

**Independent Prison Monitoring Bulletin****HMP Greenock****January – March 2018****8 Independent
Prison
Monitors****14 Prison
Monitoring
Visits****8 Prisoner
Requests****Key Findings**

- **Decency:** Staff facilitated visits to a number of cells within the establishment, as Monitors monitored the decency standard and noted the closure of cells in Ailsa. Monitors also looked at the facilities in the disabled cell and noted the particular challenges in maintaining high standards due to the fabric of the building and the difficulties faced by those located there.
- **Effective Use of Authority:** Monitors continued to report very good relationships and noted that staff had a very positive view of their role in providing care.
- **Purposeful Activity:** Monitors noted that sometimes staffing could be finely balanced, with some purposeful activity being closed due to sickness etc and requested comment on this from management.
- **Lawful and Transparent Custody:** Monitors spoke with several recent admissions to HMP Greenock, both male and female. They stated that the reception processes were very smooth and that they were treated well. Monitors received copies of the first night in custody checklist which was available in a number of languages.
- **Visits:** Monitors noted some anecdotal evidence of visitors being turned away having travelled large distances. While being mindful of security challenges, Monitors asked about the level of discretions officers can apply to the visits process.

Updates and Actions

- **Purposeful Activity:** Prison management noted that staffing could have an impact on the regime, and with nine staff currently off sick there were some single posts with no cover. There was some limited flexibility which is always considered in these circumstances to ensure the regime remains as consistent as possible.
- **Visits:** Senior management will discuss visitors being turned away, and agreed to feedback to Monitors. Management commented that staff could use discretion when assessing safety issues, however security remained the paramount concern.
- **PIAC Meetings:** They have not been taking place as regularly recently, however this should be happening monthly.
- **Complaints:** Senior management agreed to provide a breakdown of complaints to the IPM team and encouraged Monitors to sample them.
- **Progression :** Management responded to some frustrations around transitions from top end to open conditions, noting that ultimate responsibility for transitioning to the next level remains with the prisoner. The systemic delays for first grant temporary release have impacted on progression in this area.

IPM Focus in the Next Quarter

- Monitors will look at a breakdown of complaints at HMP Greenock and also attend PIAC meetings as they are arranged.