

<b>PRISON</b>	<b>HMP GREENOCK</b>		<b>YEAR (1 APRIL – 31 MARCH)</b>	2022 – 2023	
<b>Total number of visits</b>	56	<b>Total number of missed weeks</b>	2	<b>Total number of IPM hours</b>	224
<b>Total number of prisoner requests received</b>	48	<b>Number of IPMs in the team (as at 31 March)</b>		4	

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IPMs have visited all areas of HMP Greenock throughout the year and met with prisoners, staff and senior management. Overwhelmingly, monitors commented on a well-run, safe establishment that fulfils all of its key functions on a daily basis. IPMs noted that the key strength of HMP Greenock is the strong and respectful interpersonal relationships that enable the inevitable day to day challenges of running a prison to be overcome. IPMs have raised issues relating to decency and the general condition of the building. More notably, some concerns have been raised and responded to, around availability of a comprehensive regime for prisoners and perceived delays to progressions, particularly for those in the National Top End.

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

	Overall RAG rating		
<b>Lawful and Transparent Custody:</b> IPMs visited reception frequently during the course of the year and occasionally observed new admissions and liberations. All basic entitlements appeared to be upheld during these points for prisoners, with smooth processes implemented by professional and friendly staff.	☐	☐	✓
<b>Decency:</b> HMP Greenock was noted to be a decent and humane environment for prisoners to serve their sentence. IPMs noted the prison to be clean and tidy in all areas and were pleased to see communal dining restart this year. Movement along the route and serving of meals was well managed. IPMs were pleased to hear that the return to communal dining was discussed through PIACs and focus groups in advance. IPMs noted the fabric of the building could occasionally cause problems, most notably with dampness and flooding. Management at HMP Greenock have developed a number of mitigations for these challenges to ensure minimal impact on prisoners.	☐	✓	☐
<b>Personal Safety:</b> IPMs have at all times reported on a well-run and orderly prison with good systems and practices in place to address challenges as they arise. Monitors were pleased to see the pilot of a 24/7 helpline for body fluid exposure and / or sharps injuries and also welcomed the appointment of a harm reduction officer. IPMs commented on an establishment that felt very safe to visit. Where monitors highlighted isolated, anecdotal evidence of intimidation in one of the halls, management responded proactively. At various times throughout the year, reference had been made by staff or prisoners to problematic use of illicit substances in various parts of the establishment, resulting in orderly room processes and MORS for a number of prisoners.	☐	☐	✓
<b>Effective, Courteous and Humane Exercise of Authority:</b> One of the most notable features for IPMs visiting HMP Greenock were the good and respectful relationships between prisoners and staff. Officers carried out their functions with a friendly authority and prisoner feedback on relationships in the prison was in general very good. Where restrictions were placed on any prisoner and / or privileges removed, the measures	☐	☐	✓

<p>were implemented proportionately and reasonably. Cell searches were observed periodically and noted to be carried out in accordance with good practice and minimal disruption for prisoners.</p>			
<p><b>Respect, Autonomy and Protection Against Mistreatment:</b> HMP Greenock had processes in place to ensure protection against mistreatment. At various stages this year, IPMs spoke with prisoners with protected characteristics, and where issues had arisen prison staff had proactively tried to resolve them. Induction processes were thorough for new admissions. Overall, the atmosphere between prisoners and staff was very respectful.</p>	☐	☐	✓
<p><b>Purposeful Activity:</b> IPMs reported a positive picture of activity with regular caveats around staffing and occasional work party cancellations. Monitors observed all essential work parties in operation, with good allocation of tasks, and received good feedback from prisoners in other activities including the Links Centre and arts classes. IPMs noted the work taking place in the Links Centre including prevention of self-harm work. IPMs had some concerns about the lack of a comprehensive, year-round regime due to staffing structure.</p>	☐	✓	☐
<p><b>Transitions from Custody to Life in the Community:</b> IPMs reported on good provision to support transitions into the community, notably in various Links Centre activities and placement provision for National Top End prisoners. The Community Integration Units had been under-utilised throughout the year. In November 22', IPMs facilitated focus groups with prisoners in Chriswell House who felt strongly that their progression was being unreasonably delayed. The IPMs submitted a paper to senior management highlighting delays with RMTs and applications to SPS HQ, communication with prisoners about progression pathways and timescales, cancellations of SELs and perceived delays in decision making. Senior management provided the IPM Team with a detailed response of some changes to practice at the local level which they will continue to monitor.</p>	☐	✓	☐
<p><b>Organisational Effectiveness:</b> IPMs reported on an establishment that dealt well on a daily basis with the key functions of a prison. Processes were in place and followed in all areas, and staff appeared clear on their roles and responsibilities at all levels. There appear to be tipping points where staff sickness could lead to cancellations of work parties at short notice and therefore a restricted regime. At certain points of the year this seemed particularly pronounced. IPMs received feedback throughout the year from staff and prisoners relating to cancellation of external appointments from the contractor GeoAmey. IPMs understand prison staff are continuing to mitigate this where possible, by facilitating critical hospital appointments. However, there continues to be a direct and detrimental impact on prisoners as a result.</p>	☐	✓	☐
<p><b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> IPMs visited the Health Centre during this reporting period and were informed there was adequate staffing for the demands and health needs of the population, with occasional pressures resulting from substance misuse. Waiting times were good, staff were friendly and helpful in assisting with IPM enquiries. Monitors hold the strong view that the provision of health services at HMP Greenock is consistently of a high standard.</p>	☐	☐	✓
<p><b>RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status key:</b></p>	Some serious concerns	Some slight concerns	No concerns / good practice
<p><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></p>			

KEY ISSUES	
1.	Decency – the building and environment were a challenge for staff, prisoners and management. The lack of any greenspace in the facility was especially noticeable during summer months and flooding and water ingress through the roof remains a possibility at any period of extended rainfall.
2.	Purposeful Activity and lack of a comprehensive regime – as noted above the precarious balance between safely staffing all areas of the establishment and providing an active and comprehensive regime is a daily consideration for management at HMP Greenock. IPMs hold some concerns that time out of cell and purposeful activity can be variable at times.

<b>3.</b>	Progression – this has been a key feature of the monitoring activity this year. The individual and collective view amongst many prisoners at the National Top End that progression was being unduly delayed was emphatic during almost all monitoring visits. Having undertaken case studies and focus groups, IPMs felt sympathy with their position and represented this to management. Monitors are aware of the complexities of progression pathways and fully recognise that many elements of the process are the responsibility of SPS HQ. IPMs look forward to observing how changes to local and national practices can improve the situation.
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#### **ENCOURAGING OBSERVATIONS**

HMP Greenock is a safe, working prison with excellent relationships and links to the local community. Monitors at all times reported feeling safe as they moved around the establishment. Basic entitlements were upheld for all prisoners. Where there may be an unintentional oversight these were resolved quickly. Prisoners were observed to be treated with respect and compassion in all areas of the prison.

#### **CONCLUSION**

IPMs reported extremely positively on their experiences of visiting HMP Greenock. Where they had a query or a prisoner request to progress, they were given assistance from officers and managers alike. Monitors raised some difficult and sensitive matters with senior management throughout the year, most notably the latter relating to progression, and at all times have appreciated the considered responses they have received in return.