



Detainee survey methodology,
results and analyses

Yarl's Wood IRC

June 2023

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Detainee survey methodology

A representative survey of detainees is carried out at the start of every inspection, the results of which contribute to the evidence base for the inspection.

HMI Prisons researchers developed a self-completion questionnaire in May 2019 to support HMI Prisons' *Expectations*. The questionnaire consists of structured questions covering the detainee 'journey' from reception to removal/release together with demographic and background questions which enables comparison of responses from different sub-groups of the detainee population. There are also three open questions at the end of the questionnaire which allow detainees to express in their own words what they find most positive and negative about the IRC. Qualitative analysis of these written comments is undertaken by HMI Prisons researchers and used by inspectors.

Sampling

For smaller IRCs or where the current detainee population is small, questionnaires are offered to every detainee. If the detainee population is large at the time of the survey, questionnaires are offered to a sample of detainees, using the following procedure. On the day of the survey a random sample is drawn by HMI Prisons researchers from a detainee population printout ordered by room location. Using a power calculation, HMI Prisons researchers calculate the minimum sample size required to ensure that the survey findings are representative of the entire population of the centre. The formula used in the calculation assumes a 65% response rate and a 95% confidence interval with a 7% margin of error.

Distributing and collecting questionnaires

HMI Prisons researchers distributed and collected the questionnaires in person. A cover sheet was included with the questionnaire which explained the purpose of the survey and that participation was voluntary. Assurances were given about confidentiality, anonymity and the storage and retention of the data. Detainees were provided with a sealable envelope for their completed questionnaire and told when researchers would return to collect it. Due to social distancing measures researchers were not able to obtain verbal consent from detainees and therefore returned and completed questionnaires were deemed as providing consent. The questionnaire was available in 23 languages.

Survey responses

At the time of the survey on 13 June 2023 the detainee population at Yarl's Wood IRC was 316. Using the sampling method described above, questionnaires were distributed to 316 detainees. We received a total of 65 completed questionnaires, a response rate of 21%.

Returned language	Number of completed survey returns
English	31 (47.7%)
Polish	14 (21.5%)
Albanian	4 (6.2%)
Portuguese	4 (6.2%)
Romanian	3 (4.6%)
Chinese	2 (3.1%)
Spanish	2 (3.1%)
Arabic	1 (1.5%)
Bengali	1 (1.5%)
French	1 (1.5%)
Lithuanian	1 (1.5%)
Vietnamese	1 (1.5%)
Total	65 (100%)

The full inspection report is available on our website at:
<https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/inspections/>

Detainee survey results and analyses

Over the following pages we present the full survey results followed by numerous comparative analyses for Yarl's Wood IRC. For the comparator analyses, where relevant, each question was reformulated using the Chi-square test (or Fisher's exact test if there are fewer than five expected counts in a cell) into a binary 'yes/no' format and affirmative responses compared. Missing responses have been excluded from all analyses and for some questions, responses from a sub-group of the sample are reported (as indicated in the data).

Responses from Yarl's Wood IRC 2023 compared with those from other HMI Prisons surveys

These analyses are carried out on summary data from all survey questions. As we have been using a revised version of the questionnaire since May 2019, we do not yet have full comparator data for all questions.

- Survey responses from Yarl's Wood IRC in 2023 compared with survey responses from other IRCs inspected since May 2021.
- Survey responses from Yarl's Wood IRC in 2023 compared with survey responses from Yarl's Wood IRC in 2017.

Comparisons between different residential locations within Yarl's Wood IRC 2023

- Responses from women's unit (Nightingale) are compared with those from the rest of the IRC.

Comparisons between self-reported sub-populations of detainees within Yarl's Wood IRC 2023

These analyses are carried out on summary data from selected survey questions only.

- Responses of detainees aged 25 and under compared with those aged over 25.
- Responses of detainees from all other ethnic groups combined are compared with those of white detainees.
- Responses of Muslim detainees compared with those of non-Muslim detainees.
- Responses of detainees who reported that they had a disability compared to those who did not.
- Responses of detainees who reported that they had mental health problems compared with those who did not.
- Responses of detainees who reported that they had been held in prison in the UK compared with those of detainees who reported that they had not been held in prison in the UK.
- Responses of non-heterosexual detainees compared with heterosexual detainees.

