC. Steps were taken to mitigate potential delays, e.g. by the provision of snacks.
10. The design of the outdoor area of the facility is such that it does not provide shade to keep detainees protected from the outside elements.

#### **D4. General Wellbeing**

Detainees are provided with clothing donated by Cayman Islands Red Cross, churches and members of the public. CBC will, at times, provide detainees with items of clothing.

As previously reported, the detainees have access to adequate facilities for washing clothes. However, detainees reported a lack of laundry and personal washing provisions (e.g. soap) which remains a concern of the Board.

The Board is also concerned that detainees do not have opportunities to engage in purposeful activities, e.g. exercise.

##### **1. Religious Practice Opportunities**

CBC has advised the Board that detainees do not currently engage in religious practices with a visiting Minister/Pastor. Religious organisations are required to submit a written request for the Director's

approval to carry out any religious practices. However, the requests that were submitted have been denied due to security concerns.

## **2. Access to their Property**

Upon arrival at the Detention Centre, detainees are searched. Any personal belongings that are considered to be contraband are confiscated and securely held. Detainees are allowed to keep any property that is not considered contraband. All personal items should be returned to detainees when they leave the Detention Centre. However, the Board has received complaints that personal items have gone missing.

## **3. Reading/Entertainment Materials**

There were televisions in the Detention Centre. However, these were destroyed by the detainees and currently there are none. Additionally, detainees are not currently provided with books to read.

## **4. Toiletries**

CBC provides detainees with toiletries and has advised that additional supplies are provided when a detainee notifies a security officer that they have run out. Despite this, detainees continue to complain about the inadequate amount of supplies.

## **5. Access to Counselling**

Currently, detainees are not provided with regular counselling services. However, CBC has confirmed that this, and other similar support services, may be arranged if requested by individual detainees.

## **6. Special Needs**

CBC has advised that special needs of detainees have been met wherever possible, e.g. dietary requirements, medical care, etc.

# **D5. Communication**

## **1. Access to Interpreter**

The Board observed that at all times there is at least one Spanish speaking security officer on site, and that all CBC personnel that visit the Detention Centre to process the detainees are Spanish speakers. CBC has reported that the reason for their detention has been communicated in Spanish, verbally and in writing, to all Spanish speaking detainees.

The Board received complaints relating to delays and inconsistencies with the deportation process.

## **2. Communications and Access to the Wider Community outside Detention**

The Board observed detainees being able to use a telephone to contact family members on Mondays and Fridays. The duration of such calls was originally five minutes, and has since been reduced to three minutes, due to the increase in demand as a result of the increase in the number of detainees. Detainees have no access to the internet. CBC indicated that visitors are not allowed inside the

compound due to the various outbreaks of communicable diseases and potential risk to the community.

### **3. Access to Legal Advice**

Detainees are allowed to communicate with an attorney of their choosing and are provided with a list of potential attorneys. CBC advised the Board that the detainees, from time to time, have sought their assistance in arranging for an attorney to meet with them in private.

### **4. CIIMB Applications:**

Detainees who may wish to make an application for assistance from CIIMB may do so via the CIIMB application process. Detainees have been provided with CIIMB applications forms in both Spanish and English. Once the form is completed it should be placed in a secure lockbox located in the security house. The box is checked by a member of CIIMB on a weekly basis. Detainees have been asked to make formal complaints in writing.

### **5. Access to Consular Support:**

Migrants have the right to contact their respective consulates as needed. However, based on the circumstances and nature of their departure from their country, this is unlikely to occur in the case of Cuban Nationals. Likewise, if a detainee is seeking asylum from a particular country, CBC is restricted from contacting that country unless asylum is denied and repatriation is imminent.

Where a detainee is not seeking asylum, CBC's policy is to notify the appropriate consulate upon their initial detention. Consulates are granted access to detainees upon request.

## **D6. Good Order**

In the view of the Board, there are insufficient staff to maintain good order across the entire Detention Centre at all times. At times, the detainee's numbers increased to 60 however these were still only monitored by three security guards. In this regard:

1. The Board was advised that the RCIPS would be called to assist in the event of any unrest amongst detainees.
2. The Board received complaints regarding bullying by security officers. CBC brought this to the attention of the security company, resulting in the removal and replacement of security guards.
3. CBC confirmed that the private security officers are not trained to identify and/or address issues such as bullying, harassment or any other forms of ill-treatment.

