

# Weekly Conditions Report

Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre (IRC)

Reporting Period: [11/1/2026]

Prepared by: Asylum Seekers Detained in G Wing, Harmondsworth IRC

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## 1. Overview

This report is written by **asylum seekers currently detained in G Wing** at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre. We are not criminals, yet we are being held in conditions that are inhumane, degrading, and harmful to our physical and mental health. Many of us have been detained for extended periods without adequate care, support, or clarity about our future. The situation continues to deteriorate and requires urgent intervention from external authorities and human rights organisations.

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## 2. Heating and Hot Water Failures

- The heating system in G Wing accommodation is **not functioning**, despite freezing winter temperatures.
- Instead of heating, **cold air conditioning** is being used.
- **There is no hot water in our rooms after 8:00 pm.**
- We are forced to sleep in cold conditions with no access to hot showers at night.

### Impact:

These conditions have led to widespread illness among detainees, including fever, flu, and COVID-19. The cold environment is directly affecting our health and recovery.

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## 3. Widespread Illness and Inadequate Medical Care

- A large number of detainees in G Wing are currently ill, suffering from:
  - Fever and flu
  - COVID-19
  - Stomach-related illnesses
  - Severe eye conditions causing pain, irritation, and inability to sleep
- There is effectively **no proper medical care** at Harmondsworth IRC.
- Qualified doctors are rarely, if ever, available.
- Medical staff do not:
  - Carry out physical examinations
  - Diagnose medical conditions
  - Provide individual treatment plans

- Regardless of the complaint, detainees are given **the same small white pills**, without explanation.

#### **Examples of current cases:**

- *Khamis* – serious stomach problems
- *Sipan* – severe eye condition described as feeling “like sand in the eyes,” preventing sleep
- *Hogir* – fever and flu

All received identical medication without assessment.

#### **Additional concern:**

Detainees have witnessed medical staff using **ChatGPT to assess medical situations**, rather than relying on qualified medical professionals. This raises serious ethical, safety, and legal concerns.

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## **4. Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Incidents**

- Mental health conditions in G Wing are **critical and worsening**.
- Many asylum seekers have been detained for **over two months**, with no clear information about their cases.
- There are:
  - No therapists
  - No psychologists
  - No consistent mental health doctors
- Multiple suicide attempts have occurred.
- **The most recent suicide incident happened two days ago.**

#### **Response to mental health crises:**

When a detainee completely lost control due to mental distress, officers removed him to a segregation block instead of providing therapeutic care. No mental health treatment or counselling was provided.

We are already survivors of trauma, conflict, and persecution. Prolonged detention without support is destroying people mentally and emotionally.

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## **5. Food Quality and Unequal Treatment in G Wing**

- **We, the asylum seekers detained in G Wing, receive worse food than other wings within the centre.**
- The meals provided to us are **not the same** as those given to detainees elsewhere.
- Specific issues include:
  - **Lower-quality rice**, visibly different from the rice served in other wings
  - **Chips that are old**, sometimes appearing **three days old or more**
- Food is often cold, poorly prepared, and nutritionally inadequate.

#### **Impact:**

This unequal treatment negatively affects our physical health, contributes to illness, and deepens feelings of discrimination and neglect.

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## 6. Hygiene Facilities and Risk of Violence

- Hygiene facilities are extremely limited.
- **More than 80 detainees in G Wing share only one washing machine.**
- This situation has caused frequent arguments and rising tension.

### Recent serious incident (3 days ago):

- A fight broke out between a Kurdish detainee and an Afghan detainee over access to the washing machine.
- One detainee was grabbed by the neck.
- The situation escalated rapidly:
  - Over 30 Kurdish detainees
  - Over 15 Afghan detainees gathered
- Detainees themselves intervened and managed to calm the situation.
- Without this intervention, the incident could have resulted in serious injury or loss of life.

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## 7. Overall Living Conditions

- Daily life in G Wing is described by detainees as “hell.”
- Constant cold, illness, lack of medical care, food inequality, and mental suffering make survival extremely difficult.
- The environment is unsafe and unstable, with an ongoing risk of:
  - Further violence
  - Self-harm
  - Death

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## 8. Urgent Call for Action

We urgently call on:

- Human rights organisations
- Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB)
- NHS and healthcare oversight bodies
- The Home Office
- Members of Parliament
- Journalists and independent investigators

to urgently investigate conditions in **G Wing at Harmondsworth IRC** and take immediate action to:

- Restore heating and hot water
- Provide qualified doctors and mental health professionals
- Ensure equal, safe, and nutritious food across all wings
- Improve hygiene facilities
- End the inhumane treatment of asylum seekers

**We are asylum seekers. We are not criminals. We are human beings.**