Please note that we only carry out within-IRC comparator analysis where there is a minimum of 10 responses in each comparison group.

In the comparator analyses, statistically significant differences are indicated by shading. The probability threshold (i.e. p-value) is set at 0.01 which means that there is a 1% likelihood the statistically significant difference between the two groups is due to chance. Results that are significantly more positive are indicated by green shading and results that are significantly more negative are indicated by blue shading. Orange shading has been used to show a statistically significant difference in demographic or other background details. If there is no shading, any difference between the two results is not statistically significant and may have occurred by chance. Grey shading indicates that there are no valid comparative data for that question.

Filtered questions are indented and preceded by an explanation in italics of how the filter has been applied. In the comparator analyses, percentages for filtered questions refer to the number of respondents filtered to that question. For all other questions, percentages refer to the total number of valid responses to the question.

Section 1: About you

1.1	What wing or unit are you currently living on?	
	Advocet Unit.....	15 (23%)
	Crane Unit.....	6 (9%)
	Dove Unit.....	30 (46%)
	Nightingale Unit.....	14 (22%)
1.2	How old are you?	
	Under 18.....	0 (0%)
	18-20.....	1 (2%)
	21-25.....	14 (23%)
	26-29.....	14 (23%)
	30-39.....	15 (24%)
	40-49.....	9 (15%)
	50-59.....	9 (15%)
	60-69.....	0 (0%)
	70 or over.....	0 (0%)
1.3	How would you describe your ethnicity?	
	Asian.....	5 (8%)
	Black.....	12 (20%)
	Mixed.....	6 (10%)
	White.....	36 (59%)
	Other.....	2 (3%)
1.4	Do you understand spoken English?	
	Very well.....	22 (35%)
	Quite well.....	15 (24%)
	A little.....	19 (30%)
	No.....	7 (11%)
1.5	Do you understand written English?	
	Very well.....	22 (35%)
	Quite well.....	12 (19%)
	A little.....	20 (32%)
	No.....	9 (14%)

Section 2: Immigration detention

2.1	How long have you been detained in this centre?	
	Less than 1 week.....	9 (15%)
	1 week or more but less than 1 month.....	16 (26%)
	1 month or more but less than 3 months.....	22 (35%)
	3 months or more but less than 6 months.....	8 (13%)
	6 months or more.....	7 (11%)
2.2	How much time have you spent in immigration detention in the UK in total?	
	Less than 1 month.....	18 (31%)
	1 month or more but less than 3 months.....	21 (36%)
	3 months or more but less than 6 months.....	9 (16%)
	6 months or more.....	8 (14%)
	Don't remember.....	2 (3%)

2.3	Have you ever been held in prison in the UK?	
	Yes	24 (39%)
	No.....	37 (61%)

Section 3: Your journey to this centre

3.1	Before being brought to this centre, were you told where you were going?	
	Yes	32 (52%)
	No.....	29 (48%)
3.2	How were you treated by escort staff during your journey to this centre?	
	Very well.....	22 (35%)
	Quite well.....	23 (37%)
	Quite badly	9 (14%)
	Very badly	4 (6%)
	Don't remember.....	5 (8%)

Section 4: Reception and first nights

4.1	When you were searched in reception, was this done in a respectful way?	
	Yes	46 (73%)
	No.....	8 (13%)
	Don't remember.....	7 (11%)
	Was not searched	2 (3%)
4.2	While in reception, were you able to speak to someone from the health care team?	
	Yes	44 (69%)
	No.....	16 (25%)
	Don't remember.....	4 (6%)
4.3	Overall, how were you treated in reception?	
	Very well.....	22 (35%)
	Quite well.....	28 (45%)
	Quite badly	4 (6%)
	Very badly	6 (10%)
	Don't remember.....	2 (3%)
4.4	When you first arrived, did you have any problems with the following?	
	Getting phone numbers.....	15 (25%)
	Contacting family.....	21 (34%)
	Arranging care for children or other dependants	6 (10%)
	Contacting employers.....	2 (3%)
	Money.....	18 (30%)
	Housing	11 (18%)
	Feeling depressed.....	39 (64%)
	Feeling suicidal.....	14 (23%)
	Your mental health	31 (51%)
	Your physical health	20 (33%)
	Drugs or alcohol (e.g. withdrawal).....	2 (3%)
	Getting medication	11 (18%)
	Lost or delayed property.....	8 (13%)
	Other problems.....	8 (13%)
	Did not have any problems.....	7 (11%)