## **D7. Children**

During the reporting period, there were no families with children, or unaccompanied minors in the Detention Centre. CBC has confirmed that unaccompanied minors would be properly segregated in a separate location.

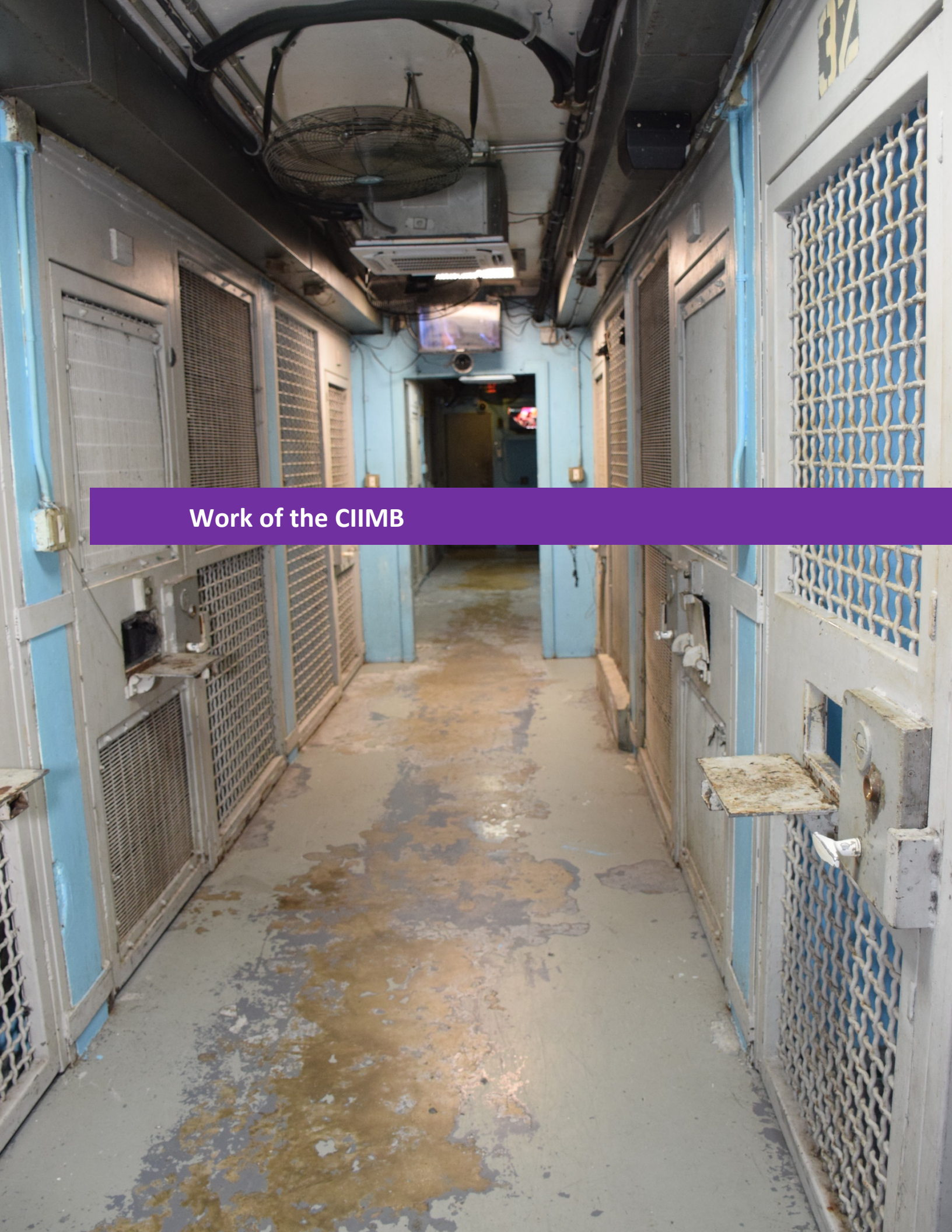
#### **D8. Vulnerable Detainees**

The Board remains concerned that there are no systems in place to assess vulnerable detainees.

