



Press release

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Composite completes fourth houseblock at HM Prison Swaleside for PCSL

Design and build contractor Composite has completed a precast concrete, 180-cell houseblock at HMP Swaleside, on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent, its fourth for this Category B prison.

Composite was responsible for total construction management of the three-storey, L-shaped unit, including full structural design and detailing, health and safety, commercial and project management. The houseblock has been given a BREEAM Excellent rating, and meets Building Regulation Approved Document L2A, which relates to the conservation of fuel and power.

Composite undertook the contract for Precast Cellular Structures Ltd (PCSL), its joint venture partnership with Tarmac. PCSL has been supplying secure accommodation to HM Prison Service through the Ministry of Justice's Strategic Alliance for Prison Building constructors and PFI contractors since 1995. Willmott Dixon was the Strategic Alliance contractor at HMP Swaleside.

The modules were precast concrete by Tarmac in blocks of four and delivered to site fully fitted with sanitary ware, windows, grilles and services. The unit also includes administration and facility rooms, a servery, segregation block, isolation and safe cells, an education centre and medical facilities.

Modular construction is perfectly suited to the specific requirements of the custodial sector due to its competitive cost, safety and security, high quality, low maintenance costs and speed of erection.

Composite's Business Development Director, Vincent James, said: "Composite has a strong track record of delivering high quality houseblocks to the custodial sector, competitively, quickly and efficiently. The similarity of this latest houseblock to its three predecessors at Swaleside enabled us to make an earlier start date, and thus reduce costs."

Composite designed and constructed its first houseblock for PCSL in 1995 at HMP Fazakerley (later renamed Altcourse), near Liverpool, Britain's first PFI

prison. In total it has built 32 precast concrete, modular prison houseblocks in the British Isles, including six for the Scottish Prison Service, and one in Guernsey. This year it has also provided houseblocks at HMPs Long Lartin (Worcs) and Nottingham.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Helen Symes or Phil Bryant

Hallmark PR

T: 01962 774833

E: helen.symes@hallmarkpr.com or phil.bryant@hallmarkpr.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Composite is a leading design and build contractor, specialising in the construction of precast concrete frames and modular buildings. Offering a high quality structure, combined with fast on-site erection times, it has been involved in more than 400 projects throughout the UK for the health, education, retail, rail, commercial and custodial sectors.

Composite and Tarmac are joint partners in Precast Cellular Structures Ltd, a supply partner to contractors forming the Ministry of Justice's Strategic Alliance for Prison Building.

Recent, current and future projects include a teaching block for Tipton Academy in the West Midlands, multi-storey car parks for hospitals in Bournemouth, Bridgend and Swansea, and houseblocks for HM Prisons in Worcestershire, Nottingham and Kent.

Founded in 1983, Composite has achieved its industry-leading position through highly skilled project management, expertise in design solutions and offsite construction expertise.

As well as speed, offsite construction means fewer personnel and trades onsite, and a reduction in deliveries and site storage, all of which can help minimise health and safety risks. By lowering levels of waste, noise and dust, it also makes less of an impact on the environment. These benefits contribute to making offsite construction a practical and cost-effective option.