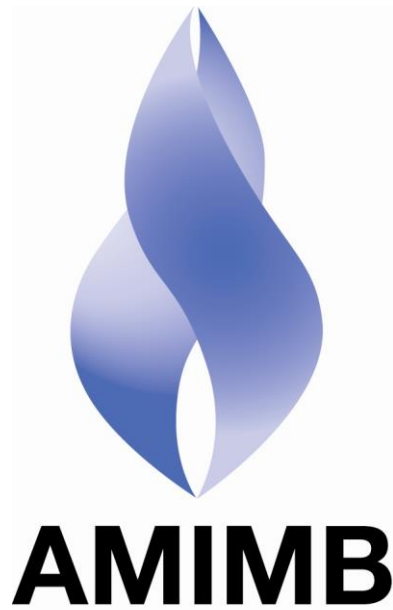


Association of Members of Independent Monitoring Boards



**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the
Year Ending July 31 2009**

**www.amimb.org.uk
Charity registration number 293384**

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2. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

AMIMB (originally AMBoV – Association of Members of Board of Visitors) was founded in 1981, as an unincorporated charity (registered number 293384). The Association is governed by a constitution which was amended and updated in 2003 when the present designation was introduced.

Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Constitution, the Trustees, who make up the Executive Committee, are elected every year at the Annual General Meeting. The Officers are elected annually and the Chair may not be elected to that office for more than three consecutive years. The patron and president are not *ex-officio* members of the board and therefore have no voting rights.

Organisation

The Trustees meet regularly in order to manage the affairs of the charity. The Committee is joined by the editor of the *Independent Monitor* who is an *ex-officio* member.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where significant risks have been identified, systems have been or will be established to mitigate those risks.

Related Parties

A representative from the IMB National Council attends meetings of the Executive Committee. AMIMB is a member of the Criminal Justice Alliance (CJA), Clinks and Howard League for Penal Reform.

Charity Objectives

The objectives of the Association are to educate, inform, advise and support members of Independent Monitoring Boards of penal institutions in England and Wales in the law, the treatment of offenders and all other matters relating to their role; to enable them to perform their duties in the most competent and efficient manner; and to issue publications, arrange training events, promote conferences and maintain awareness of developments in the law, the Prison Rules and associated subjects.

AMIMB also aims to educate and inform the public about the treatment of offenders and the role played by members of IMBs.

The activities of the charity fall into three headings:

- Membership training and support, including the Helpline
- Advocacy
- Communications

Reviewing our Aims

We review our objectives and activities each year. The review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review also helps us ensure our objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing previous activities and in our future planning.

3. Achievements and Performance

There are 396 full and associate members. There are AMIMB members on the Independent Monitoring Boards in 113 prisons' and immigration removal centres' IMB boards.

The Trustees have met six times during the year, plus the AGM and in addition there have been sub-group meetings to discuss specific issues.

2008/09 has been a very busy year for AMIMB; a lot of time and effort has been spent laying down firm foundations for the charity to grow and develop over the coming years.

The membership database has been consolidated and new protocols and practices put into place, ensuring compliance with regulations. Alongside this we have improved communications with the membership using email.

The AMIMB website www.amimb.org.uk has been re-designed and has new vigour with a dedicated member's page where a forum has recently been introduced. An interactive poll has questions like "do you agree with prisoners having the vote?" "Should there be a fixed term of office for IMB members?" and the results are displayed.

There have been three editions of the *Independent Monitor* during the last year. We have seen an increase in responses; we value this lively debate and ask members to continue to feed back their views. There are five significant themes during the year:

1. Board disputes
Two more personal stories (anonymous) and an analysis of the official procedures (plus some reaction from the Secretariat)
2. Clustering
Articles by affected IMBs and by Stephen Shaw (a regular contributor)
3. Art in prisons
An article by Jane King (ex-National Council), another by Rachel Billington and one about PEN in prisons
4. Mental health
An article from the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, a *Monitor* Guide to mental health in prisons and a critique of the conventional view
5. Immigration
Night visits at Heathrow (from the IMB chair) and a personal account of life in the Calais 'Jungle'

Other highlights of the *Monitor* include a controversial interview with Peter Selby (IMB President) and some reactions to it. We are grateful for the valuable, regular contributions from, Vivien Stern.

The e-newsletter has developed and its aim is to keep members updated and informed of news that will interest them. We value members' input and feedback to this new initiative.

The AMIMB helpline has had a busy year answering queries as diverse as whether or not a member could be a suicide prevention assessor, what to do when a prisoner refuses the attendance of an IMB member at his adjudication, and where to go when a prisoner intimidates a member.

A successful training programme of prison visits has included Leeds, Belmarsh and Parkhurst and Albany on the Isle of Wight. We give thanks to the boards and governors who have hosted these so well.

With so much going on in the world of detention, it is important that our voice can be heard. We have participated in debates and consultations on issues such as private and public prisons and mental health.

During the year AMIMB has instigated a conversation with other monitors (including lay observers, appropriate adults, custody visitors) operating in the criminal justice system. The aim is to share best practice and to understand if there are any gaps across the system.

During the past year we developed a new AMIMB strategy to take us forward for the next three years. This builds on the experience of the last 29 years and defines the priorities that we will address and how we will raise awareness and knowledge about those in custody.

As ever, AMIMB thanks all our members and supporters and special thanks to the Noel Buxton Trust, Bromley Trust and Big Lottery. Finally, thanks to the enthusiastic and dedicated trustees who make all this happen.

4. Future Activities

- Update *Practical Guide to Monitoring Prisons*, including information for IMBs in immigration removal centres
- Publish three editions of the *Monitor*
- Introduce gift aid for membership subscriptions
- Increase income from external grant-awarding bodies
- Celebrate 30 years in 2010

5. Financial Review

The accounts show that we had a surplus for the year of £5,157. Our income included a grant of £10,000 from the Bromley Trust which is restricted income for projects commencing in 2009/10.

For 2009/10 money has been secured to help fund volunteer expenses. The AGM and training days continue to be self funding. Our aim is continue to focus on membership subscriptions so that this income can cover the costs of the *Monitor* publication. The Trustees are very grateful to individuals for their personal donations.

The Trustees aim to build reserves equivalent to six months of total expenditure.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2009

	Year Ending 31st July 2009	Year Ending 31st July 2008
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Subscriptions	6,910	7,336
Noel Buxton Trust		2,000
Bromley Trust	10,000	
General Donations	80	138
Monitoring Guide Income	480	
Bank Interest	101	336
Training & Annual General Meeting Receipts	1,232	938
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TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	18,803	10,748
 DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE		
Executive meetings	3,749	2,572
The Monitor	7,862	7,256
Administrative expenses	153	314
Web Site	701	163
Membership Information	120	736
Training & Annual General Meeting expenses	1,061	355
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TOTAL DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE	13,646	11,396
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NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	5,157	(648)
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 RESERVES		
The movement in the reserves of the Association are as detailed below:-		
Balance Brought Forward	10,929	10,360
Amount due to Creditors	(1,217)	1,217
Surplus / (Deficit) For The Year	5,157	(648)
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Balance Carried Forward	14,869	10,929
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I have examined the records presented to me and on the basis of those records and explanations made to me, certify

Peter Mitchell BA (Hons) FCMA

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with SORP.

6. Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to:

The Bromley Trust

Big Lottery

Noel Buxton Trust

Peter Ananicz from PA Web Services Ltd

The Trustees declare they have approved the trustees' report.

October 22nd, 2009

Helen Boothman

Chair AMIMB