



HMIPS

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
INSPECTING AND MONITORING

Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin

HMP Barlinnie

April – September 2018



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Prison
IPMs



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Monitoring
Visits



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Requests

Key Findings

- **Lawful and Transparent custody:** Independent Prison Monitors observed twelve orderly room hearings, which were conducted fairly and transparently. The Separation and Reintegration Unit was also frequently monitored, and IPMs commented that it was a well-managed area with clear plans and timescales for review.
- **Decency:** The conditions in reception and admissions areas were reported to be cramped, and made more difficult with increasing numbers of admissions in this period. Staff explained the measures in place to ensure that individuals processed there were as comfortable as could be given the conditions, especially those in the holding cubicles.
- **Home Detention Curfew (HDC):** IPMs received some requests from prisoners regarding their eligibility for HDC, which has re-emerged as a concern for some prisoners. The Monitoring team have also enquired about the impact of the recently announced changes to criteria (see below).
- **Population / staffing:** IPMs noted the increase in population during this reporting period, and were concerned that the higher numbers had led to increased pressure on staff and lack of access to regime for many prisoners.
- **Transitions from custody to community:** IPMs met with and welcomed the work of the throughcare staff, while noting the challenges in assisting with the reintegration of released prisoners.
- **Treatment:** IPMs received various requests relating to treatment, which were passed to senior staff to look into.

Updates and Actions

- **Population / staffing:** High prisoner population and high sick absence are key areas of management activity, with the aim of providing a balanced regime, retaining as much access to showering, exercise and telephones as possible.
- **HDC:** Prison management explained that the impact of HDC policy changes meant it was highly likely that the numbers released would reduce, potentially exacerbating the population problem.
- **Visits:** Various improvements and developments had been implemented during this period, including; refurbishment of the children's visits area, opening times of the tea bar had been extended to evenings and weekends, a revised visit timetable, all of which appears to have had a positive effect.
- **Treatment:** Prison management noted IPMs concerns and reassured them that staff practice was monitored and supervised through a variety of methods, and where there was deemed to be poor practice or mistreatment, action would be taken.
- **Transitions from Custody:** Throughcare Support Officers continue to work with a full caseload (75) for those approaching liberation, and are developing further partnerships in the community.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- IPMs will continue to meet with prisoners to discuss their requests and monitor against all HMIPS standards.
- IPMs will look to deliver a range of talks / presentations to staff groups and continue to have a presence at prisoner inductions.

To find out more about Independent Prison Monitoring go to www.prisoninspectoratescotland.gov.uk or email prisonmonitoring@gov.scot . To ask to see an IPM call **0800 056 7476**.