There have been pregnant women housed at the facility. However, it is not designed to accommodate pregnant detainees and they are usually transferred to more appropriate facilities. The Board is aware that there have been some delays in transferring some of the pregnant women.

#### **D9. MAIN AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT NOTED OVER THE MONITORING PERIOD:**

1. The current lack of purposeful activity available to detainees. Although there are plans to re-install a television, there are still no books, exercise facility or other provisions made available.
2. The delays in delivery of meals resulting in food being left outside for hours before being provided to detainees.
3. The lack of segregation between men and women.
4. The lack of adequate clothing for detainees and concerns raised by detainees about the delays in delivery of sanitation/hygiene supplies.
5. The security hut is in need of repair. The security staff are exposed to the elements, and are potentially exposed to mosquito-borne illness.



Work of the CIIMB

## Part C - Work of the Board

### C1 - Board Activities

The CIIMB meets monthly. The Director of Prisons and Director of CBC are invited to attend for part of the meeting, to inform the Board of developments in the prisons and Detention Centre and to respond to current observations from the visits of members.

**Table 19: Board Statistics**

CATEGORY	NUMBERS
Number of Board Members at the end of the reporting period	8
Number of Board Meetings held	11
Total number of visits/hours to the Northward	79/227.50
Total number of visits/hours to Fairbanks	56/94
Total number of visits/hours to the ERU	27/16
Total Number of visits/hours to Immigration Detention Centre	33/38

### C2 - The Applications Process

Prisoners can make applications to CIIMB by depositing their application into the dedicated secure CIIMB application box, or by making a verbal application recorded by a Board member.

All prisoners and detainees can request the help of any member of the CIIMB verbally or in writing. Prisoners and detainees may approach and speak directly with CIIMB members during their visits to the facilities.

Written applications to the CIIMB can be submitted confidentially through forms that are available on every wing of Northward, Fairbanks, the ERU and the Immigration Detention Centre (which also has forms in Spanish). Completed forms can be sealed in envelopes and placed in the CIIMB's locked boxes, which are cleared regularly by the CIIMB members.

**Table 20: Applications from Detainees Submitted to the CIIMB Feb-Dec 2023**

	Category	Number of Applications Received			
		2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>A</b>	Accommodation	5	0	1	1
<b>B</b>	Adjudications	0	0	0	0
<b>C</b>	Equality, Diversity and Faith	0	1	3	1
<b>D</b>	Education, Employment and Training	3	0	2	2
<b>E</b>	Family, Visits, Mail and Phone	3	0	2	4
<b>F</b>	Finance and Pay	3	1	1	2
<b>G</b>	Food and Kitchen	4	0	0	0
<b>H</b>	Health and Sanitation	0	4	3	3
<b>I</b>	Property within this establishment	2	0	1	3

<b>J</b>	Property during transfer or in another establishment or location	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>K</b>	Canteen facility	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>L</b>	Sentence Management inc. HRU, ROTL, Conditional Release, release dates, re-categorisation	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>M</b>	Staff/prisoner concerns including bullying	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>N</b>	Gym & Leisure Facilities	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>O</b>	Complaints System, Regime and Rights	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>P</b>	Outside our Remit (ie. Legal)	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Q</b>	Misc.	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CIIMB Applications</b>		<b>53</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>0</b>
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS</b>		<b>68</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>

*Please note: Some applications may include multiple categories, and certain applications may fall outside the Board's remit. These will be referred to the appropriate body for further action.*

### **C3 - Our Board Members**

- Ms Dorothy Davis - Chair
- Mr Courtney Perrin - Deputy Chair
- Ms Bonnie Bodden - Member
- Ms Cheryl Myles - Member
- Mr Errol Levy - Member
- Ms Faith Dube - Member
- Ms Nelva Ebanks - Member
- Ms. Karen Ferguson - Member
- Mr Gerald Semakula -Member

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

- Alberto Campuzano - Member