4.5 Did staff help you to deal with any of these problems?
 Yes 23 (40%)
 No..... 28 (48%)
 Did not have any problems..... 7 (12%)

4.6 Did you feel safe on your first night in this centre?
 Yes 32 (51%)
 No..... 25 (40%)
 Don't remember..... 6 (10%)

4.7 In your first two days here, did you receive information in a language you could understand about:

	Yes	No	Don't remember
Daily life at this centre	28 (47%)	30 (50%)	2 (3%)
Visits	27 (54%)	23 (46%)	0 (0%)
How to see immigration staff	23 (44%)	29 (56%)	0 (0%)
How to get legal advice	28 (57%)	21 (43%)	0 (0%)
How to see health care staff	32 (64%)	17 (34%)	1 (2%)
Other support available	24 (56%)	16 (37%)	3 (7%)

Section 5: Legal rights and immigration

5.1 Have you received free legal advice in this centre?
 Yes 30 (50%)
 No..... 30 (50%)

5.2 Do you have an immigration lawyer?
 Yes 42 (70%)
 No..... 18 (30%)

5.3 If you have an immigration lawyer, how easy or difficult is it to:

	Easy	Difficult	Don't know
Contact your lawyer	19 (53%)	12 (33%)	5 (14%)
Have a visit from your lawyer	6 (20%)	12 (40%)	12 (40%)

5.4 How easy or difficult is it to:

	Easy	Difficult	Don't know
Obtain bail information	13 (22%)	38 (64%)	8 (14%)
Access up-to-date information about your country	8 (15%)	37 (70%)	8 (15%)
See Home Office immigration staff	9 (17%)	40 (74%)	5 (9%)

5.5 Are Home Office immigration staff keeping you informed about the progress of your case?
 Yes 12 (19%)
 No..... 42 (68%)
 Don't know..... 8 (13%)

Section 6: Respectful detention

- 6.1 Please answer the following questions about the wing or residential unit you are currently living on:**
- | | Yes | No | Don't know |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Do you normally have enough clean, suitable clothes for the week? | 36 (57%) | 23 (37%) | 4 (6%) |
| Can you shower every day? | 57 (92%) | 5 (8%) | 0 (0%) |
| Do you have clean sheets every week? | 19 (34%) | 35 (63%) | 2 (4%) |
| Do you get cleaning materials for your room every week? | 24 (41%) | 31 (53%) | 4 (7%) |
| Is it normally quiet enough for you to sleep or relax at night? | 21 (34%) | 36 (59%) | 4 (7%) |
| Can you get your property from the centre's property store when you need it? | 29 (48%) | 23 (38%) | 9 (15%) |
- 6.2 Normally, how clean or dirty are the communal/shared areas of your wing or unit (landings, stairs, showers etc.)?**
- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Very clean | 13 (20%) |
| Quite clean | 27 (42%) |
| Quite dirty | 15 (23%) |
| Very dirty | 9 (14%) |
- 6.3 What is the quality of food here?**
- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Very good | 6 (9%) |
| Quite good | 18 (28%) |
| Quite bad | 19 (30%) |
| Very bad | 21 (33%) |
- 6.4 Do you get enough to eat at meal times?**
- | | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Always | 18 (29%) |
| Most of the time | 11 (17%) |
| Some of the time | 21 (33%) |
| Never | 13 (21%) |
- 6.5 Does the centre's shop sell the things that you need?**
- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Yes | 30 (48%) |
| No | 25 (40%) |
| Don't know | 7 (11%) |
- 6.6 Do you know how to make a complaint about your treatment in this centre?**
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Yes | 24 (39%) |
| No | 37 (61%) |
- 6.7 In your experience, are complaints dealt with fairly?**
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Yes | 6 (10%) |
| No | 10 (16%) |
| Not made a complaint | 46 (74%) |
- 6.8 Have you ever been too afraid to make a complaint about your treatment in this centre?**
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Yes | 22 (37%) |
| No | 37 (63%) |

