

Sarah Teather MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

08th January 2015

SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Ms. Teather MP

Further to your letter of 11th December 2014 concerning the Parliamentary Inquiry into Immigration Detention, please find responses to your questions below:

1. The UK is currently the only country in the European Union that doesn't have a maximum time limit on immigration detention. Does this pose any significant managerial challenges?

Mental Health, Safer Detention – Self harm, providing purposeful activities, health issues and maintaining links.

2. What training is given to staff regarding the immigration system, i.e. are staff able to understand the particular circumstances of detainees?

The initial training course covers all necessary elements for each member of staff to achieve DCO accreditation and all elements necessary to fulfil contractual obligations. It provides staff with the knowledge and skills required in order to confidently and effectively fulfil their role as DCO in any contracted out IRC and has been mapped to reflect the Occupational Standards of the Custodial Care SVQ level 3. It has been approved by the Home Office.

Training is delivered by lead trainers who hold a training qualification using various training methods suited to the subject being taught and all styles of learning and modular testing is carried out throughout the course.

Training is underpinned by

- *The Detention Centre Rules 2001*
- *Immigration Asylum Act 1999*
- *The Human Rights Act 1998*



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- *Race Relations Act 1976 & Amendment Act 2000*
- *Detention Service Orders*
- *Health & Safety at Work Act 1974*
- *Management of Health & Safety at Work Act 1999*
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children 1999*
- *The Protection of Children Act 1999 / Children (Scotland) Act 1995*
- *First Aid at Work – approved by the Health and Safety Executive*
- *GEO Policies and Procedures*

3. What training is given to staff relating to the National Referral Mechanism and recognising signs that an individual may have been trafficked? What training is given to staff relating to the management of mental health illness? Is this training given to all staff?

All Detainees are seen on Reception in our Continuity of Care Unit by Welfare staff and go through a full assessment of needs. Any concerns are taken to the on-site Immigration Enforcement Team. All Detainees are assessed by a Nurse within 2 hours of admission. We have a team of RGN and RMN's on site with 24 hour cover. All DCO staff receive Mental Health First Aid training as part of their ACDT training. This is refreshed annually. All trainers are accredited to carry out this training.

4. In what circumstances is segregation used to manage issues of behaviour? What safeguards and support are there for mentally disordered detainees who are held in segregation?

Segregation is used as a last resort at Dungavel and we have RMN's and counsellors providing support to mentally disordered Detainees as well as a visiting Consultant Psychiatrist from NHS Lanarkshire when required. We have excellent links with the local Health Board.

5. What systems are in place to allow detainees to feed back to centre management about facilities and staff at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre? Are detainees able to contact individuals and organisations outside of the IRC and independent from the management in private? Do GEO have any system in place to make operations at the IRC more transparent and have any attempts to increase transparency ever been blocked by the Home Office?

We operate a weekly consultation meeting chaired by the Centre or Senior Manager, where feedback is provided in an open forum with Detainees and Staff attending. Minutes of these meetings are displayed weekly. In addition separate nationality,



healthcare, female and catering forums are provided. We also operate a weekly drop in clinic with the Scottish Detainee Visitors group.

6. Women in Dungavel are often in an extreme minority in relation to men. Could you tell us about your gender-specific policies and practices? Please include the ratio of female to male staff members at Dungavel. *All activities are available to Females on a Female only basis. There are spate dining times available. All staff allocated to work in the female housing area are female. A weekly safety meeting with female Detainees is held with a female Senior Manager chairing it.*

Staff statistics for Dungavel are 46.6% male and 53.4% female.

7. Do GEO have any concerns regarding the search regime at the IRC? Have GEO ever requested a lightening of the search regime or other changes to the management of detainees? If so, what was the Home Office response?

Given the rise in ex FNO's within the Centre the searching regime is proportionate.

8. The panel has received a number of submissions criticising the current health provision for detainees. What improvements would GEO like to see and what impact has the transfer of responsibility for commissioning services to NHS England had? Additionally, what is your perception of how rule 35 operates? Could it be improved in any way?

NHS commissioning hasn't taken place at Dungavel. We provide our own Healthcare provision through a sub-contractor.

Rule 35 is managed in the Centre by our MO following an examination and interview with a Detainee. The MO's observations are then passed to Immigration Enforcement to make a final decision on the case. This is carried out by the Detainees caseworker. There is no further medical input or assessment from the Home Office in the decision making process as the only Medical opinion is from the Centre based MO. I believe it would improve the decision making process if a decision was made by a multi-disciplinary team that included medically qualified staff and caseworkers.

9. The panel has heard concerns regarding the movement of detainees around the detention estate. How does this operate in practice, particularly who initiates the move and who carries it out?



The Home Office initiates all movements of Detainees and the escort provider carries out this instruction.

10. The panel will be publishing a report with a number of recommendations regarding the way in which the detention system operations in the UK.

Are there any recommendations that GEO would like to see included in the report?

Nothing further to add.

I trust that this information will assist the report you are working on, and if there is anything further you require, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Joanne Henney
Chief Operating Officer

