

<b>PRISON</b>	<b>HMP DUMFRIES</b>		<b>YEAR (1 APRIL – 31 MARCH)</b>	2022 – 2023	
<b>Total number of visits</b>	54	<b>Total number of missed weeks</b>	1	<b>Total number of IPM hours</b>	162
<b>Total number of prisoner requests received</b>	58	<b>Number of IPMs in the team (as at 31 March)</b>	5		

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IPMs continue to report on a well-run prison which feels safe and orderly. IPMs were made to feel welcome and assisted by staff in dealing with prisoner requests and in making observations. IPMs will continue to look at the impact of cancellations of external appointments by the prison contractor GEOamey, and also monitor the return to communal dining experience for prisoners and their views on food provision.

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

	Overall RAG rating		
<b>Lawful and Transparent Custody:</b> All IPMs have spoken with prisoners in the B Hall who had previously been to Orderly Rooms for their conduct. Monitors confirmed all reasonable entitlements were in place for these prisoners and that they were given opportunities to express themselves in the orderly room process. There were plans in place for them to return to mainstream. IPMs observed case conferences taking place for prisoners repeatedly coming before the orderly room processes. IPMs commented very positively on solution-focused attempts to improve this. IPMs also observed property being tested for drugs and commented on a very laborious but thorough process.	☐	☐	✓
<b>Decency:</b> On all monitoring visits, HMP Dumfries was noted to be very clean and tidy. The outdoor spaces were very well maintained though the building generally had ongoing repairs throughout the year due to age. There had been an increase in canteen prices which prisoners had brought to IPMs attention, and prison management implemented some measures to mitigate against this. For a short period in the year, IPMs received several requests about quality and quantity of food in the prison. This was discussed at length with management who advised that food focus groups, PIACs, seasonal changes to the menu and management sampling of the food was ongoing. IPMs welcomed the return to communal dining this year after the pandemic restrictions ceased to apply.	☐	☐	✓
<b>Personal Safety:</b> IPMs reported regularly on a safe, well-run and orderly establishment. Occasionally, management advised of a small influx of illicit substances or low-level violent incidents which affected prisoners; however these appeared to be managed appropriately with swift and proportionate action.	☐	☐	✓
<b>Effective, Courteous and Humane Exercise of Authority:</b> IPMs frequently commented on good staff/ prisoner relationships in HMP Dumfries with a positive atmosphere in all areas of the prison. Occasionally IPMs explored requests from prisoners who perceived they had had unfair decisions at a relatively low level go against them. Where IPMs discussed these matters with senior management, they evidenced the processes that had been followed and how decisions were arrived at. HMP Dumfries had a duty of care for different population types and IPMs	☐	☐	✓

commended several officers for their compassionate approach in dealing with some challenging situations involving older prisoners and those with mental health difficulties.			
<b>Respect, Autonomy and Protection Against Mistreatment:</b> All IPMs met with prisoners who had been removed from mainstream at various times during the year. At all times IPMs reported that basic entitlements had been met, prisoners had been treated with compassion with plans to return to mainstream in place. IPMs discussed the complaints process with prisoners and staff and in general there was a good process of communication in the area. IPMs observed Orderly Room processes with prisoners afforded the opportunity to express their view on incidents which had resulted in them being in report.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
<b>Purposeful Activity:</b> IPMs commented on good levels of activity across the establishment and had visited all the main work parties and education. They reported enthusiastic supervisors and work groups with good allocation of tasks. Various events had been held in the prison including Holocaust Memorial Day and Family Days. IPMs welcomed the recruitment of a family contact officer and recovery officer, and the re-opening of the soft play and family area in the visits room. It was noted that occasionally some issues with staffing could impact how comprehensive the regime might be on a day-to-day basis and subsequently impact on time out of cell, although recruitment and staffing had improved throughout the year. It is recognised that the structure of the day in the prison had changed in order to expand access to all prisoners to attend work or education. IPMs would also draw attention to the excellent work carried out throughout the year to create the Wellbeing Gardens as a space for work, reflection, exercise, and mindfulness.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Transitions from custody to life in the community:</b> IPMs continued to speak informally with prisoners who were due to be liberated. Overwhelmingly, prisoners commented on a safe prison where basic entitlements were met and where they felt safe. There could however be a sense of frustration for longer term prisoners that the national system does not allow them to progress through their sentences due to perceived delays.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Organisational Effectiveness:</b> IPMs continued to be advised of cancelled appointments with the external contractor GEOAmeY, and the impact on prisoners. While acknowledging this is an external issue, in some cases this had disrupted the maintenance of family bonds for prisoners and / or prospects for progression. It is acknowledged that HMP Dumfries endeavoured to facilitate critical health appointments but given staffing levels a great number were still missed or delayed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> IPMs had reasons to speak with healthcare staff at various times throughout the year and they have been helpful in assisting with prisoner requests where appropriate. The IPM Team had no concerns over the healthcare provision at HMP Dumfries. As noted above the Wellbeing Gardens will provide a holistic approach to health and wellbeing in the months to come and IPMs will monitor levels of access to the facility throughout the year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
<b>RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status key:</b>	Some serious concerns	Some slight concerns	No concerns / good practice
<i>RAG rating: where IPMs felt each standard would be rated given their experience - not a complete analysis but based on the judgement of the IPM team</i>			

KEY ISSUES	
1.	Cancellation of external appointments by the prison transport contractor, GEOAmeY.
2.	Purposeful activity and regime.
3.	Progression.

**ENCOURAGING OBSERVATIONS**

Emphasis on health, wellbeing, recovery, rehabilitation, and community partnership links.  
High levels of safety and good order.  
Adaptability and flexibility to challenges.  
Ongoing cultural events throughout calendar year for prisoners to be involved in.

**CONCLUSION**

As noted above, HMP Dumfries is a safe, well run, functioning establishment with pockets of excellent practice. IPMs noted the good interpersonal relationships across all areas of the prison. Monitors continued to take a relatively high number of request from prisoners relating to their individual circumstances and decisions made which affected them, but rarely with any dominant theme. The willingness of HMP Dumfries to engage with partners and families of prisoners is particularly commendable. The ongoing issues with cancelled appointments, especially given the ageing profile of many prisoners in HMP Dumfries remains a concern.