Section 7: Staff

7.1	Do staff here treat you with respect?	
	Always	20 (32%)
	Most of the time	22 (35%)
	Some of the time	13 (21%)
	Never.....	8 (13%)
7.2	Do staff here knock and wait for an answer before entering your room?	
	Always.....	25 (40%)
	Most of the time	7 (11%)
	Some of the time	18 (29%)
	Never.....	12 (19%)
7.3	Are there any members of staff here you can turn to for help if you have a problem?	
	Yes	47 (77%)
	No.....	14 (23%)
7.4	Have staff physically restrained you since you've been in this centre?	
	Yes	12 (20%)
	No.....	47 (80%)
7.5	Have you spent any time in the separation/isolation unit, in this centre?	
	Yes	11 (19%)
	No.....	47 (81%)

Section 8: Faith

8.1	What is your religion?	
	No religion	2 (3%)
	Buddhist	2 (3%)
	Christian	28 (45%)
	Hindu	0 (0%)
	Jewish	0 (0%)
	Muslim	24 (39%)
	Sikh	2 (3%)
	Other	4 (6%)
8.2	Are your religious beliefs respected here?	
	Yes	48 (79%)
	No.....	3 (5%)
	Don't know.....	8 (13%)
	Not applicable (no religion).....	2 (3%)
8.3	Can you speak to a Chaplain of your faith in private, if you want to?	
	Yes	23 (40%)
	No.....	10 (18%)
	Don't know.....	22 (39%)
	Not applicable (no religion).....	2 (4%)

Section 9: Safety

9.1	Have you ever felt unsafe here?	
	Yes	40 (63%)
	No.....	23 (37%)

9.2	Where have you felt unsafe?	
	In your room	15 (28%)
	On corridors.....	16 (30%)
	In the dining hall	11 (20%)
	At health care	6 (11%)
	In association or shared areas (e.g. TV room)	8 (15%)
	In activity areas (e.g. library, IT room, education, gym).....	12 (22%)
	In outside areas.....	11 (20%)
	Anywhere else in this centre.....	9 (17%)
	Never felt unsafe here	23 (43%)
9.3	Do you feel unsafe now?	
	Yes	24 (41%)
	No.....	35 (59%)
9.4	Have you experienced any of the following forms of victimisation or bullying from other detainees here?	
	Verbal abuse	9 (16%)
	Threats or intimidation	7 (13%)
	Sexual comments.....	0 (0%)
	Sexual assault.....	0 (0%)
	Physical assault.....	4 (7%)
	Theft	7 (13%)
	Other	8 (15%)
	Not experienced any of these from detainees here	34 (62%)
9.5	If you were being bullied or victimised by other detainees here, would you report it?	
	Yes	35 (64%)
	No.....	20 (36%)
9.6	Have you experienced any of the following forms of victimisation or bullying from staff here?	
	Verbal abuse	5 (9%)
	Threats or intimidation	6 (11%)
	Sexual comments.....	1 (2%)
	Sexual assault.....	0 (0%)
	Physical assault.....	2 (4%)
	Theft	4 (7%)
	Other	7 (13%)
	Not experienced any of these from staff here.....	39 (71%)
9.7	If you were being bullied or victimised by staff here, would you report it?	
	Yes	43 (81%)
	No.....	10 (19%)

Section 10: Alcohol and drugs

10.1	While in this centre, have you developed any problems with:		
		Yes	No
	Illicit drugs	4 (8%)	46 (92%)
	Medication not prescribed to you	14 (27%)	37 (73%)
	Alcohol	0 (0%)	43 (100%)

10.2	Do you currently have a problem with:		
		Yes	No
	Illicit drugs	4 (8%)	48 (92%)
	Medication not prescribed to you	11 (20%)	43 (80%)
	Alcohol	1 (2%)	46 (98%)

10.3	While in this centre, have you been helped with your problems with:			
		Yes	No	Not applicable
	Illicit drugs	0 (0%)	4 (8%)	46 (92%)
	Medication not prescribed to you	7 (15%)	5 (11%)	35 (74%)
	Alcohol	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	42 (98%)

10.4	Is it easy or difficult to get illicit drugs in this centre?	
	Very easy	4 (7%)
	Quite easy	3 (5%)
	Quite difficult.....	1 (2%)
	Very difficult.....	2 (4%)
	Don't know.....	46 (82%)

