

NATIONAL COUNCIL

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Dear Chair

Some categories of prisons, for example High Security and, Juveniles, have benefited from belonging to a group which discusses common issues and shares concerns and good practices. We have recently had strong indications that being part of such a group of similar prisons would be welcomed by many IMB Chairs and their Boards.

Those Boards who have met in this way have subsequently exchanged contact details – usually e-mail addresses – and this has provided a network for discussing common problems as they arise, knowing that the Chair with whom they are communicating has first hand understanding of their prison environment.

We would like to give all Boards the opportunity to benefit in the same way. We have enclosed a form for you to fill in identifying the main category of prison you monitor. As will often be the case, you may have more than one category; indeed some prisons cross several. Please tick all the categories that are covered by your population highlighting the one you consider most completely reflects your main work.

It is obvious for many prisons into which category they fall but we have sent this to all Chairs so that everyone knows what is happening. It would still be helpful to have all forms returned to ensure we have reached everyone and none has gone astray.

The largest groups will undoubtedly be Category B - 51 and Category C - 39. This may result in more area-based groupings, perhaps four covering the North, Central, Wales/South West and South East/Eastern, but the numbers will be sufficient to enable a network to develop but not so large they become impersonal.

We hope you will agree with us that there is great potential value in having contacts in similar establishments with whom to discuss concerns of common interest and share ideas about effective monitoring.

If you have any questions or suggestions about anything in this letter please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Yours sincerely

Richard Gully and Sue Nicholas
National Council for Independent Monitoring Boards

PRISON NAME: _____

Please tick all relevant categories of prison:

Category		Approx. number of prisoners
Male	_____	_____
Female	_____	_____
High Security	_____	_____
Local	_____	_____
Cat B	_____	_____
Cat C	_____	_____
Open/resettlement	_____	_____
Young Offenders (18-21)	_____	_____
Juveniles (up to 18)	_____	_____
Contracted Prison	_____	_____



CHAIR: _____

CONTACT DETAILS (home or the prison whichever you prefer, including e-mail address):

If you fall into several categories which would be your priority group to be associated with? _____

Would other Board members share any responsibility for the other categories you hold? If so can you provide contact details?

Any other comments you may wish to make:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 6th JUNE TO:

**ANNE-MARIE STEPHENS
IMB SECRETARIAT
ASHLEY HOUSE
2 MONCK STREET
LONDON SW1P 2BQ**