

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin
HMP Edinburgh
October-December 2019****8 Independent
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Requests****Key Findings****Progression**

Progression and access to rehabilitation courses remains a concern across all prisons. IPMs were pleased to hear about the changes implemented by the Governor to try and address this, but we are aware this is a national issue with long waiting lists for some courses. IPMs will raise concerns about the national waiting lists with Scottish Prison Service HQ.

The Prison are looking at doing an additional MFMC course to try and increase the number of courses that are available.

Work and recreation

Despite some prisoners raising concerns about access to work and other activity, IPMs have been encouraged by the range and quality of work sheds available, whilst acknowledging the difficulty some of the prisoner groups have accessing all of them. We have raised with the Governor concerns expressed by prisoners on Ratho Hall regarding the access they get, and asked if more can be done. The Governor was receptive to this, and a review of the work party allocations is being conducted to see if changes are possible.

Following discussion last quarter, the prison have implemented a rota system so if halls need to be shut for recreation this is done fairly.

Drugs and NPS

The IPM team were pleased there had been an apparent reduction in NPS and drugs within the prison, which increases the safety of both prisoners and staff alike, and are happy to hear about the continued and increasing use of the Rapiscan machine.

Updates and Actions:

Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent survey. We are currently analysing the responses and will let you know of any changes that we make. In the meantime the IPMs will continue to take a more proactive approach to monitoring. They will aim to look at the experiences of prisoners entering and leaving custody.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

In the next quarter IPMs will have a particular focus for monitoring and observations on:

- Progression
- Induction
- Release from custody