10.5	Is it easy or difficult to get alcohol in this centre?	
	Very easy	4 (7%)
	Quite easy	1 (2%)
	Quite difficult.....	0 (0%)
	Very difficult.....	3 (5%)
	Don't know.....	49 (86%)

Section 11: Health and support

11.1	Is a professional interpreter available if you need one during health care assessments?	
	Yes	25 (43%)
	No.....	9 (16%)
	Don't know.....	8 (14%)
	Don't need an interpreter.....	16 (28%)

11.2	What is the quality of health care services here?	
	Very good	8 (14%)
	Quite good	19 (33%)
	Quite bad.....	8 (14%)
	Very bad.....	18 (31%)
	Have not been to health care	5 (9%)

11.3	Do you have any mental health problems?	
	Yes	31 (52%)
	No.....	29 (48%)

11.4	Have you been helped with your mental health problems while in this centre?	
	Yes	15 (26%)
	No.....	14 (24%)
	Don't have mental health problems	29 (50%)

11.5	Have you ever felt depressed while in this centre?	
	Yes	51 (84%)
	No.....	10 (16%)

11.6	Have you ever felt suicidal while in this centre?	
	Yes	27 (44%)
	No.....	34 (56%)
11.7	If you have felt depressed or suicidal here, did you receive any help from staff?	
	Yes	18 (35%)
	No.....	23 (45%)
	Have not felt depressed or suicidal	10 (20%)

Section 12: Other needs and support

12.1	Do you consider yourself to have a disability (long-term physical, mental or learning needs that affect your day-to-day life)?	
	Yes	22 (38%)
	No.....	36 (62%)
12.2	If you have a disability, are you getting the support you need?	
	Yes	6 (11%)
	No.....	14 (25%)
	Don't have a disability/don't need support	36 (64%)

Section 13: Activities

13.1	Are you taking part in any education here?	
	Yes	11 (19%)
	No, but I want to	18 (32%)
	No and I don't want to.....	28 (49%)
13.2	If you are taking part in education, is it helpful?	
	Yes	11 (19%)
	No.....	1 (2%)
	Not taking part in education.....	46 (79%)
13.3	Do you have a job here?	
	Yes	13 (23%)
	No, but I want one	18 (32%)
	No and I don't want one.....	26 (46%)
13.4	Does the library have appropriate materials to meet your needs?	
	Yes	24 (42%)
	No.....	19 (33%)
	Don't know.....	14 (25%)
13.5	How easy or difficult is it to access what you need on the internet?	
	Very easy	10 (17%)
	Quite easy	8 (13%)
	Quite difficult.....	13 (22%)
	Very difficult.....	20 (33%)
	Don't know.....	9 (15%)

13.6	Can you go to the gym as often as you want to?	
	Yes	24 (41%)
	No.....	21 (36%)
	Don't know.....	10 (17%)
	Don't want to go.....	4 (7%)

13.7	Is there enough to do in this centre to fill your time?	
	Yes	14 (24%)
	No.....	38 (66%)
	Don't know.....	6 (10%)

Section 14: Keeping in touch with family and friends

14.1	Have you had any problems with sending or receiving mail (letters or parcels)?	
	Yes	18 (32%)
	No.....	38 (68%)

14.2	Have you had a visit from family or friends since you've been in this centre?	
	Yes	22 (37%)
	No.....	37 (63%)

14.3	Are your visitors usually treated with respect by staff?	
	Yes	9 (15%)
	No.....	2 (3%)
	Don't know.....	12 (20%)
	Have not had a visit.....	37 (62%)

Section 15: Leaving this centre

15.1	Has anyone here helped you prepare for leaving this centre?	
	Yes	14 (26%)
	No.....	40 (74%)

Section 16: More about you

16.1	Are you responsible for any child under the age of 18 in the UK?	
	Yes	14 (25%)
	No.....	42 (75%)

16.2	What is your gender?	
	Female	15 (26%)
	Male	42 (72%)
	Non-binary.....	0 (0%)
	Other	1 (2%)

16.3	How would you describe your sexual orientation?	
	Straight/heterosexual	37 (76%)
	Gay/lesbian/homosexual	4 (8%)
	Bisexual.....	2 (4%)
	Other	6 (12%)

16.4	Do you identify as transgender or transsexual?	
	Yes	2 (4%)
	No.....	47 (96%)